

Historical Studies on Party's Political Dominance in West Bengal

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Abstract:

Historical studies on party's political dominance examine the processes through which particular political parties establish, consolidate, and sustain long-term control over political power within specific socio-historical contexts. The theme focuses on the interaction between ideology, leadership, organizational capacity, electoral strategies, state institutions, and socio-economic conditions that enable parties to transform popular support into enduring dominance. By adopting a historical perspective, such studies trace the evolution of dominant parties from their formative phases through periods of consolidation, challenges, and eventual decline or transformation. The framework emphasizes how mass mobilization, patron-client networks, control over political narratives, and the strategic use of state resources contribute to political hegemony. It also highlights the role of critical junctures—such as wars, economic crises, social movements, and regime transitions—in reshaping party dominance. Overall, historical studies of party political dominance provide deeper insights into the dynamics of power, democratic resilience, and political change. In this article, historical studies on party's political dominance in West Bengal has been discussed.

Keywords: Party, Political, History, Dominance.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The main conflict is between the strong industrial presence in a mostly small farming economy and the devoted party members. There is also a conflict between the strict control of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the need for more democratic power sharing.

Most evaluations of government accountability only look at how public services are given to certain groups, not what those services are or how they are shared among the people who get them. This means that they often miss the bad effects of clientelism. The CPI (M) has also used clientelism as a strong tool to strengthen its power, which has made political competition less effective. (Dasgupta, A., 2018)

The CPI (M) had problems within the party by the end of the 1990s. They realized that their weak, moderate-left political and economic policies would not work out well for them. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya recognized the reality and sought to transform the existing conditions by shifting towards pro-liberal industrialization. (Guha, A., 2021)

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A researcher can articulate their intended study design through the utilization of research methodologies. Because this study used qualitative research and a historical empirical approach, it did not use primary data.

Duration of the study:

The duration of the study was 1977-2009.

Hypothesis:

Hypothesis 1 (H₁): It is hypothesized that hegemonic party structure, issues, agitations correlated to the party's political dominance.

Research Design:

The research design is the set of methods and steps that a researcher picks to use to do a study. In this study, qualitative research design was used.

Methodology:

Qualitative research is a form of exploratory market research methodology that relies on semi-structured or unstructured data collection. Qualitative research is a method of studying how people think, act, and value things, as well as how they see certain social or non-social issues in their environments. The secondary data comprised e-resources, publications, websites, reports, journal articles, internal organizational records, and censuses, among others. In this study, qualitative research & secondary data were used.

Analysis and Interpretation:

Descriptive analysis of secondary data is the process of summarizing and describing a dataset that someone else has collected. This type of analysis uses methods like calculating frequencies, percentages, averages, and other metrics to help you understand the basic features of the data. It helps identify patterns, links, and oddities in the content, and it is often the first step in statistical analysis. In this study, descriptive analysis was used.

HISTORICAL STUDIES TOWARDS POPULAR RESISTANCE & STATE ATROCITIES:

Violence got worse in Nandigram, and there were rumors at a meeting at the Kalicharanpur Panchayat Samiti office about the cleanliness program. A lot of people from the area came together to protest. The crowd thought that the police had called the meeting to get property. The committee said that the police used batons, tear gas, and even real bullets. A number of police officers were hurt during the mob attack.

The CPI (M) did not see the Nandigram rebellion as a movement that started at the bottom. The government made it clear that they would not carry out the proposed project in Nandigram. They said that opposition groups set up a "muktanchal" in Nandigram with help from the Maoists. Activists and their supporters said that the whole movement was based on a lot of support from the public. Malini Bhattacharya said that the movement was not based on facts and was against the law. The Krishijomi Rakhsa Committee always tried to force people to give up their land. She said, "They had been influenced by the campaign and by reports in the same news that the promises were just empty words and that land acquisition would start as soon as the administration entered the area." Because of this wrong and bad information spread by the committee, people started to lose faith in their elected government, even though the chief minister made it clear that the state would not acquire land without first taking into account the people's concerns. (Kumar, S., 2020)

PEASANTS & WOMEN IN THE SINGUR NANDIGRAM MOVEMENT:

Because the government didn't pay attention, Singur is now in a dangerous situation. They changed their minds about rehabilitation and compassion from time to time. When Tata's officials came to the area, local farmers protested.

