

Social Influence on Political Judgments: The Case of Presidential Debates

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Four experiments investigated the extent to which judgments of candidate performance in presidential debates could be influenced by the mere knowledge of others' reactions. In Experiments 1 and 2 participants watched an intact version of a debate or an edited version in which either "soundbite" one-liners or the audience reaction to those soundbites were removed. In Experiment 3 participants saw what was supposedly the reaction of their fellow participants on screen during the debate. Participants in Experiment 4 were exposed to the reactions of live confederates as they watched the last debate of an active presidential campaign. In all studies, audience reactions produced large shifts in participants' judgments of performance. The results illustrate the power of social context to strongly influence individuals' judgments of even large amounts of relevant, important information, and they support the categorization of presidential debates as ambiguous stimuli, fertile ground for informational social influence.

KEY WORDS: presidential debates, conformity, ambiguity, informational social influence, political communication

Ronald Reagan leans back and enjoys the moment. It is the second of his two presidential debates with Walter Mondale as they near the finish line to the 1984 U.S. presidential election. He has just delivered his famous line: "I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience." The question had been a difficult one, asking

Political Judgments

Milton Lodge, Kathleen M. McGraw



Political Judgments:

Political Judgments Dick Howard, 1996 Against the backdrop of the radical change in political conditions since the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe noted philosopher and political theorist Dick Howard asks what is modern politics Returning to the historical problems posed by the French and American Revolutions Howard examines the ways that philosophy has tried to understand the contemporary political dilemma He then puts his theory to the test by looking at political problems in Eastern Europe in the European Union and in the United States This collection of essays many available in English for the first time will be useful to philosophers sociologists and political scientists *Political Value Judgments* , **Political**

Judgment Milton Lodge, Kathleen M. McGraw, 1995 How are impressions about political candidates organized in memory What is the nature of political group stereotypes How do citizens make voting decisions How do citizens formulate opinions about key issues and politics The contributors to *Political Judgment Structure and Process* reach answers to these questions that will substantially influence how the next generation of scholars working at the intersection of political science and sociology and public opinion researchers more generally go about their work **The Motivated Construction of Political**

Judgements , Political Judgement Ronald Beiner, 2013-06-17 Originally published in 1983 One of the basic capacities of man as a political being is his faculty of judgement Yet for all the books on concepts like freedom equality and authority surprisingly little attention has been given to this topic in the tradition of Western political thought What is the nature of political judgement What endows us as human beings with the ability to make reasonable judgements about human affairs and to judge the common world we share with others By what means do we secure validity for our judgements What are the underlying conditions of this human capacity and what implications does it have the understanding of politics These questions central as they are to any reflection on politics have rarely been addressed in a systematic way This book examines Kant's concept of taste and Aristotle's concept of prudence as well as recent works of political philosophy by Arendt Gadamer and Habermas all crucially influenced by Kant and Aristotle *The Concept of Political Judgment* Peter J.

Steinberger, 1993-09-15 Steinberger's conclusion that a coherent political society must also be a judgmental one flies in the face of much contemporary thinking **Political Judgment** Peter J. Steinberger, 2018-06-04 Politics is the process by which communities collectively decide to pursue certain courses of action It is as such always a matter of judgment Courses of action are chosen at least in part because they are somehow adjudged better than the alternatives and this has given rise to a great deal of speculation about the ways in which we determine the relative merits of proposed laws and policies What exactly is good judgment in politics What are the characteristics of people who judge especially well How is good judgment acquired and how can we recognize it in others Peter Steinberger addresses such questions by considering a variety of important developments in the history of political thought ancient modern and contemporary introducing readers to important and on going debates about the idea of prudence or practical wisdom as it functions or should function in the

realm of public affairs It will be essential reading for students and scholars of political theory the history of political thought and political ethics *Rethinking Political Judgement* Masa Mrovlje, 2018-11-23 The first book length study to provide a detailed examination of a distinctive crossroads in the history of the left *New Waves In Political Philosophy* Boudewijn de Bruin, C. Zurn, 2008-12-19 Comprising essays by eleven up and coming scholars from across the globe this collection of essays provides an unparalleled snapshot of new work in political philosophy using such diverse methodologies as critical theory and social choice theory historical analysis and conceptual analysis Power, Judgment and Political Evil Danielle Celermajer, 2016-04-08 In an interview with G nter Gaus for German television in 1964 Hannah Arendt insisted that she was not a philosopher but a political theorist Disillusioned by the cooperation of German intellectuals with the Nazis she said farewell to philosophy when she fled the country This book examines Arendt s ideas about thinking acting and political responsibility investigating the relationship between the life of the mind and the life of action that preoccupied Arendt throughout her life By joining in the conversation between Arendt and Gaus each contributor probes her ideas about thinking and judging and their relation to responsibility power and violence An insightful and intelligent treatment of the work of Hannah Arendt this volume will appeal to a wide number of fields beyond political theory and philosophy including law literary studies social anthropology and cultural history

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