
The Cyclical Dynamic

4 DOES AMERICAN ELECTORAL HISTORY sort into specified crests and troughs? Do the highs and lows appear in regular cycles? What explains the regularity of the alleged cycles? Claims 1 through 4 of the realignments genre address these basic concerns.

1) *The existence of specified realigning and nonrealigning elections.* Of efforts to discover realigning as opposed to nonrealigning elections during American history, I am aware of two sophisticated works using quantitative data that were undertaken blind to the conventional wisdom of the realignments genre about what results to expect.¹ It

1. Peter F. Nardulli's recent work, which has interesting time series on subregions, does not seem to be "blind" in this sense. See Nardulli, "The Concept of a Critical Realignment, Electoral Behavior, and Political