Instead of siding with the peasants, the ruling party tried to push for industrialization while also criticizing the opposition's harmful political agenda. They said that the land was acquired in the right way and under the right circumstances. Nirupam Sen said that the government didn't take advantage of the peasants and that they got more money for their losses. Some people, on the other hand, say that the government didn't do enough to make up for the damage done to the farmers.

In the beginning of the movement, the government faced a lot of opposition from peasants. Razzak Molla, a former minister of land revenue, said that the government had taken the land in an autocratic way, which would hurt the party's support among the peasants. The survey report "Singur Uchhed Bonam Protirodh" says that 315 farmers lost 237.19 acres of land because of this project. These small farmers only cared about farming and didn't have a backup plan for what would happen next. The study shows that some bargadars took the check because they had no other choice. These people were against the acquisition of land and took part in the movement. (Mahato, L.K., 2022)

Women played just as important a role in the revolution. Television and documentaries have shown women at a lot of protests and other events. They also sometimes plan marches. Even though they were attacked and arrested violently, they kept protesting. Tanika Sarkar says that women are the backbone of the campaign, even though they may not be in charge.

But in the last part of the first phase, the movement became political. The main opposition party and some intellectuals took over the movement from the farmers. The person who had come only to help the peasants was now trying to take charge. Farmers were pushed out or put in the back. From then on, the Singur issue was only talked about. The peasants kept protesting and marching, but they did it with the help of the Trinamool Congress. This was the start of the movement's second phase.

During this time, Kolkata became the main focus of protests and opposition to the project. Bengali intellectuals set up an open platform called Open Podium for their fellow countrymen. After doing very well in the Panchayat elections, Mamata decided to bring the Singur movement back to life. During the third phase of the protest, Mamata was seen sitting on a pedestal next to the main entrance of the project, blocking the Durgapur expressway and demanding 400 acres of land from the farmers who didn't care. Finally, the TATAs have pulled their project out of Singur. The project was almost done when Mamata started her campaign. Some people have said that this protest hurt our state and that Mamata was only doing it for her own political gain. Amartya Sen says that the project was almost done, and that during that time, the protests may have sent the wrong message about our state. The pride shown in Bengal politics could scare off future investments, which would hurt job opportunities.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN BENGAL:

The socio-political landscape of West Bengal, particularly in 2007, 2008, and 2009, became exceedingly unstable due to a multitude of factors, alongside the complex political dynamics of Singur-Nandigram. Some examples are the police's unnecessary involvement in Rizwanur Rahman and Priyanka Todi's marriage, which led to Rizwanur Rahman's untimely death; corruption in the distribution of rations; the movement for a separate state in the hills becoming stronger; extremist politics becoming more common in the forested areas of the western regions; and the Lalgah issue. These events prompted a substantial reaction from civil society and had a profound impact on the contemporary social and political landscape of West Bengal.

In the middle of the 1980s, Bengal's politics were very unstable because the Gorkha community wanted to create Gorkha Land because they were a separate ethnic group. The movement wanted a separate state in the Darjeeling area. After months of violent protests, the Gorkha Parbattya Parishad (Gorkha Hill Council) was formed on August 22, 1986, and Subhash Ghising was chosen as its president. Even though the hills seem calm under the leadership of this independent council, the Gorkha people have been getting more and more unhappy for a few years now. Ashru Kumar Sikder explained where the trouble that started in the hills in late 2007 came from. He said that the West Bengal government made a deal with Subhash Ghising by using different methods to calm him down. The people of the hills saw the agreement as a sign of betrayal, which led to the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha taking over from the GNLF, with Bimal Gurung in charge. (Vincent, M., 2022)

During the political uprisings of the mid-1980s, Bimal Gurung worked with Ghising. Over time, he became more and more important to the team. He was chosen to be a councilor for the Gorkha Hill Tracts. Ghising used Gurung's popularity and organizational power to stay on top in the mountains. Bimal Gurung and his followers started the Prashant Tamang Fan Club in 2007 to support Prashant Tamang, a candidate from the Gorkha community on the reality show Indian Idol. They also set up a forum to help him win the competition. This made him quite well-known in the highlands. Gurung's growing fame probably had something to do with his friendship with Subhash getting worse. Subhash had arguments with Roshan Gurung, the president of the All Gorkha Student Union, and his assistant Binoy Tamang about a number of things during this time. With the help of these leaders, Bimal set up a separate power structure in the hills. Subhash Ghising kicked Bimal out of the party, so Bimal started a new political group called Gorkha Janmukti Morcha on October 7, 2007.

