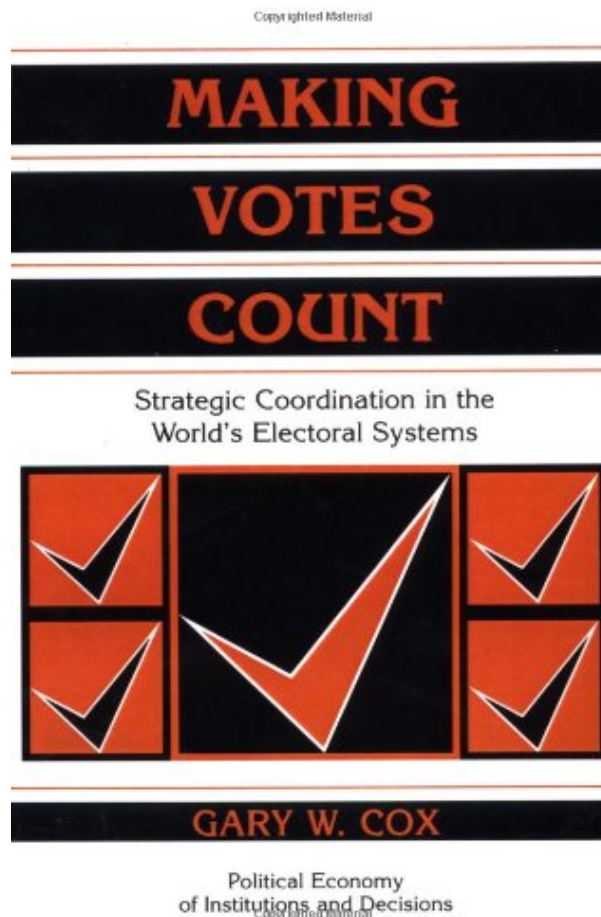


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Strategic Coordination in the
World's Electoral Systems



GARY W. COX

Political Economy
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"Every serious scholar of political systems should read this book....Cox is a master when it comes to explaining ideas generated by a logic-based theory....this book is a very important contribution to our knowledge about electoral systems. It will be the major book in this area for some time to come." Melvin Hinch, American Political Science Review

"...this is a great book, a must for all those interested in the study of elections. Cox powerfully demonstrates the fruitfulness of looking at the impact of electoral systems from the perspective of formal theory, provided this is combined with solid empirical analysis." André Blais, Canadian Journal of Political Science

"This book is a unique contribution to the fields of comparative politics and formal political theory. It offers a model integrating many diverse aspects of electoral competition that together bring into existence systems of national political parties. Gary Cox combines social choice theory, public choice theory, spatial theory, and the institutional approach to electoral studies to reach a new level of understanding of political competition in democracies. Gary Cox's new book is not only a theoretical study, but also a useful reference on comparative electoral institutions. ...the author also draws attention to such often overlooked institutions as rules of candidate nomination and party registration." Olga Shvetsova, Political Science Quarterly

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A pleasant challenge

By A Customer

I'm a Freshman at a German university. I had to read most chapters of this book for a class project. First of all I have to state that this book has a really sophisticated language and is quite hard to read for Undergraduate students. I think that Mr. Cox did an excellent work with this book. The excellence starts already with the very logical structure of this book: Parts, Chapters, Sub-chapters and one more sub-division of each sub-chapter. In the first three chapters, Mr. Cox gives us a very detailed insight on electoral systems and the different schools of thoughts about the linkage between electoral systems and party systems. I could easily state that someone who is totally "illiterate" about elections would not have any difficulties reading the book, since every single aspect is being represented in the first three chapters. Then Cox moves on the much more exciting discussions: The game-theoretic stage of strategic voting. Once more in this part of the book, his very structured division is remarkable. In each of the chapters, he does not only talk about the electoral backgrounds only, he also emphasizes the importance of microeconomics (an individual's maximization of utility). Since the reader is also someone eager to maximize its own utility, the themes proposed by Cox about strategic voting in the local level make all sense perfectly. Finally Cox has included some chapters about the Macroeconomic level of elections. Themes about the general effects of electoral systems on the whole political system (for example national party system, the composition of the parliament, government policies and coalitions) are discussed in great depth. After having read his detailed chapters about the local "economics" of voting, it was very exciting for me to also learn something about the macro effects of electoral systems. I want to make some remarks about the chapter construction as well. In every single chapter, Cox has written a sort of introduction briefly stating what he is going to examine in that chapter. Then at the end, he summarizes the key themes of that specific chapter. Even at the end of each part of the book, he does not fail to include a Conclusion as well. His empirical studies and examples that he cites to prove his themes are - to my opinion - unique in the literature that I have studied so far. I would encourage everyone interested with that topic of the linkage of electoral systems and party systems to read and study this book. However I want to conclude my review by reemphasizing that this book includes numerous theoretical themes which may be hard to understand for English as a second language Undergraduates or even for native Undergraduate students. But it is an enjoyable challenge!

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One of the most insightful and thorough books in the field

By Evgeny Sedashov

Book is one of the most famous in the electoral studies, primarily because of thorough analysis of strategic voting and Duverger's law. Comparative data on electoral systems of large amount of countries is also useful tool for research. Book provided to me several interesting insights regarding strategic coordination and strategic voting. Definitely recommended.

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Three Stars

By msangel2

Purchased for a faculty member and I received no complaints.

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