

# Essay

**Exploring the Impact of Prolonged Coalition Building Periods  
on Winning and Losing Parties in Politics**

Name of student

Name of institution

Name of instructor

Date

## Introduction

In the world of politics, the dynamics between winning and losing parties have a significant impact on how democracies develop because after elections, complicated power battles emerge, particularly in the delicate dance of coalition formation, in which opposing political forces come together to form governments (Dahlberg & Linde, 2015). It is more than just a game of political chess; it is a sophisticated stage of talks that goes beyond tactics and affects not only administrative stability but also the many paths taken by the involved parties.

After elections, political parties navigate the challenging terrain of coalition formation, a phase that continues after the results are announced (Anderson & Tverdova, 2001). Negotiation and cooperation thus become essential in order to acquire political power via coalition formation and manufactured agreements (Curini et al., 2012) and this phase is felt not only in the corridors of institutional safety but also in the fundamental framework of various political parties. It is important to note that coalitions play a major role in democracy since it allows the parties to exercise freedom of association in areas where one feels there are shared values

Understanding the challenges faced by winners is crucial, as prolonged coalition-building phases may necessitate a delicate balancing act between the demands of their supporters and the varied interests of coalition partners. The potential outcomes encompass endangering policy objectives, causing internal strife, and undermining public support. Internal conflict and a potential loss of political influence pose significant challenges during this period (Douma, 2001), yet the post-election phase provides an opportunity for reflection and a chance for those who have lost to reorganize (Duvenhage, 2004).

The main question that this paper is going to give attention is, "Does an extended coalition building period disproportionately affect the winning party compared to its losing counterpart?" This research delves into the durability and adaptability of political parties in a democratic environment, exploring the connections between political winners and losers as highlighted in various scholarly work. A survey will also give insights on the topic as it will allow for real time and actual data on the issue at hand (Van Selm & Jankowski, 2006).

This paper meticulously examines the consequences of a lengthy coalition-building process, focusing on its impact on both winners and losers since the primary objective is to unravel the intricate dynamics of winner-loser scenarios after elections, with a specific focus on the temporal dimension of the coalition-building process. Therefore, it is important to explore if one player has the upper hand in this political situation. To address this, we will investigate the relationship between the duration of coalition discussions and future political tendencies.

This thesis establishes the foundation for a thorough investigation of how a protracted coalition-building stage affects both victors and losers since it makes a substantial contribution to the conversation on

political flexibility and fortitude in the face of difficulties after an election.

## **Theoretical Framework:**

### *Coalition Building and Party Dynamics*

The research from Mazepus and Toshkov in 2021 reveals a complex organization in handling deals of power. It also shows the best way to learn skills changes in policies, focusing on different types of talks about alliances. It's clear that this step is not just about doing stuff, but also a check for new rules and government systems to come.

Once the election is done, it's important to discuss how to work together. This controls who has power and shows big decisions made by others. The study by Mazepus and Toshkov in 2021 investigates how politics within coalitions work. It reveals the specifics of these contracts, how they influence party activities. This is a key thing we need to learn about how people join together politically. Quitting or celebrating success, that's not what we should do on the road after elections. Rather, it's about having big chats and making good choices related to the outcomes, say Mazepus and Toshkov in 2022. When groups unite to achieve the same goals, forming a team is very important. It helps decide which groups are winning and those who aren't doing so well in leadership plans.

Rule winning parties, they face special problems when building coalitions. This makes handling politics required attraction along with the excitement of their wins essential too. The strength of a group changes based on the winner's willingness to make deals about rules, which can time again upset their followers. Here, how well they match promises with giving space for coalition partners needs skill and careful choices made wisely.

People talking in a group about how to join together face lots of tough issues. They have different beliefs and must find ways that work for all the people involved (Dahlberg & Linde, 2015). The tricky use of sharing power, which gives charge to people in the group and makes them give up their ideas on rules, adds more complexity. The operational dynamics of the winning and losing parties are further influenced by the engagement of the public and political commentators in these conversations.

Power-sharing agreements inherent in coalition formation may compel concessions, limiting the victorious party's ability to implement its entire program of policies (Adebajo, n.d.). The effectiveness and coherence of governance may face challenges due to the potential dilution of policy goals and the necessity of coalition consensus-building (Curini et al., 2012). Thus, a critical question arises: Does the duration of the coalition-building process exacerbate these difficulties for winning parties, leading to a significant impact on their public support and policy goals?

Losing parties have unique difficulties during the alliance forming stage since after a loss in the election, it is critical to reevaluate strategy and objectives, and a protracted coalition-building process might make it



more difficult for them to reorganize (Shepsle, 2003). As factions within the party struggle with apparent electoral setbacks, internal disputes may arise.

