

Social Identity and Political Polarization in Western Democracies

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Abstract. This paper examines the relationship between social identity and political polarization in Western democracies. Drawing on survey data from the United States, Germany, and France, we analyze how social identities such as race, religion, and class contribute to political divides. Our findings indicate that social identity plays a significant role in shaping political polarization, with implications for democratic governance and social harmony. This study offers insights into the challenges of managing diversity and political conflict in contemporary democratic societies.

Keywords: Social Identity, Political Polarization, Western Democracies, Diversity, Democratic Governance

Introduction

Political polarization is a growing concern in Western democracies, where social identity factors such as race, religion, and class increasingly influence political affiliations. This article investigates the link between social identity and political polarization by analyzing survey data from the United States, Germany, and France. We explore how these identities contribute to political divides and the broader implications for democratic governance and social cohesion. Our research provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges posed by social identity in managing diversity and political conflict.

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References

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