



# Multiparty Government: The Politics of Coalition in Europe (Ann Arbor Paperbacks)

*Michael Laver, Norman Schofield*

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The politics of coalition--the very heart of the political process in most European countries--can be analyzed either theoretically or empirically. *Multiparty Government* reconciles these approaches. It gives students of European politics access to the insights of contemporary theory while applying it to an analysis of real-world coalition politics.

Michael Laver and Norman Schofield examine five basic themes: the identity and motivation of the actors in the coalition game; the eventual membership of the coalitions they form; their durability; the payoffs that are shared out by coalition members; and the impact of constitutional bargaining, behavioral, and historical constraints on the process of coalition bargaining. They illustrate their discussion of theory with a range of detailed case studies.

*Multiparty Government* offers an accessible approach that bridges the gap between the "European politics" and "game theory" traditions of political science, and puts the systematic study of the politics of coalition on the broader political science map.

"Laver and Schofield's book is at the same time accessible, pithy, down-to-earth, insightful, and yes, even captivating. In its scope and quality, it has no rival in the literature of party coalitions . . . all students of political parties or legislative behavior should allow themselves the privilege of being educated and entertained by Laver and Schofield's fine book." --*American Political Science Review*

Michael Laver is Professor of Political Science and Sociology, University College, Galway. His books include *Playing Politics*; *Private Desires, Political Action: An Invitation to the Politics of Rational Choice*; *The Crime Game*; and *Social Choice and Public Policy*. Norman Schofield is Professor and Director, Center in Political Economy, Washington University. He is the author of *Statistics: Theory & Practice in the Social Sciences*; *Mathematical Methods in Economics*; and *Social Choice and Democracy*.

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