

Comparative Study of Parliamentary Parties and Cabinets in 12 Countries



Coalition Government as a Reflection of a Nation's Politics and Society: A Comparative Study of Parliamentary Parties and Cabinets in 12 Countries (Routledge Research in Comparative Politics)

by Hikaru Yoshizawa

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Parliamentary parties and cabinets are key components of parliamentary systems of government. Parliamentary parties are groups of elected representatives who share a common political ideology and work together to advance their agenda. Cabinets are composed of the ministers who are responsible for running the day-to-day operations of the government. The relationship between parliamentary parties and cabinets is complex and varies from country to country.

This article provides a comparative study of parliamentary parties and cabinets in 12 countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Structures of Parliamentary Parties

The structure of parliamentary parties varies from country to country. In some countries, parliamentary parties are highly disciplined and centralized, with a strong leadership structure. In other countries, parliamentary parties are more decentralized and less disciplined.

The following table provides a summary of the structures of parliamentary parties in the 12 countries studied:

Country	Party Structure
Australia	Highly disciplined and centralized
Canada	Decentralized and less disciplined
France	Highly disciplined and centralized
Germany	Decentralized and less disciplined
India	Highly disciplined and centralized
Ireland	Decentralized and less disciplined
Italy	Highly disciplined and centralized
Japan	Decentralized and less disciplined
Mexico	Highly disciplined and centralized
Spain	Decentralized and less disciplined
United Kingdom	Highly disciplined and centralized
United States	Decentralized and less disciplined

Functions of Parliamentary Parties

Parliamentary parties perform a number of important functions in parliamentary systems of government. These functions include:

- Providing a forum for the development and articulation of policy

- Providing a mechanism for the selection of leaders and candidates
- Providing support for the government in the parliament
- Holding the government to account
- Representing the interests of their constituents

The relative importance of these functions varies from country to country. In some countries, parliamentary parties play a more central role in the political process than in others.

Structures of Cabinets

The structure of cabinets also varies from country to country. In some countries, cabinets are composed of a small number of ministers who are responsible for a wide range of portfolios. In other countries, cabinets are composed of a larger number of ministers who are responsible for more specialized portfolios.

The following table provides a summary of the structures of cabinets in the 12 countries studied:

Country	Cabinet Structure
Australia	Small number of ministers responsible for a wide range of portfolios
Canada	Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios
France	Small number of ministers responsible for a wide range of portfolios
Germany	Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios
India	Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios
Ireland	Small number of ministers responsible for a wide range of portfolios
Italy	Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios
Japan	Small number of ministers responsible for a

wide range of portfolios | | Mexico | Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios | | Spain | Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios | | United Kingdom | Small number of ministers responsible for a wide range of portfolios | | United States | Large number of ministers responsible for more specialized portfolios |

Functions of Cabinets

Cabinets perform a number of important functions in parliamentary systems of government. These functions include:

- Providing leadership and direction to the government
- Developing and implementing policy
- Managing the day-to-day operations of the government
- Representing the government in the parliament
- Holding the government to account

The relative importance of these functions varies from country to country. In some countries, cabinets play a more central role in the political process than in others.

Relationships between Parliamentary Parties and Cabinets

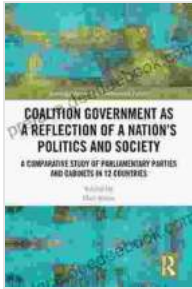
The relationship between parliamentary parties and cabinets is complex and varies from country to country. In some countries, parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet. In other countries, cabinets are more independent of parliamentary parties.

The following table provides a summary of the relationships between parliamentary parties and cabinets in the 12 countries studied:

Country	Relationship between Parliamentary Parties and Cabinets
Australia	Parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet
Canada	Parliamentary parties have a moderate amount of influence over the cabinet
France	Parliamentary parties have a small amount of influence over the cabinet
Germany	Parliamentary parties have a moderate amount of influence over the cabinet
India	Parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet
Ireland	Parliamentary parties have a moderate amount of influence over the cabinet
Italy	Parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet
Japan	Parliamentary parties have a small amount of influence over the cabinet
Mexico	Parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet
Spain	Parliamentary parties have a moderate amount of influence over the cabinet
United Kingdom	Parliamentary parties have a great deal of influence over the cabinet
United States	Parliamentary parties have a small amount of influence over the cabinet

This article has provided a comparative study of parliamentary parties and cabinets in 12 countries. It has examined the structures, functions, and relationships with each other of these key components of parliamentary systems of government. The study has found that there

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