Toshkov and Mazepus (2023) suggests that the amount of time spent in coalition negotiations becomes a critical factor in determining how well the losing party can rally and take back control (Adebajo, n.d.). Prolonged uncertainty may lead to internal strife, which makes it difficult for the group to project unity. Whether a protracted coalition building process really impedes the losing party's efforts to regroup, creating divisions within the party and reducing its political clout, has yet to be determined.

To synthesize our investigation, examining winner-loser dynamics during the coalition-forming phase proves instructive. Patterns and trends may emerge when analyzing a graph depicting public support for winning parties throughout coalition talks. A comprehensive understanding may also be gleaned by concurrently investigating the political impact and internal cohesiveness of losing parties over time.

The important step after the vote is to build alliances. This changes how well parties that win and lose do in politics. Mazepus and Toshkov's work (2023) shows many problems in team politics. It can be hard to agree on sharing power or making deals about rules.

#### *Effects on Losing Parties:*

After an election, a long time for making alliances gives parties that lost the chance to think and learn. This lets them have more details about what went wrong in their strategy, examine themselves better during this period of reflection and knowing things clearly before they try again later on with different moves this next cycle around when voting happens once more soon enough. This part works as a testing ground for judging what's in the political plans, rules situations and ways to get closer with people. Studies show they can work out why they lost the election (Bobba et al., 2021).

In the complicated world of party politics, losing parties face a crucial stage. It is both an opportunity to re-assess their position and possible obstructions on this long road to build alliances (Shepsle 2003). In small democratic nations, the ones who lose usually become connected with the opponents. That's why winning parties think they have different plans and ideas from those in power (Anderson et al., 2005). This study looks at how losing parties have to deal with complicated situations during a long bargaining process. It helps us understand the important area for changing goals and reassessing things better so we can move forward from here more effectively than setting fixed standards that don't work well anymore or change too quickly without giving it proper consideration first because they need care too if nothing else but mostly likely any time either The plan change and review process has obstacles. As various groups debate which action is the best way and why they failed, fights may come up inside the party that lost (Bobba et al., 2021). So, it's important to know that trying to push for peace and healing during the self-examine time might hurt spots which already had problems.

Once defeated, it's very important for political parties to change their position. This is needed because they

want their party to be seen and heard more, the table where deals are made can help them develop new stories and team up with others (Harris & Reilly, 1998). People like Gärtner and others said in 2020 that this event is more than just after the election by creating groups with same ideas on purpose. This forms the precise direction in which politics is heading towards. But, it's very hard to stay even while being part of your group and showing the same side when there's not agreement on thoughts between people. This makes it worse for parties that are not doing well (Wu & Wu, 2022). This is important because the long time helps see inside parties that lost and deciding if they can fix things successfully.

The defeated party may carry out a thorough examination of the elements that contributed to its failure. This is important because it helps to identify areas for development and suggest possible routes to future political victory (Wu & Wu, 2022). The strategic evaluation goes beyond pinpointing flaws to realign the party's standing in the political spectrum and unearth unrealized possibilities.

The losing parties, the drawn-out coalition-building process functions as a tactical strategy to offers a chance to build alliances with opposition parties across traditional ideological divisions in order to put up a united face (McKay, 2018). Just as McKay suggests, these alliances might improve the losing party's chances in next elections and act as a launching pad for future political collaboration.

Wu and Wu (2022), on the other hand claim that in the political sphere, prominence and power are crucial, and losing parties face difficult decisions. The prolonged conversations carry the danger of decreased visibility even while they provide chances for coalition formation and reevaluation (Harris & Reilly, 1998). As the political environment changes, losing parties have the problem of staying relevant in public debate without risking being overtaken by the new advances in coalition politics.

#### *Effects on Winning Parties:*

Davis and Hitt wrote in 2016 that what happens after an election is not just about winning or losing. It's more like politics games with big plans to work together, it needs careful decisions done the right way because its complicated. A big part is making alliances, where political groups team up to lead together and impact the path of both sides that won or lost. Making these teams is very important for moving around after elections, deciding about policies and changing who has power (Gärtner et al., 2020).

Van der Meer and Steenvoorden's (2018) work helps us understand the complicated world of coalition politics. They show how these group decisions can change party actions a lot. During these talks, both winning and losing parties' behaviors are greatly affected by the public and political experts. When looking for shared ideas between different thoughts, groups in talks to join together face many problems (McKay 2018). Getting ready to change rules and becoming good at sharing power is very important. It's needed because you need to share control with coalition partners.

