

**Party Government in Presidential Democracies:
Extending Cartel Theory Beyond the U.S. Congress**

Cartel Theory (and partisan theory more generally) expertly explains the functioning of the U.S. Congress. However, as a theory originally developed to study a single legislature where the institutional context differs greatly from that found in other presidential democracies, its applicability to these democracies has been questioned. Between one extreme represented by the U.S. (where legislators control their own political future) and the other represented by centralized party systems (where the national party leadership controls legislators' future), exists an intermediate group of democracies where sub-party bosses are the key actors, controlling the future of subsets of a party's legislative delegation. We analyze one of these intermediate democracies, Argentina, and demonstrate the general applicability of Cartel Theory to an institutional context that differs notably from that found in the U.S. We highlight how the theory can be adapted to a political system where sub-party bosses, not individual legislators, are the most relevant political actors.