
Processes and Issues

5 DISAPPOINTING RESULTS LIKE THOSE reported above, however, do not end the discussion. Realignment advocates are quick with arguments of the form: “Even if patterns A, B, C, and D don’t pan out, patterns E, F, G, and H will.” Hence the advisability of assessing many alleged patterns.

In this chapter I take up three claims of the realignments genre bearing on processes and three bearing on issues. My strategy in each of the six cases is to investigate how well the relevant kinds of events or features of American history have mapped onto the realignments calendar—that is, the calendar of 1828, 1860, 1896, and 1932. In all six cases, some specified mapping has been theorized.