



RACIAL TURNOUT GAP IN THE US



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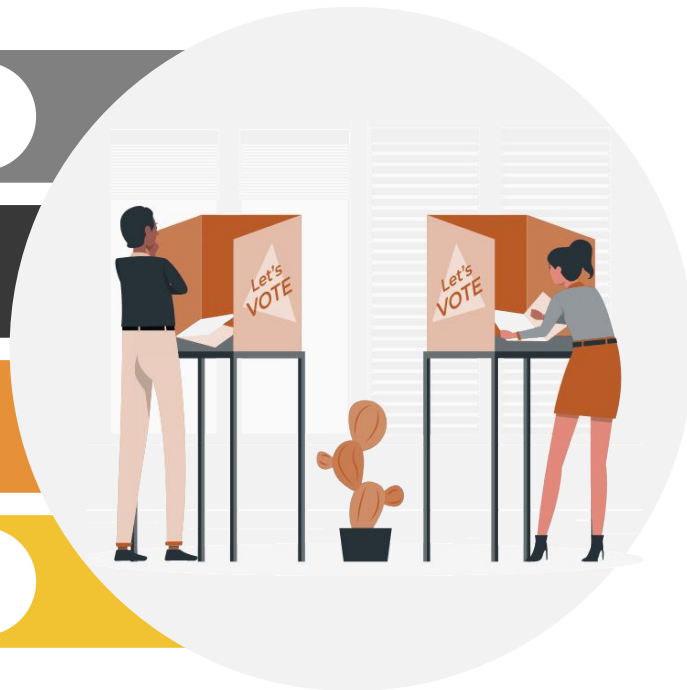
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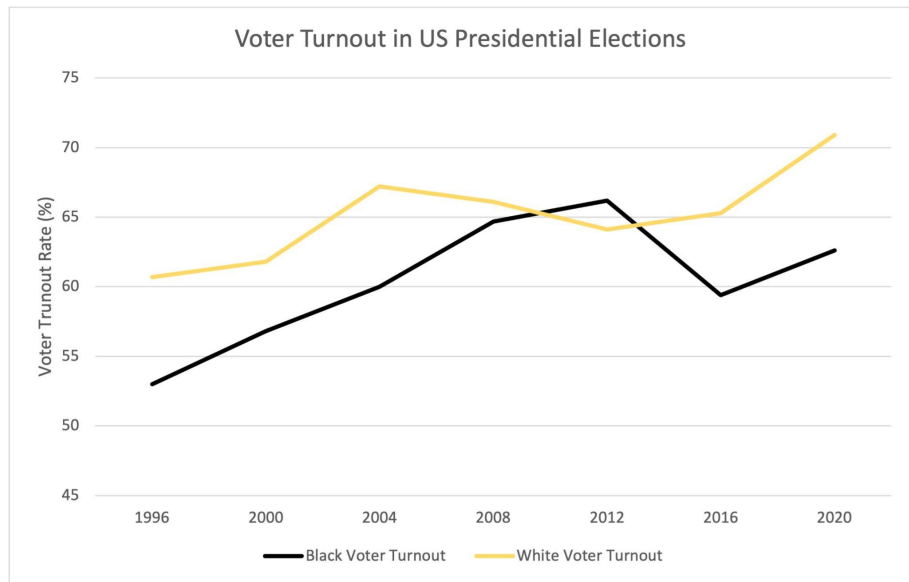
01

INTRODUCTION & RQ

The Turnout Gap in the US



LONGITUDINAL STUDY



The United-States Census Bureau (2020)



Historical Inequality

Institutionalized racism
& voter suppression



2012: Obama

Rational Choice Theory



Explanation

Depends on the
Sociological Model

VOTER TURNOUT IN THE 2020 US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (MORRIS, 2021)



71%



WHITE VOTERS

63%



BLACK VOTERS

58%



**NON-WHITE
VOTERS**

02

VOTER TURNOUT

Sociological Voting Models

A

**LAZARSFELD &
BERELSON'S MODEL
(2021)**

LAZARSFELD & BERELSON'S MODEL (2021)



Importance

Builds extensively on past literature to establish a mid-macro level model that analyzes voter turnout through all three of the paradigms

Base of Model

Voter decisions are the result of group cohesion, rather than individual acts. The logic of democracy thus works in an aggregate & not an individual level (Berelson, Lazarsfeld, & McPhee, 1954).