The state government was very worried about what was going on in the hills and decided to send six companies of central soldiers to the area. They wanted to put four units on the hills and two companies in the plains next to them. The chief minister said that the government was willing to give the council more power if negotiations went well, but they could not agree to the requests for independent states.

Even though the state government tried to help, things stayed complicated in the hills during that time. Even so, the Morcha leaders did not start a violent campaign like the one that happened in the 1980s. The broad strike ended on July 5th, but the front leadership said it would continue in government offices and courts. But it was also raised by the time. Still, the hilly area stayed unstable until the Lok Sabha elections.

From October to November 2007, stories about ration corruption were always on the front pages of newspapers. The ration system is the basis of the mass distribution system in India, but claims of black-marketing and fraud against ration dealers have caused a crisis in the whole system. The government has never taken any proactive steps to stop this crime, even though they have done so from time to time. There have been many claims that dishonest merchants are working with the ruling party to run this illegal business. At that time, the merchants who sold rations were on the side of the ruling party. These political groups took part in illegal market activities. (Nath, S. & Ray, S., 2022)

It's not the first time that people have said that the rationing system in West Bengal is corrupt. The deaths of ration vendors and customers in October 2007 brought this issue to the public's attention and made it a top priority. The government has already dealt with a lot of problems, like the suicides in Nandigram, Singur, and Rizwanur, but corruption makes things even harder for it.

When the Naxalite movement fell apart in the 1960s and 1970s, the Maoists split into different groups. For thirty years, two well-known extremist Naxalite groups, the MCC and the PWG, followed the idea of armed revolution and worked in Andhra Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa, and western Bengal. The Communist Party of India (Maoist) was formed on September 21, 2004, by these two groups working together. This event started an unprecedented protest movement against the police and the government. Tanal Murmu said that villagers in the area started protesting against police violence in the first week of November 2008. Protesters surrounded the Lalgah police station and cut off its power. The next day, about ten thousand indigenous people, armed with their traditional weapons, suddenly appeared and blocked all access routes to Lalgah. Tanal Murmu said that no major political parties helped them get together and that they formed the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) on their own. (Ray Chaudhury, P., 2022)

For many months starting in mid-November 2008, Lalgah was declared an administratively liberated territory (Muktanchal). During this time, the Maoist "People's Committee" set up a parallel government in the Lalgah area. The committee made a number of requests to the government, one of which was that S.P. West Medinipur must apologize for all the terrible things that have happened; the officers who are abusing women

should be fired right away; everyone who is being held should be freed; and the victims should get Rs 2 lakh in compensation, among other things. Posters in different places around Lalgarh spread the word about what the committee wanted. The Maoists tried to spread the movement from Lalgarh to other areas and set up a similar group called the Committee of Indigenous Peoples in Purulia, which directly supported the Lalgarh campaign. However, this effort only worked partially. It did get some urban residents' attention during the Lalgarh agitation, and in Kolkata, their supporters set up the "Lalgarh Samhati Mancha." The committee used this chance to talk about how CPI (M) cadres and police were being treated unfairly. People from the indigenous community who live in Lalgarh went to this conference and talked about the terrible things that had happened to them. Human rights groups and some smart people went to the conference and showed their support for the Adivasis.

UNPRECEDENTED ELECTORAL DEFEATS FOR THE LEFT:

During the Assembly election, a lot of people supported the Sixth Left Front government. This led to the start of the Seventh Left Front Government in May 2006. But during the eighth and ninth months of this administration, they ran into a lot of problems. In the elections, they felt the effects of it. Elections are very important for political parties in parliamentary democracies because their survival and acceptance depend on the results of the elections. You need to look at the election results to understand how bad the leftist political crisis is in Bengal.

