Evolution of Political Parties in India

PRESENTED BY
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WHAT IS POLITICAL PARTY?

- A political party is an organized group of citizens who profess to share the same political views and who by acting as a political unit, try to control the government.

- According to Para 2 (h) of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, Political party means an association or body of individual citizens of India registered with the Election Commission of India as a political party under Section 29A of the R. P. Act of 1951.

FEATURES OF POLITICAL PARTY

- In a democratic state, several political parties freely participate in the political process. The people have the right and freedom to organize their political parties.

- A political party always works for the promotion of interests of the nation as a whole.

- A political party always acts according to the provision of the constitution and rules laid down by laws.

TYPES OF PARTIES

- One PARTY SYSTEM

EXAMPLE:SOVIET UNION,CHINA

- TWO PARTY SYSTEM

EXAMPLE:USA,CANADA,NEW ZEALAND

- MULTI PARTY SYSTEM

EXAMPLE:INDIA,PAKISTAN

CONSTITUTION AND LEGAL PROVISION

- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution added by the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985 deals with the disqualification of a person for being a member of either House of Parliament (Art. 102(2)) or the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State (Art.191(2)), on ground of defection.

- According to Article 29A (1) and (2) of the R. P. Act, 1951 any association or body of individuals of India calling itself a political party need to make an application to the Election Commission for its registration as a political party, within thirty days from the date of its formation along with symbol in accordance with the provisions of Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

CLASSIFICATION OF PARTY IN INDIA

NATIONAL PARTIES

- 2% seats from 3 different states

- 6% votes from 4 states+4 seats in lok sabha

- Recognition in 4 different states

STATE PARTIES

- 3% of total seats in LA

- 1 seat in every 25 lok sabha seats in state in that fraction

- 6% votes +1 lok sabha seat or 2 LA seats

- 8% of total polled votes

HISTORY OF NATIONAL PARTIES

TABLE 1. 1952 to 2004 National and Regional Parties

| S. No.	Election year	Number of National Parties	Regional Parties	Total Parties
1.	1952	14	60	74
2.	1957	4	12	16
3.	1962	—	16	16
4.	1967	—	21	21
5.	1971	8	17	25
6.	1977	5	18	23
7.	1980	6	19	25
8.	1984	7	19	26
9.	1989	8	20	28
10.	1998	7	48	55
11.	1999	7	48	55
12.	2000	5	50	55
13.	2004	6	34[1]	40

There were no National parties in 1962 and 1967 these were at that time called multi-State parties.

Recognised national parties as of 2 September 2016

No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Current leader(s)
1	Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP	1980	Amit Shah
2	Indian National Congress	INC	1885	Sonia Gandhi
3	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI-M	1964	Sitaram Yechury
4	Communist Party of India	CPI	1925	Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy
5	Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP	1984	Mayawati
6	Nationalist Congress Party	NCP	1999	Sharad Pawar
7	All India Trinamool Congress	AITC	1998	Mamata Banerjee

SYMBOLS OF NATIONAL PARTIES IN INDIA
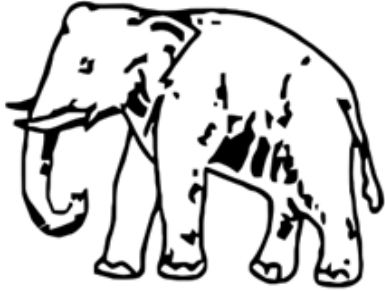
Bahujan Samaj Party

