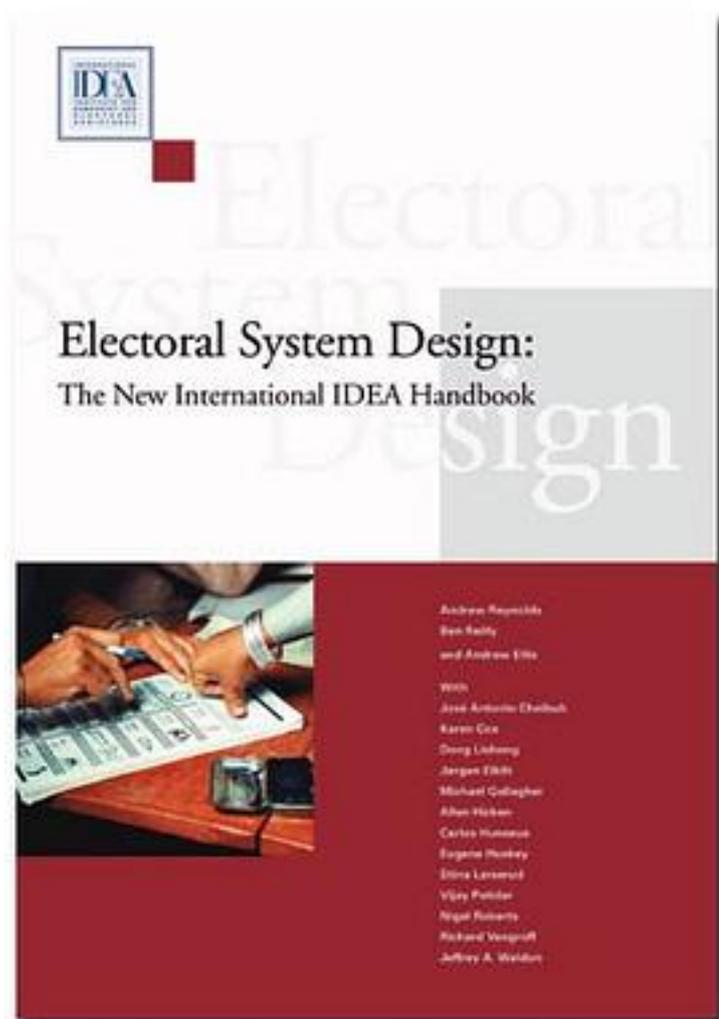


Electoral System Design



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The choice of electoral system is one of the most important institutional decisions for any democracy. In almost all cases the choice of a particular electoral system has a profound effect on the future political life of the country concerned, and electoral systems, once chosen, often remain fairly constant as political interests solidify around and respond to the incentives presented by them. The choices that are made may have consequences that were unforeseen as well as predicted effects.

Electoral system choice is a fundamentally political process, rather than a question to which independent technical experts can produce a single ‘correct answer’. The consideration of political advantage is almost always a factor in the choice of electoral systems. Calculations of short-term political interest can often obscure the longer-term consequences of a particular electoral system.

The choice of electoral system can have a significant impact on the wider political and institutional framework: it is important not to see electoral systems in isolation. Their design and effects are heavily contingent upon other structures within and outside the constitution. Successful electoral system design comes from looking at the framework of political institutions as a whole: changing one part of this framework is likely to cause adjustments in the way other institutions within it work.

Electoral systems are today viewed as one of the most influential of all political institutions, and of crucial importance to broader issues of governance. For example, it is increasingly being recognized that an electoral system can be designed both to provide local geographic representation and to promote proportionality; can promote the development of strong and viable national political parties, and ensure the representation of women and regional minorities; and can help to ‘engineer’ cooperation and accommodation in a divided society by the creative use of particular incentives and constraints.

作者介绍:

目录: 1. OVERVIEW

Introduction

How to use this Handbook

What Electoral Systems Are

The Importance of Electoral Systems

Criteria for Design

The Process of Change

Design Components

2. THE WORLD OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

Plurality/Majority Systems

Proportional Representation Systems

Mixed Systems

Other Systems

3. THE SYSTEMS AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

Plurality/Majority Systems

Proportional Representation Systems

Mixed Systems

Other Systems

Electoral System Tiers and Hybrid Systems

Considerations on Representation

Additional Issues Relevant to Post-Conflict and Transitional Elections

4. ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND GOVERNANCE

Electing a President

Electing an Upper House

Different Tiers of Governance

Electing Supranational Bodies

Electing Federal/State Assemblies and Autonomous Jurisdictions

Electing Local Authorities

Electoral Systems and Political Parties

Direct Democracy Options

5. COST AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

6. ADVICE FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS DESIGNERS

ANNEXES

• • • • • ([收起](#))

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标签

选举制度

比较政治

政治社会学

选举政治

经济,政治和历史

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社会学

社会

评论

这本书应该是目前为止我读得最认真的一本英文书了，因为我把它都翻译出来了。从内容角度看，它对各种选举制度进行了比较全面的介绍，提供的事例也有参考价值，但有两点不足，一是对制度的分类不够合理，“其他”这个类别总是不太好理解的；二是对最高均数法、最大余额法等没有进行细致介绍。

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