

Dodd & Oppenheimer – Changes in the House (Ch. 2)

1. Realignment of the South into the Republican Party transformed the national agenda and made the House more *Partisan*.
 - a. Democrats Control the House from January 1931 until January 1995 with the exception of only 4 years.
 - b. Elections of 1946 and the Southern Democrats
 - c. Election of John F. Kennedy in 1960 and Judge Smith of Virginia
 - d. Elections of 1964 give the Northern Democrats permanent Control of the Congressional Democratic Party
 - e. Civil Rights and the Realignment of the South
 - f. Reforms of House Procedure in the early 1970s
2. Newt Gingrich and GOPAC in the late 1980s and early 1990s
3. The 1994 Elections and the 104th House -- Czar Rule Returns

4. Narrow Majorities lead to Increasingly Hardball Tactics by the early 2000's

a. Party Leaders Reward Loyal Members

b. Manipulating the Rules -- Holding Roll Call Votes open for hours; scheduling late-night votes on Controversial Legislation

c. Limiting Democratic Participation in the drafting of Legislation to a Bare Minimum

5. Polarization Continues to Increase.

6. 2006 Democrats Regain Control - Corruption and the Unpopularity of the Iraq War result in large gains. Two years of hand-to-hand combat with an increasingly unpopular President George W. Bush result in more gains in the 2008 Elections.