LAZARSFELD & BERELSON'S MODEL (2021)



ELECTORAL CLEAVAGE

Definition

Historical inequalities that divide societies into groups

Structural Functionalism

Creates heterogeneity within society, which assures the presence of a plurality of ideas, thus keeping democracy alive (Lipset & Rokkan, 1967)

LAZARSFELD & BERELSON (2021): MAINTENANCE OF CLEAVAGE



Social Differentiation

Socioeconomic status, religion, race & community

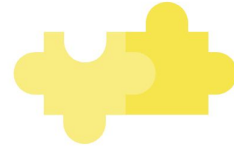
Role: Precondition of cleavage



Transmissibility

Generational internalized mechanisms & ideologies

Role: Socialization, ensures persistence of cleavage



Proximity

Cohesion within groups & distance from opposants

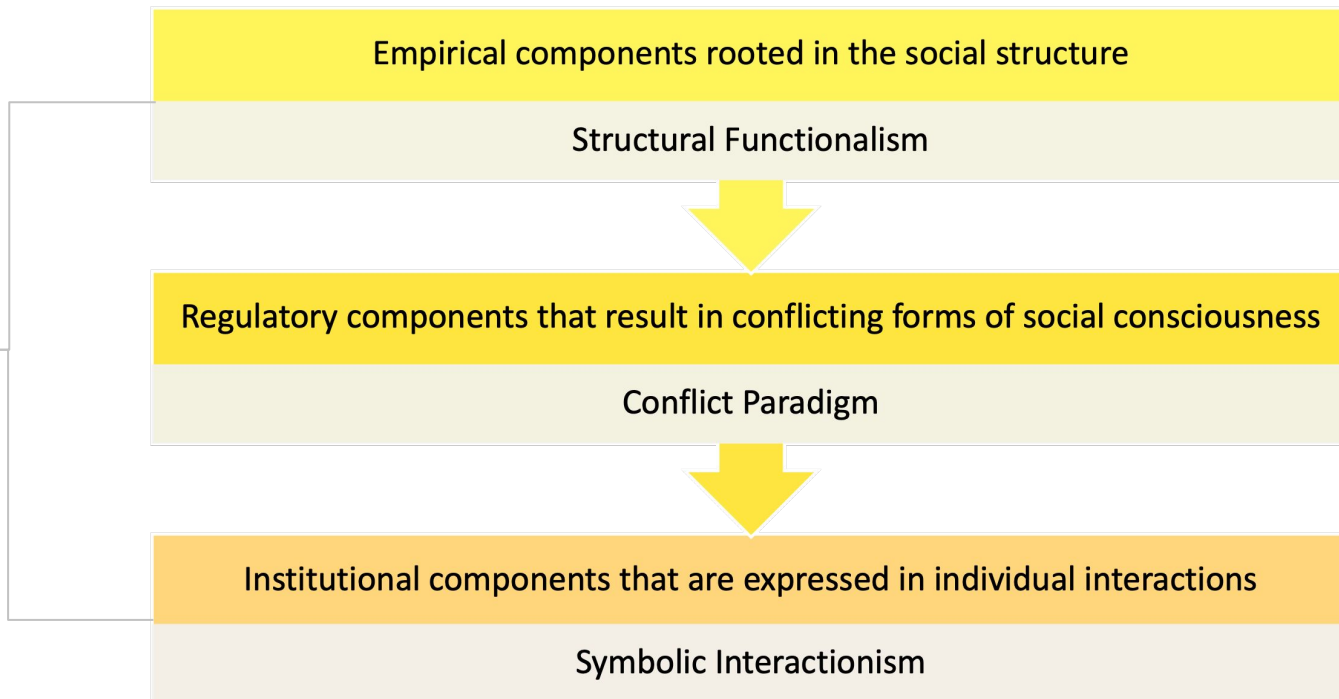
Role: Determines agents of socialization & reactivation