The 2008 panchayat election was the first sign of a political change in Bengal. The opposition did very well in rural Bengal, where the left had been very strong. In 2003, AITMC only won 18 Zilla Parishad seats in West Bengal. Now, though, they have won two Zilla Parishads (East Medinipur and South 24 Parganas) and a total of 120 seats. The Congress party won the North Dinajpur and Malda Zilla Parishads, getting a total of 99 seats. The CPI (M) lost more than 100 seats, bringing their total to 458 Zilla Parishad seats. Other fronts also saw a drop in the number of seats they held. (Tandon, S., 2015)

The difference in the number of seats for Panchayat Samiti and Pram Panchayat was much smaller. In the Panchayat Samities of Howrah and Nadia, the Left and AITMC were almost the same. The Left won 178 and 180 seats, while AITMC won 156 and 175 seats, respectively. AITMC won 91, 71, and 147 seats in the districts of Badwan, Bankura, and Hooghly, respectively. Even though the Left won the Murshidabad Zilla Parishad, Congress still won 356 Gram Panchayat seats, while the Left only won 344 seats. The Left kept 4,882 seats in the Gram Panchayat results, which is about half of what they had before. The opposition got 3,464 seats, which is two-thirds of what the Left had. The Left Front set up 1507 Gram Panchayats, and the opposition set up Panchayats on their own in 1468 villages.

AITMC and the Congress worked together in this Lok Sabha election. They fight for twenty-seven seats, Congress for fourteen, and SUCI gets one member. For leftist politics, this election was a disaster. The left hadn't felt like they were behind their opponents since 1967. AITMC won nine seats, making it the most important party in the state. Congress won six seats, and SUCI won the Jaynagar constituency. The Left parties only won 15 seats. The CPI (M) lost one seat, and the RSP, FB, and CPI each only won two. It's also important to note that the Left party did not win any seats in six districts: Kolkata, Howrah, East and West Medinipur, Nadia, and North and South 24 Parganas. In fourteen districts, the opposition got more than half of the votes, while the Left only got five.

HISTORICAL EXPLORATION:

The unprecedented decline of leftist politics, especially in Bengal, is a significant topic of discussion among scholars. The fall began with the 2008 panchayat election. The CPI (M)-led Left Front faced many problems from 1977 to 2009, but they stuck with it and did very well in elections. Sometimes they faced opposition in cities, but rural Bengal was always a stronghold for the leftist movement. But things changed quickly after 2007-08.

For about thirty-five years, the CPI (M) ran Bengal. For hundreds of years, people have written articles and books about them, and scholars and journalists have praised their successes and pointed out their flaws. Their previous election wins were due to how well they organized. The sudden collapse of their company is most likely due to an internal crisis. Sumanta Chatterjee correctly noted that "the origins of the calamity may be traced considerably further back to its earlier phases—well before Buddhadeb Bhattacharya initiated his detrimental campaign of imposing multinational-sponsored industrialization upon skeptical farmers." He also said that Singur and Nandigram were the last straw that led to the situation. They sparked the anger and frustration that had been building up over the years against the ruling CPI (M) on many fronts. He says that the Marichjhapi massacre, bad farming policies, dishonest labor policies, arrogant power politics, and the abuse of government power may all have led to their disaster. He said that those things made a gap between the people and the party. People started to trust Mamata Banerjee as an alternative and then left the Left. (Kumar, N. et al., 2019)

The same arguments were also made by senior party leaders. They told the party how disappointed and serious they were in their personal interviews. Senior party leaders, like Raghunath Das Sen, said that some party members had become very arrogant and ambitious over time. These people are the most important players in the

party's power dynamics. Their behavior took people's minds off the party. He said that these authorities were not open to hearing other points of view. Adaitya Das, Bishwanath Saha, Habibur Rahman, and Mr. Sashadhar Sarkar, all senior leaders of CPI (M), have also given similar reasons for their unhappiness with the big drop in Left politics. These regional workers, who were members of the party, thought that the leaders should be nicer to the people and try to solve their problems. The sample survey reports produced identical narratives. One hundred twelve people said the party was moving away from the people, eighty-nine said the leaders had become arrogant, and twenty-seven said there was a plot against the front government.

Her caring attitude toward the farmers who were part of the movements mentioned above won over the intellectuals of Bengal. Mahasweta Devi wrote in *The Statesman* that when Mamata started her hunger strike during the Singur movement, she had gone beyond being a party official and had become the symbol of the protest against three decades of bad government by the Left Front. So, to make it easier for other battles, she should end her fast. She said that Mamata is now known for causing problems. The name of the challenge against the state's horrible plan to give fertile land to businesses is Mamata.

