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the 2012 american elections were highly competitive with the unusually close partisan balance making the elections an opportunity for each of the two major parties this book assembles leading political scientists and political journalists to explain the 2012 election results and their implications for america s future in addition to assessing election results the book examines the consequences of the large ambitions of the obama presidency and the political and policy risks entailed in the pursuit of those ambitions it also explores congressional elections and policymaking since 2008 and how they affected election results in 2012 the book promises a more coherent focus than that evident in similar edited works achieved through a limited number of chapters and clear definition of chapter content

elections capture a sense of national identity and imply a future direction for the nation the book seeks to unravel how elections and policies act together dynamically by analyzing parties strategies foreign and domestic policies and the role of religion in political dialogue

while frustration with various aspects of american democracy abound in the united states there is little agreement over or even understanding of what kinds of changes would make the system more effective and increase political participation matthew j streb sheds much needed light on all the major concerns of the electoral process in the thoroughly revised third edition of this timely book on improving american electoral democracy this critical examination of the rules and institutional arrangements that shape the american electoral process analyzes the major debates that embroil scholars and reformers on subjects ranging from the number of elections we hold and the use of nonpartisan elections to the presidential nominating process and campaign finance laws ultimately streb argues for a less burdensome democracy a democracy in which citizens can participate more easily in transparent competitive elections this book is designed to get students of elections and american political institutions to think critically about what it means to be democratic and how democratic the united states really is part of the controversies in electoral democracy and representation series edited by matthew j streb

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america is poised to lead the 21st century as it led the 20th that will happen because the country is at a tipping point in the battle for its own renewal a renewal that will allow america to be exceptional again our economy is on the move fueled by revolutions in energy immigration innovation big data and advanced manufacturing america s energy independence has set off shockwaves just as important are the social transformations that are making the country ever more racially and culturally diverse younger a home to immigrants and the metropolitan centers that foster a rising economic and cultural dynamism while most other countries struggle profoundly with immigration and religious and racial differences america s on a path to multicultural identity those revolutions in the economy society and culture and are also producing a new american majority that embraces new values and new politics republicans are waging a counter revolution and that is why america looks gridlocked and why the country is turning to democrats to take on the country s growing challenges the economic and social transformations leave people struggling to earn enough and reach the middle class families are under stress government is corrupted by big money the american public is demanding the country address the dark side of our progress and reforms are starting to happen that is why democrats will get to lead an era of reform and renewal comparable to the progressive era that mitigated the excesses of the industrial revolution in this incisive book expert strategist greenberg draws on years of research and polling to illuminate how america is far from being gridlocked and he articulates a powerful vision of how american politics and america can be renewed

question how american democracy is developing the struggle for democracy provides students with an understanding of the american political process and with the tools to critically evaluate that process this text focuses on the role that democracy has played in the american story and asks students how democracy is or isn t revealed in

our politics and government it encourages students to examine how deeply connected politics and government are with historical economic and social influences the struggle for democracy both strengthens a fundamental aspect of critical thinking and tells a unique story of our country s political development this text features full integration with the new mypoliscilab mypoliscilab includes a wide array of resources to encourage students to look at american politics like a political scientist and analyze current political issues political explorer lets students play the role of a political scientist by investigating issues through interactive data core concept videos discuss the big ideas in each chapter and apply them to key political issues simulations allow students to experience how political leaders make decisions a better teaching and learning experience this program provides a better teaching and learning experience for you and your students here s how personalize learning the new mypoliscilab delivers proven results in helping students succeed provides engaging experiences that personalize learning and comes from a trusted partner with educational expertise and a deep commitment to helping students and instructors achieve their goals mypoliscilab is now compatible with blackboard engage students the stunning visual design engages students in the text improve critical thinking learning objectives in every chapter help students focus on important topics analyze current events coverage of the 2012 elections keeps the study of politics relevant and shows how political scientists look at the development of the american political system support instructors a full supplements package including the class preparation tool in the new mypoliscilab is available note this is the standalone book if you want the book access code order the isbn below 0205937470 9780205937479 struggle for democracy 2012 election edition the books a la carte plus new mypoliscilab with etext access card package package consists of 0205936970 9780205936977 struggle for democracy 2012 election edition the books a la carte edition 0205949975 9780205949977 new mypoliscilab with pearson etext valuepack access card

essay from the year 2012 in the subject politics political systems germany grade 2 00 jacobs university bremen ggmbh language english abstract bogaards identifies two broad possibilities how to capture a regime change either through a change of scores on a scale or index of democracy or trough a change of categories these categories can come directly from categorical coding schemes or can be derived indirectly from scores bogaards 2010 this paper compares two of those measures namely national elections across democracy and autocracy nelda and freedom house these two will be subject to a cross comparison with the case study of germany nelda is an almost exclusively dichotomous measure which is set up out of 58 questions concerned with the election procedure of a country 55 measures are yes no questions hence dichotomous while three allow free text answers nelda s country selection follows the list of independent states by gleditsch and ward nelda draws it s out of a secondary data analysis of a variety of sources including data handbooks for the

specific regions and several official reports a full list of sources can be found at hyde.research.yale.edu/nelda/sources hyde marinov 2012 for our purpose we only consider three variables out of the 58 namely nelda 3 to 5 which measure whether opposition is allowed whether more than one party was legal and whether there was a choice of candidates on the ballot freedom house is a ngo that conducts research on democracy political freedom and human rights their most important annual publication is the freedom in the world report freedom house 2012 it measures political right and civil liberty with a total of 25 questions using a continuous scale from four to zero the results are transformed in a fixed mathematical procedure and countries are ranked in an again continuous final scale between one most free and seven not free in each category after combining the results countries are finally ranked as not free 5 5 7 partly free 3 5 or free 1 2 5 freedom house 2012 it is important to notice that freedom house as the name implies primarily is a measure of freedom not democracy however democracy is one part of the freedom house analysis to be considered as an electoral democracy a country only has to fulfill four criteria a political system that allows for a plurality of parties and competition in between them fair voting rights secret fair and regular elections and free access to the political field and campaigning bogaards 2012

political observers routinely lament that american democracy is broken and many of them blame electoral malfunction but is the system really broken panagopoulos and weinschenk make the case that citizens are empowered to fix what's wrong with electoral politics and renew democracy in america all within the institutional setup and framework of the existing system put simply much of what is broken can be fixed if people stop throwing up their arms and start rolling up their sleeves to do the hard work of building our democracy this book provides an overview of the basic features that characterize contemporary elections in the united states and includes discussions about voter participation and decision making patterns money in elections and the role of parties and the media in presidential congressional and state and local races it also outlines some of the most important trends and challenges in the current system as a call to action each chapter features potential solutions to the challenges that exist in u s elections

a unique moneyball look at the 2012 u s presidential contest between barack obama and mitt romney game changer we heard it so many times during the 2012 u s presidential election but what actually made a difference in the contest and what was just hype in this groundbreaking book john sides and lynn vavreck tell the dramatic story of the election with a big difference using an unusual moneyball approach and drawing on extensive quantitative data they look beyond the anecdote folklore and conventional wisdom that often pass for election analysis to separate what was truly important from what was irrelevant the gamble combines this data with the best social science research and colorful on the ground reporting providing

the most accurate and precise account of the election yet written and the only book of its kind in a new preface the authors reflect on the place of the gamble in the tradition of presidential election studies its reception to date and possible paths for future social science research

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