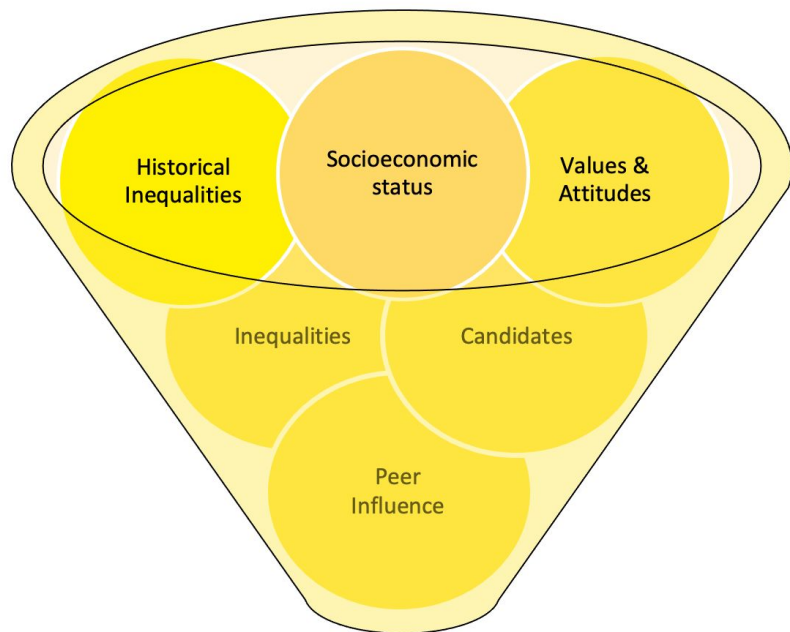
LAZARSELD & BERELSON'S MODEL (2021)



Link between social cleavages and political system is revealed when social divisions are felt in three different levels



LAZARSFELD & BERELSON (2021): FUNNEL OF CAUSALITY



Voter Predisposition

Distal Factors

Influences that are distant to the voter's current experience, but still impact their decision making

Proximal Factors

Influences that are in proximity to the voter's current experience and thus have direct & explicit impact on their decisions

(CAMPBELL ET AL., 1960)



B

**BURNHAM'S MODEL
(2016)**

BURNHAM'S MODEL, DEFINED



Macro-Level Sociology

Views voting tendencies as a national phenomenon

Recurring Cycles

Recurring period of 40 years where :

- 1- Social tensions ascend
 - 2- They become too intense to ignore
 - 3- System has a crisis
 - 4- Realignment period
- (Burnham, 1984)

BASIC 3 PRINCIPLES (CHANDLER, 1988)



01

Elections are determined by the relationship between institutions and society (influenced by culture & circumstances)