To keep winning elections, Mamata took part in a dharna to demand that land be returned to farmers who didn't want it. Subrata Mukherjee, a leader in the Congress party, says that the government's mistakes will make its opponents more determined to achieve their political goals. In the middle of the heated debate about agricultural land and industry, Mamata Banerjee wrote a column in *Desh* saying that she doesn't oppose industrialization, but that it is wrong to create an industrial society by forcefully taking land and ruining the livelihoods of farmers and bargadars. She says that farming in riverine Bengal is not crazy; in fact, it has a lot of potential. To move the industry forward, areas that can be farmed must be left out.

The results of the panchayat elections and the Vidhan Sabha by-elections show that the TMC has successfully taken over the Nandigram movement. The Land Eviction and Defense Committee wanted to choose one person from Nandigram to run in the by-election with the help of S.U.C.I. and Congress. But Mamata gave Firoza Bibi her permission. Jamiyat also put in a nomination for the by-election. Still, Firoza Bibi's big win showed that the people of Nandigram still trusted the TMC. Dipankar Bhattacharya says that Mamata's "Ma-Mati-Manush" tagline helped her connect with the people and get their full support. The CPI (M) was linked to ideas like mass executions, the Tata Nano, problems with irrigation, and capitalist brokers. (Sinha, P., 2021)

III. FINDINGS:

From the start, Mamata stayed away from the events surrounding Rizwanur Rahman's death and the fallout that followed. Even though TMC MLA Javed Khan was involved in the incident, Mamata's strong stance on Kishwar Jahan's judgment kept the issue of Javed Khan from getting media attention. Mamata's stance was commendable because it seemed like she was fighting for middle-class Muslim families who were being persecuted by the government instead of just looking out for her own political interests. Mamata and the TMC were very involved in all of the other recent cases. Mamata kept telling the government to meet with the Morcha to talk about problems with Gorkha Land. She blamed the government for the problems with the hills and pushed for this point of view. Mamata took both defensive and offensive actions in response to the Lalgah issue and the rise of the Maoists. They talked about police abuse and how the government doesn't understand the tribal community, but they also said that Maoists don't exist. The CPI (M) always talked about how the TMC was linked to the Maoists, but the public didn't seem to care.

Since it started, the seventh Left Front Government has faced a lot of problems. The uprisings in Singur and Nandigram were a big problem for the Democratic Left. They hurt the party's mass base a lot and caused an election crisis. So, it's important to look at how these events affected elections in the past. The outcomes of these uprisings were beneficial to the opposition. In the middle of 2007, during five local board elections, the democratic Left had terrible election results. The administration has completely failed to handle these situations. People in cities also showed their support for the farmers who were against the ruling party. The people of Bengal did not agree with the government's plans for how to handle these movements and events. In a civilized democratic country, an elected government can't take a farmer's land by enforcing Article 144 of a colonial law in a local area. They asked how a supposedly leftist democratic government could shoot at peaceful protesters, including women and teens. The Left didn't deal with the sudden uprising in the highlands, the sad death of Rijwanur Rahman, the corruption of food distribution, or the government's harsh treatment of people in Lalgah, among other things. So, they had to pay for the bad things that happened because of this election mismanagement. (Jha, D., Ghatak Sunetra & Maiti Dibyendu, 2022)

The CPI (M) has always had a strong presence in areas where Muslims and scheduled castes live. After the Sachar Committee report came out and the Rigwanur dispute happened, minorities who usually voted for the Left started to change their minds. The same change in voting support happened in places where lower castes lived the most. Sumanta Banerjee said that the CPI (M)'s traditional base of support, the small Muslim population, had also turned against it this time. Still, West Bengal, which is run by the Left Front, has always been seen as the safest place for religious minorities. It even provided shelter to a victim of the 2002 anti-Muslim violence in

Gujarat. In the past, West Bengal has been ruled by a leftist government, which has always worked to reduce communal violence. Even though people remembered that Mamata Banerjee was part of the NDA government that oversaw the killing of Muslims in Gujarat, most Muslims in West Bengal voted for her in the 2009 general election. He asked if it was a protest against the Left Front's lack of concern for their basic needs, which the Sachar Committee's findings support. The CPI (M) leaders thought they could get Muslim voters by giving in to the demands of fundamentalist clerics to ban Taslima Nasreen's book and kick her out of West Bengal. This plan didn't work because, at the same time, they supported businessman Ashok Todi when he opposed his daughter's decision to marry a Muslim commoner, Rizwanur Rehman, in order to keep good relations with Hindu businesses in northern India and get a steady stream of money for the CPI (M). Some high-ranking police officers in Kolkata were accused of forcing Rizwanur to do things and violently separating him from his wife. This event almost made him kill himself.

