



The Great Polarization

Economics, Institutions and Policies in the Age of Inequality

A conference sponsored by the Department of Economics at the University of Utah

Why Are Party Systems Collapsing in the Most Developed Countries on Earth? -- Theories and Evidence

Tom Ferguson

Abstract

The post-World War II political order is plainly collapsing in many of the world's most advanced countries. Think: Brexit, or the United States, but also the fate of socialist parties in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and now perhaps Germany, as new parties arise and jostle for power. What explains this dramatic turn of events? The discussion will survey theories and evidence about "Populism," nationalism, external forces, and other factors proposed by analysts of different persuasions.