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## *Policies and Democracy*

**6** ULTIMATELY FOR THE REALIGNMENTS genre, payoff territory arrives with its ambitious claims about policy making and its soaring assertions about American democracy and the “System of 1896.” I address these topics in this chapter, beginning with the three claims introduced earlier about policy making. The genre divides on whether on-schedule policy making is a consequence of electoral realignments or, alternatively, a defining property of them, but that question need not detain us here.

11) *Major policy innovations.* Does a pattern exist, as David W. Brady claims, in which electoral realignments have ushered in “major shifts in public policy” or