Ashok Mitra, who used to be the finance minister, talked about the Muslim issue. He said that while things were getting worse in Singur and Nandigram, other important things were happening in the state. This included the well-known event in which police tried to stop the marriage between a wealthy Marwari Hindu woman and a Muslim man from a lower middle-class family. In the end, the young man died in a mysterious way. Many people in the minority community were angry because they were worried about land acquisition affecting some of the Muslim peasantry and because the government was not doing a good job of handling the Rizwanur Rehman case. He says that the Taslima incident shows how much Muslims have lost faith in leftist groups. (Roy, R., 2021)

During the time in question, the media and civil society had a positive effect on how people thought. This was not as common in Bengal before. We need to talk about these issues in depth and how they affect Bengal's political culture.

The media has played a big role in the growth of capitalism and the rise of democracy. Because of this, the media is thought to be the fourth most important part of democracy. After independence, the freedom of the press became just as important as freedom of speech. The media in India slowly got better and bigger. In the last hundred years, newspapers, magazines, movies, and radio were the only forms of media. The government only gave out one audio-visual media company, "Prasar Bharati." During the last part of the NDA government, the media began to change. Many commercial companies started news channels, and there were also big improvements in internet and phone services. The way news was spread and bought changed, and media companies became tools for shaping public opinion. The media became a more advanced and powerful force when it started doing things like polls and debates on a wide range of topics based on what people thought, which had an effect on the people.

During this decade, the CPI (M) made a lot of mistakes in how they handled their politics on a national level. The Left parties supported the UPA government in Delhi. The left didn't like it when the central government decided to talk to the US about a nuclear deal, so they stopped supporting the UPA. The CPI (M) lobby in West Bengal was very against it. Reports in the media say that Nirupam Sen, Buddhadev Bhattacharyya, and other top leaders were against this move. One hundred fifty-seven However, Prakash Karat, the General Secretary of CPI (M), is determined to do that. The left parties stopped backing the UPA on July 8, 2008. Jyoti Basu said that it would be a disaster for the CPI (M). The UPA government, on the other hand, stayed in power with the help of the Samajwadi Party. The BJP said that the Left were working together to bring down a secular government. No one has talked about the nuclear

The left have not been able to explain their moral position to the public. But the problems that came from this chaos made things very hard for the Left. This tragedy gave rise to chances to build a strong opposition coalition against the Left Front. Congress agreed to all of Trinamool's demands, and the coalition ran against CPI (M) in the fifteenth Lok Sabha election.

So, from the above it can be stated that the "Hypothesis 1 (H₁): It is hypothesized that hegemonic party structure, issues, agitations correlated to the party's political dominance" has been accepted.

IV. CONCLUSION:

The historical study of a party's political dominance reveals that sustained control over political power is never accidental; rather, it is the outcome of a complex interplay of ideological coherence, organizational strength, leadership, socio-economic alignment, and institutional adaptability. Dominant parties have historically succeeded by articulating compelling narratives that resonate with prevailing social aspirations, effectively mobilizing mass support, and institutionalizing their presence across electoral, administrative, and civil society domains. Such dominance is often reinforced by the party's capacity to integrate diverse social groups into its political framework, manage internal dissent, and respond pragmatically to changing political and economic contexts. Control over state institutions, electoral mechanisms, and policy agendas further consolidates dominance, enabling ruling parties to shape political discourse and normalize their authority. However, historical evidence also demonstrates that political dominance is inherently dynamic rather than permanent. Over time, structural transformations—such as socio-economic change, generational shifts, ideological fatigue, governance

failures, and the rise of opposition coalitions—tend to erode prolonged dominance. Excessive centralization of power, weakening of internal democracy, and declining responsiveness to popular demands often accelerate this decline. Consequently, dominant parties that fail to reform and renew themselves risk political stagnation and eventual displacement. In conclusion, historical studies underscore that party dominance is both a reflection of political stability and a potential source of democratic imbalance. While it can facilitate policy continuity and governance efficiency, prolonged dominance may limit political competition and pluralism. Therefore, understanding the historical patterns of political dominance provides critical insights into the functioning of democratic systems, the conditions for political legitimacy, and the cyclical nature of power in modern politics.

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