

Abstracts

Danish Party Politics 2001-2011

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The general election in 2001 resulted in a new and unusual situation in the Danish Parliament. For the first time since 1929, it was possible to form a minority bourgeois government (Liberals and Conservatives) only with the support of a party (Danish Peoples' Party) to the right for government. The seats of the traditional pivotal party, the Social-Liberal Party, was no longer necessary for the majority formation process. The Social Democratic Party was seriously defeated and lost its governmental position as well as its position as the leading party. In a narrative way, the article traces the impact of this new situation on the respective parties and on the pattern of cooperation and conflict in Parliament in the period from 2001 up to the summer of 2011.

The Danish Voters 2001-2010: Stability, dynamism and complex angles

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By the election in 2001 more than half of the Danish voters voted for a bourgeois party, and they repeated this at the elections in 2005 and 2007. The Danish voters have made a turn to the right, but in the same period, they

did move towards the left, when it comes to political attitudes, both in the matters of economic distribution and of social values, i.e. immigration. This development is most obvious for the bourgeois voters, who have turned left and continued to vote on the rightwing parties at the same time. Maybe because the right wing parties also moved to the left, because the left wing parties moved even further to the left, or because of the voters' increasing ability to combine attitudes from different ideological positions. The result is that the voters are becoming more and more dynamic, and they are inspired both by political and aesthetical matters, especially when it comes to the young voters.

Changing General Election Campaigns

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Danish political parties campaigning up to general elections have undergone significant changes in 1998-2011. Parties have professionalized their campaigning. Preparations begin earlier, experts in political communication are incorporated, and both polls and focus groups are applied. Election campaigns have become more expensive. Parties vary in their access to money and volunteering labor, and hence in whether their campaigns are capital or labor intensive. The changes in parties' campaign activities is not only that there are new modes of campaigning, primarily enab-

led by the technological development, such as websites, blogs and social media. Parties also make use of traditional campaign methods in a more targeted way than before, for example canvassing or distribution of leaflets in key strategic areas, and advertisements in media that are specifically read by potential voters. Some traditional campaign methods are still used such as election posters in light posts, election meetings and pamphlet distribution at the local square.

Contractual Politics, Cultural War and Ideology 2001-2011

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The article outlines the concepts of »contract politics« and »cultural war« as elements in the strategy of the Liberal-Conservative coalition governments and places them in a theoretical framework. A cursory survey of the period 2001-2011 shows that the concepts underwent various reinterpretations, and that the policies and rhetorics of the governments on central issues were in conflict with the original ambitions. That, and Anders Fogh Rasmussen's move of the Liberal Party into the centre of Danish politics, may very well have caused a visible »de-liberalization« of the policy views of Danish voters since 1998.

In Search of Lost Time: The Political Economy of Danish Defence, 2001-2011

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The article outlines four structural options for the Danish Armed Forces. The Armed Forces can become a Stabilisation Defence, a Campaign Defence, an Intervention Defence or a Combination Defence. These four modes of organising armed force is framed by the length of missions and the military's role in these missions. From 2001 to 2011 the Danish Armed Forces was transformed from a Stabilisation Defence to a Campaign Defence. The way in which the armed forces was organised and financed, however, was based on the conception of the Armed Forces as an Intervention Defence. This imbalance between means and ends has left the Danish Armed Forces in a financial crisis while facing large budget cuts at the same time as the organisation has little concept of how to prioritise missions. The article points out that one way to prioritise the missions of the Danish Armed Forces is to adopt a combination approach which places the armed forces as one element of a whole-of-government approach to national security.