To What Extent Has The German Electoral System Shaped Its Party System And The Development Of The Ma Essay, Research Paper

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electoral system and the party system; and fourthly, other factors beside the

electoral system which have helped to shape the party system.? By breaking down the question in this way,

it is my intention to show that, although the electoral system did have, and continues

to have, a role in the shaping of the party system in the FRG, it is far from

being the most important factor. ??????????? National elections in the Federal

Republic must be held at least every four years according to Article 39 of the

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The first is that a party which wins more seats by the majority voting

system than it would normally be allowed its proportion of the vote is allowed

to keep these seats.? In this case the

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make the size of the Bundestag 672 seats.?

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many elections, but since then has been a regular feature.? The second exception is the five percent

clause, which prevents any party which has not polled at least five percent

nationally from gaining any representation in the Bundestag.? However, this clause is swayed for parties

which have managed to directly elect three or more candidates. ??????????? This, then is the electoral system

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whoever can enter into coalition with whom.?

At first glance, this appears to show a severe democratic deficit, and

to some extent it does, but this is mitigated by the constitutional role

assigned to political parties by the Basic Law of the FRG. ??????????? Article 21 of the Basic Law states

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It is worth noting the emergence of the Greens in 1998, not only as a

viable political force but as a party of government.? This will be examined in more detail later in the essay. ??????????? Moving on to the third section of

the essay, the electoral system has had a role to play in moulding this party

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clause has contributed to the fact that until 1994 there were only three viable

political parties in the FRG (counting the CDU/CSU as one party).? Small parties have been largely prevented

from entering the Bundestag, since it is very difficult for smaller parties to

win seats for directly elected candidates, and so cannot take advantage of the

three district waiver to the five percent clause.? For example, the far right NPD achieved 4.3% of the vote in 1969,

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representation has led to the need for coalition governments.? As is often the case in a proportional

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The net result of this is that the FDP is far more important and influential,

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