02

Political attitudes are *epiphenomenal* consequences of historical conflicts

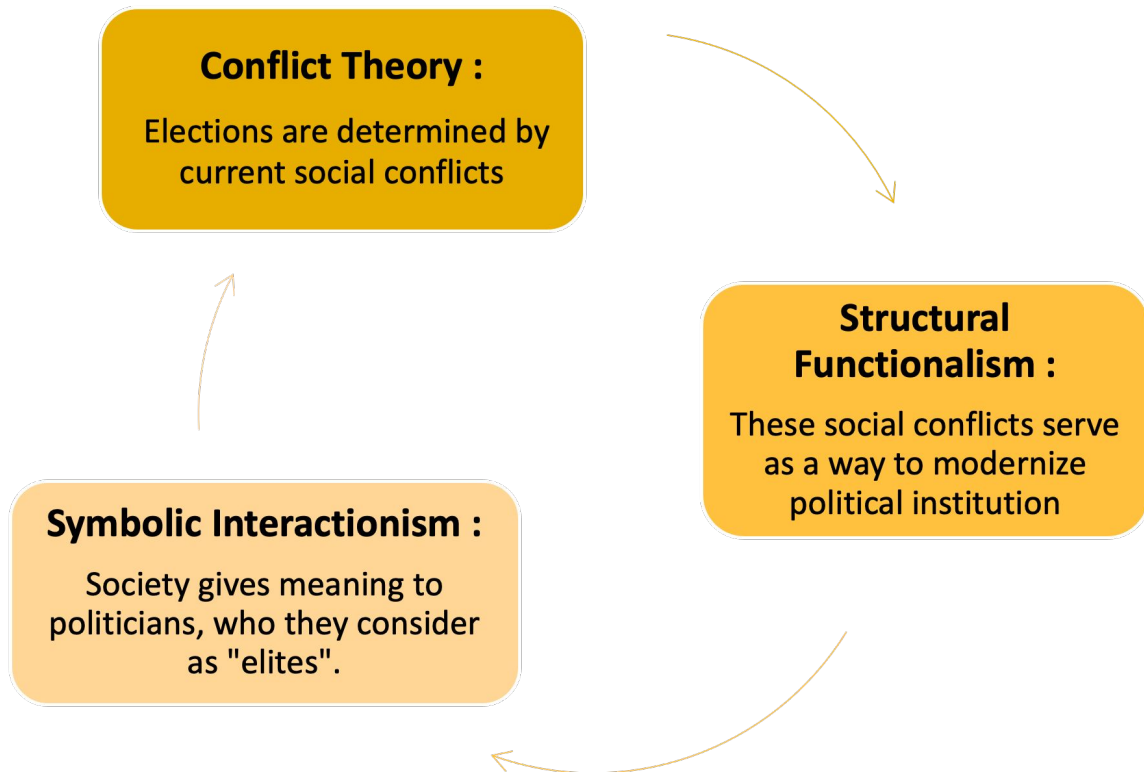


03

In the US, elections are processes determined by the current struggle between the American Party System & Modern Capitalism



BURNHAM'S MODEL (1988)





FURTHERING THE MODEL : WHAT ABOUT THE 21ST CENTURY?



The Shortening of Recurring Cycles

Social Media & Globalization
has brought faster
communication

Consequences

Since the beginning of the 21st
century, there has been a
national bounce from blue to
red to blue...

This has created an
unforeseeable political and
social instability (Muirhead &
Tulis, 2020)





INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM & VOTER SUPPRESSION



VOTER SUPPRESSION

Three-Fifths Compromise

Agreement between North & South States that slaves were worth $\frac{3}{5}$ a person, repealed in 1868



Gerrymandering

Process in which district lines are drawn to dilute or suppress the democratic power of racial minorities

PERCENTAGE OF BLACK PEOPLE



“Redistricting is like an election in reverse! It’s a great event. Usually, the voters get to pick the politicians. In redistricting, the politicians get to pick the voters!”

THOMAS HOFELLER



LAZARSELD & BERELSON (2021): VOTER SUPPRESSION



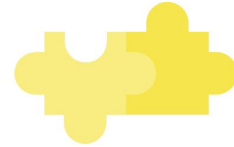
Social Differentiation

Cleavage is based on race and socioeconomic status



Transmissibility

Generational internalized mechanisms & ideologies ensures persistence of cleavage



Proximity

Cohesion within groups & distance from opponent groups that enslaved them determines agents of socialization

Causal link between Gerrymandering & voter turnout: Discouraged to vote in a system that is against them (Blaskowsky, 2021)



TODAY...



Felon Voting Rights

By taking away felon's right to vote in certain states, they are furthering the targeting (The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills)

This disproportionately affects black voters (Gramlich, 2019)



Lack of representation

Lack of representation of racial minorities leads to POC voting less likely (Bailenson et al., 2008)





ANSWER TO THE RQ

WHAT ABOUT CANADA?
**IMPLICATIONS OF SYSTEMIC RACISM &
INSTITUTIONALIZED SUBORDINATION**



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