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Realigning Elections

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REALIGNING ELECTIONS

- I. REPUBLICAN SURGE OF 1994
 - A. REPUBLICAN CONTROL OF BOTH HOUSES
 - 1. Gain of 54 seats in House
 - 2. Newt Gingrich: first Republican Speaker since 1955
 - 3. Republican Governors and State Legislatures
 - 4. Defeat of Thomas Foley

- II. CRITICAL ELECTIONS OR PARTY REALIGNMENTS
 - A. DEFINITION: NEW PARTY COALITION
 - 1. V. O. Key, Jr.: Theory of Critical Elections, 1955
 - 2. Criticisms

- III. THE 1994 ELECTION: SOME OBSERVATIONS
 - A. LARGEST TURNOVER OF INCUMBENTS IN RECENT YEARS
 - B. THE DESIRE FOR PREDICTABLE OUTCOMES
 - 1. Importance of Poll-Taking
 - C. THE ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY
 - 1. Low Turnover in the 1980s had become the Norm
 - 2. Casework and Perks
 - D. THE ROLE OF SWING VOTERS

- IV. HISTORICAL PATTERNS
 - A. LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR CRITICAL ELECTIONS
 - 1. Republicans in 1854 and 1860
 - 2. Republicans in 1894 and 1896
 - 3. Democrats in 1930 and 1932
 - B. PATTERNS OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE

- V. CONCLUSION: REALIGNMENT IS RARE
 - A. HOUSE WAS DESIGNED TO GAUGE THE PUBLIC MOOD