In 2022, Mazepus and Toshkov's study looks at how coalition politics works. It explains hard things like

agreements to share power and giving in on rules or ideas. For parties that win, the excitement of success must also be mixed with the real need to deal with difficulties in coalition politics. It is important to remember that how long a coalition lasts depends on the winning party's readiness to agree on policy. This may make its supporters unhappy (Haferkamp & Smelser, 1992). Making sure promises in a campaign match what coalition partners want needs careful leadership and thoughtful decisions. Building coalitions is more than a routine; it creates future political systems and policy results.

As mentioned by Davis and Hitt in 2016, how long talks between groups last affects how well the losing side can get back together. Long-term doubt can cause fights within the group, making it tougher for them to show they are together. The long process of forming a coalition might slow down the losing party's efforts to join together. This can cause division within it and weaken its political power. Agreements needed to form a group may force the winning party to make deals that prevent them from fully putting their policy ideas into practice (Curini et al., 2012). The goal of rules might get mixed up in group decisions. This could affect how well the leaders work and their clear plan (Anderson et al., 2005).

When groups come together, the ones who aren't winning face special problems. They need to look at their plans and goals again. A long process of building a team may make changes harder, because different groups inside might disagree about what went wrong after an election. The part after an election where teams are made is very important. It changes how winning and losing groups work together. Van der Meer and Steenvoorden's (2018) study shows the hard parts of team politics, like splitting power or agreeing on policies.

### **Operational Note and Hypotheses: Navigating the Metrics of Coalition Building Period**

In this interesting field of study, our job is based on the urgent need to get things going with coalition-building. We will create exact ways to understand all the complicated interconnections involved (Lelkes, 2016).

This way of doing the team-building step is a careful process that gives real results, not just words picked by chance. Anderson et al. (2005) say that these measures work like a building picture which helps us fully see the changes over time after elections happened. It shows the time when politics people played a complicated game of agreement and working together. This led to forming an alliance for running government.

In this study, we call the time it takes from announcing election results until a steady ruling team is put together as the phase for building coalitions. Good talks and agreements about big policy issues, plus power-sharing deals among group members in a coalition are the foundation of this stability (Curini et al., 2012). Two different ideas guide our study, each ready to show how a long process of joining forces affects the winning and losing sides differently..

### *Winning Party Hypothesis (H1): Stability*

- **Hypothesis 1 (H01):** The duration of the coalition building period has no significant negative effect on the winning party.
- **Alternative Hypothesis (H11):** An extended coalition building period significantly diminishes the winning party's public support and compromises its ability to fulfill policy objectives.

The Winning Party hypothesis (H1) is all about keeping things steady in politics. It looks at how the length of time spent creating a coalition affects that winning party. The guess says that the length of this time doesn't hurt much for the winning side, while H11 suggests it could greatly lower people's support and make getting policy done harder.

The guess talks about the big problems faced by those who won when they're in a long-lasting coalition building phase. The idea is: does this time make things worse? Does it ruin public support and stop them from reaching policy goals directly linked to their win?

This idea looks at how long it takes to form a coalition, which is an important part of politics. It knows that how well a party does might hinge on the quality and length of their efforts to work with others. The research wants to find out if there is a connection between the time it takes for groups to join together and how well they do later on when people think about them. It also wants to learn how having more time for talks might slow down the winning side's chance of putting their planned ideas into action. This could possibly lead to some agreement instead.

### *Losing Party Hypothesis (H2): Regrouping*

- **Hypothesis 2 (H02):** The duration of the coalition building period holds no significant negative effect on the losing party.
- **Alternative Hypothesis (H12):** An extended coalition building period impedes the losing party's effective regrouping, fostering internal divisions and diminishing political influence.

The hypothesis about the losing party (H2) looks deeper into how political groups work together. It also looks at the group that doesn't win and studies how much time it takes for them to join with others. They do this so they can attempt again or get help from those who support them after a loss. The concept means that the duration of this time doesn't damage badly those who lose. But, there is another idea (H12) which says when weak groups take longer to reunite it makes things worse. This issue is shown by the increase in inside parts and then less control over politics.

H2 (hypothesis) thinks about the hard journey people will have if they lose an election. Its details, from Gartner's studies in 2020, help to explain this process. The main thing we examine is if a large amount of time spent forming alliances leads to the side that is losing uniting again. Doing this can cause arguments within them. It then does not give much power in politics at all.

