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## Realigning Elections

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## REALIGNING ELECTIONS

- I. REPUBLICAN SURGE OF 1994
  - A. REPUBLICAN CONTROL OF BOTH HOUSES
    - 1. Gain of 54 seats in House
    - 2. Newt Gingrich: first Republican Speaker since 1955
    - 3. Republican Governors and State Legislatures
    - 4. Defeat of Thomas Foley
  
- II. CRITICAL ELECTIONS OR PARTY REALIGNMENTS
  - A. DEFINITION: NEW PARTY COALITION
    - 1. V. O. Key, Jr.: Theory of Critical Elections, 1955
    - 2. Criticisms
  
- III. THE 1994 ELECTION: SOME OBSERVATIONS
  - A. LARGEST TURNOVER OF INCUMBENTS IN RECENT YEARS
  - B. THE DESIRE FOR PREDICTABLE OUTCOMES
    - 1. Importance of Poll-Taking
  - C. THE ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY
    - 1. Low Turnover in the 1980s had become the Norm
    - 2. Casework and Perks
  - D. THE ROLE OF SWING VOTERS
  
- IV. HISTORICAL PATTERNS
  - A. LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR CRITICAL ELECTIONS
    - 1. Republicans in 1854 and 1860
    - 2. Republicans in 1894 and 1896
    - 3. Democrats in 1930 and 1932
  - B. PATTERNS OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE
  
- V. CONCLUSION: REALIGNMENT IS RARE
  - A. HOUSE WAS DESIGNED TO GAUGE THE PUBLIC MOOD