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Ex Ante and *ex Post* Voting Power: A Method for Calculating Party Power in Party Government

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ABSTRACT

As political power tends to be wielded in the form of voting power in the national assembly, especially under the institutions of party government, one needs a method to calculate the voting power of political parties, both longitudinally and for a cross-section of European democracies. This paper suggests such a method, derived from the power index approach in cooperative game theory. The application of the method on the history of democracy in the two German nations results in party scores—mandates, *ex ante* and *ex post* voting power—that are much in congruence with the standard interpretations of the interwar period and the post-war politics in these two countries.

KEYWORDS

Party Government; Government Coalitions and Coalitions in the Legislature; *Ex Ante* and *ex Post* Voting Power; Penrose-Banzhaf-Coleman Framework; Banzhaf Numbers or Scores; Double Banzhaf Games; Party Government in the Two German Speaking Nations

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