The study aims to find out all the things that impact which side doesn't win after a vote. It's not just about

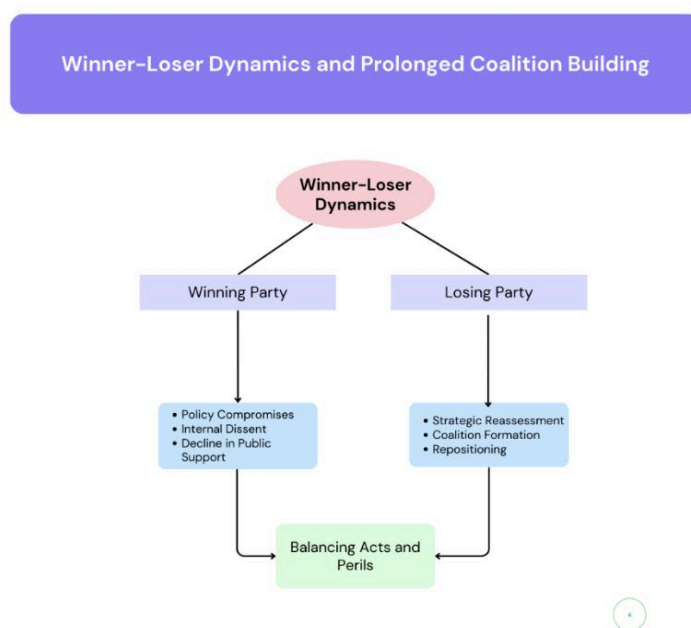
looking at time problems, but also thinks about what might happen if the different teams in charge take a long time to link up. By looking at what a group loses can teach us how long talks may make internal problems worse. This stops them from working together in politics overall and makes their total power less.

By studying the abilities of a group that loses, we can learn how long talks may make inner divisions worse. This prevents them from acting together as one in politics and lessens their power overall. Looking at the weak positions of a party that lost, it shows how long talks might make internal problems worse. This stops them from acting as one group and having less effect in politics. By watching the losing party's capacity to work together properly again, this guess shows how long talks might make internal gaps worse. This stops them from acting as a group and makes their impact in politics less strong.

Throughout this study, we remember the people who helped us and use lots of school studies to understand how politics in groups works well. Mazepus and Toshkov (2021) have helped us understand these processes better by doing smart work on deals for sharing power and making policy choices.

The two ideas talked about earlier will work like signs, showing how coalition formation helps winners and losers. It tries to make clear the confusion that comes up after elections are done, teaching interesting things on how political groups might get back on track or adapt to changes in their situations. This research looks at how time-related features affect the past of political groups. It's more than just a smart homework task, it tries to understand what makes democracy work (Leiter et al., 2019).

This research will help people who watch and make politics, as we continue our work with ideas helping us. This is important because not only do these events happen in pretend situations but also real life happens based on them which decides a country's future (Haferkamp & Smelser, 1992).



In the aftermath of elections, Figure 1 explores the wide tapestry that takes place between political entities that have triumphed and those that have experienced loss. This graphic narrative focuses on the ripples that are caused by protracted coalition building periods, putting the attention on the Winner-Loser Dynamics as the primary act of the story where we are able to see the transformation of the fates of the parties inside this framework.

The chart illustrates how this temporal period becomes the crucible for the destiny of political entities (Lelkes, 2016). The fight is a delicate balance, a high-stakes act where policy concessions, internal disagreement, and the danger of diminishing public support are intertwined. For those who fell short of their goals are now in a strategic halt, which presents them with an excellent opportunity to reevaluate, readjust, and maybe even reinvent themselves. During this period, there is an opportunity to reevaluate methods, to establish alliances that span ideological differences, and to plot a new route in the political landscape. However, there are problems that are hiding in the shadows, such as internal splits and the spectre of diminishing influence that is growing in the background. However, the victorious party, the struggle unfolds exactly as a delicate equilibrium. To successfully navigate these intricacies while simultaneously satisfying the requirements of coalition partners and living up to the expectations of the voters is one of the most difficult challenges.

Collectively, the figure creates a vibrant tapestry, revealing the intricate forces that sculpt the political paths post-election. It portrays the intricate struggles and strategic movements of parties as they contend with the aftermath of election conflicts. The graphic depiction highlights the essence of Winner-Loser Dynamics, allowing a look into the daunting difficulties and possibilities that emerge throughout the lengthy dance of coalition formation.

As we excitedly stride into the succeeding chapters of this thesis, our trip leads us further into a complete study of survey data. Through empirical inquiry, we want to examine the ideas that support our knowledge of the implications of lengthy coalition building periods. The ensuing parts will unravel the nuances of coalition politics, uncovering the threads that weave into the fabric of party dynamics.

Our mission extends beyond the academic realm. This research endeavors to contribute meaningful insights to the broader discourse on political resilience and adaptability in the face of post-electoral challenges. In dissecting the consequences of extended coalition building, we aspire to offer a nuanced understanding of how political entities navigate the complexities, fostering a dialogue that goes beyond theoretical frameworks and delves into the practical realities shaping the political landscape.

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