Indian National Congress

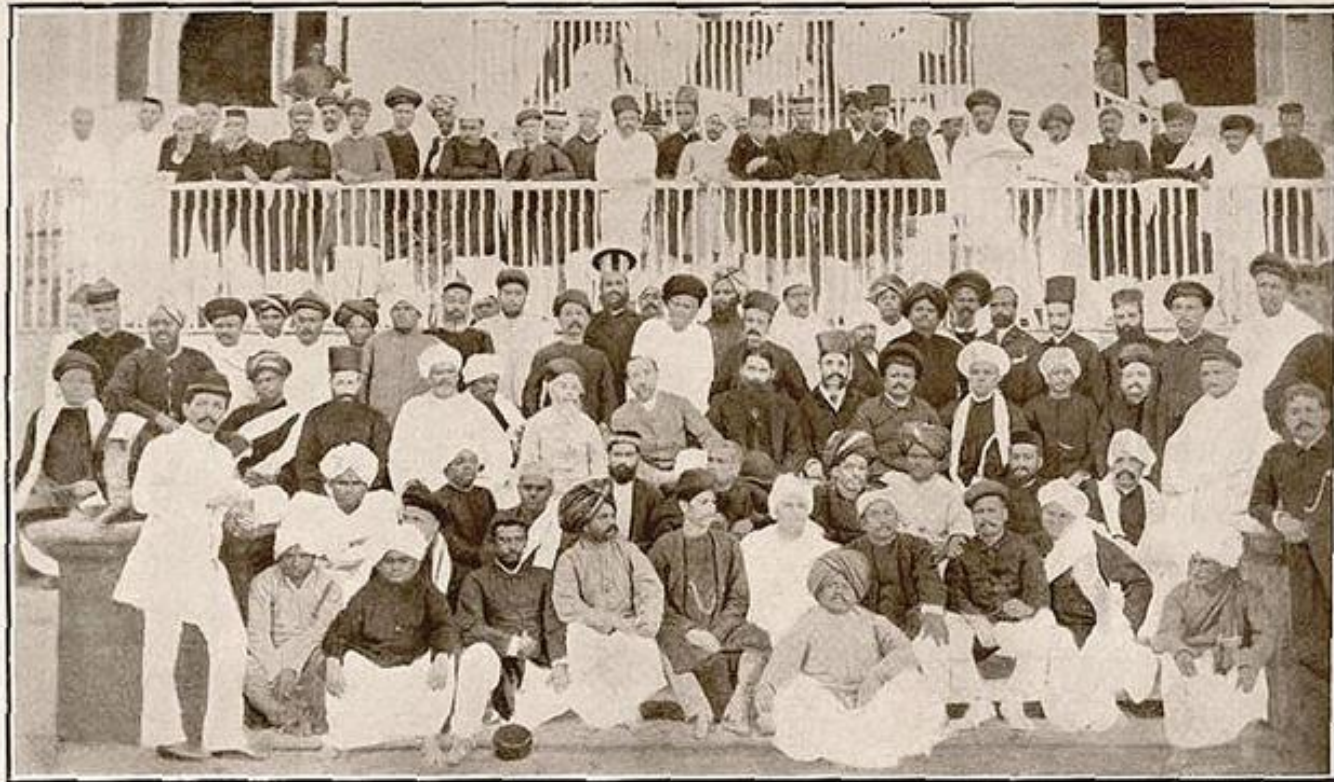Communist Party of India (Marxist)

Bharatiya Janata Party

Nationalist Congress Party

All India Trinamool Congress

Communist Party of India

PRE INDEPENDENCE ERA

THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.

PRE INDEPENDENCE ERA

- Congress in 1885 by A O Hume

- Political dialog between educated Indians and British Raj

- 1919 – Congress took shape of a mass movement

- 1937- Formation of government in Provinces

- 1946 – Formation of interim government

PRE INDEPENDENCE ERA

- Muslim League

- Shiromani Akali Dal

- Swaraj Party

- Communist Party of India

- Dravidar Kazhagam

- All India Forward Bloc

- National Conference

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES POST INDEPENDENCE: 1947-1967
BROAD PERSPECTIVE

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES POST INDEPENDENCE: 1947-1967
BROAD PERSPECTIVE

EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES MEANT EVOLUTION OF CONGRESS
IN THE BEGINNING:

- After independence was achieved, congress found itself without a unifying purpose. With R. Prasad as president of the country & P. Tandon as president of Congress there was a growing Hindu tint of the party, which led to departure of some of its most effervescent leaders.

- In 1948 **Socialist Party** was formed with **J.P. Narayan** & in 1951, KMPP (**Kisan Majdoor Praja Party)** with **J.B. Kriplani**. These parties accused congress of betraying its commitment to the poor. They claimed to stand for the ideals of old Gandhian congress.

- The party also faced external challenges from :
1. **Jana Sangh** which sought to consolidate India's largest religious grouping, the Hindus into one solid voting bank.
2. Hindu parties even more orthodox than Jana Sangh- **Hindu Mahasabha & Ram Rajya Parishad.**
3. **CPI** & its many splinter groups of the left.
4. Regional parties based on affiliation of ethinicity & religion: **Dravida Kazhagam** (Tamil pride), **Akalis** in Punjab, **Jharkhand Party** demanding separate state for tribals.

FIRST ELECTIONS IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

•1951-52 saw the first general election of India. These were the first ever polls to be held under the new constitution, drawn up with the **British parliamentary system** as a model.

•However, the biggest let down of the polls was that about 176 million people were eligible to vote and an abysmally low figure of 15% amongst them were literate.

•Congress passed the first litmus test of democracy by winning a landslide victory. The party won **364 of the 489 seats** in the parliament.

•Congress, however, suffered some unexpected setbacks in three southern states – **Tamil Nadu (Madras), Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad) and Kerala (Travancore)** – where the party **failed** to win majority in the face of strong support of the **Communist Party.**

Second Elections

•Nehru led Congress to another victory in the 1957 polls.

•This time North India remained unchallenged for congress as Jana Sangh & socialists were in disarray due to departure of their charismatic leaders.

•Rest of the country the challenges had increased multifold with: **Gantantra Parishad in Orissa, Bombay, DMK in Tamil Nadu & CPI in Kerala** gaining strength.

•It was the first time a Communist party anywhere in the world won a democratic mandate.

•Shortly before his death Ambedkar decided to float a new party- the **Republic party of India**.

THE ROUT..

- The picture changed radically in **1967 elections**.
- Of the 16 states, **only eight** returned Congress to power with absolute majorities in the state legislatures.
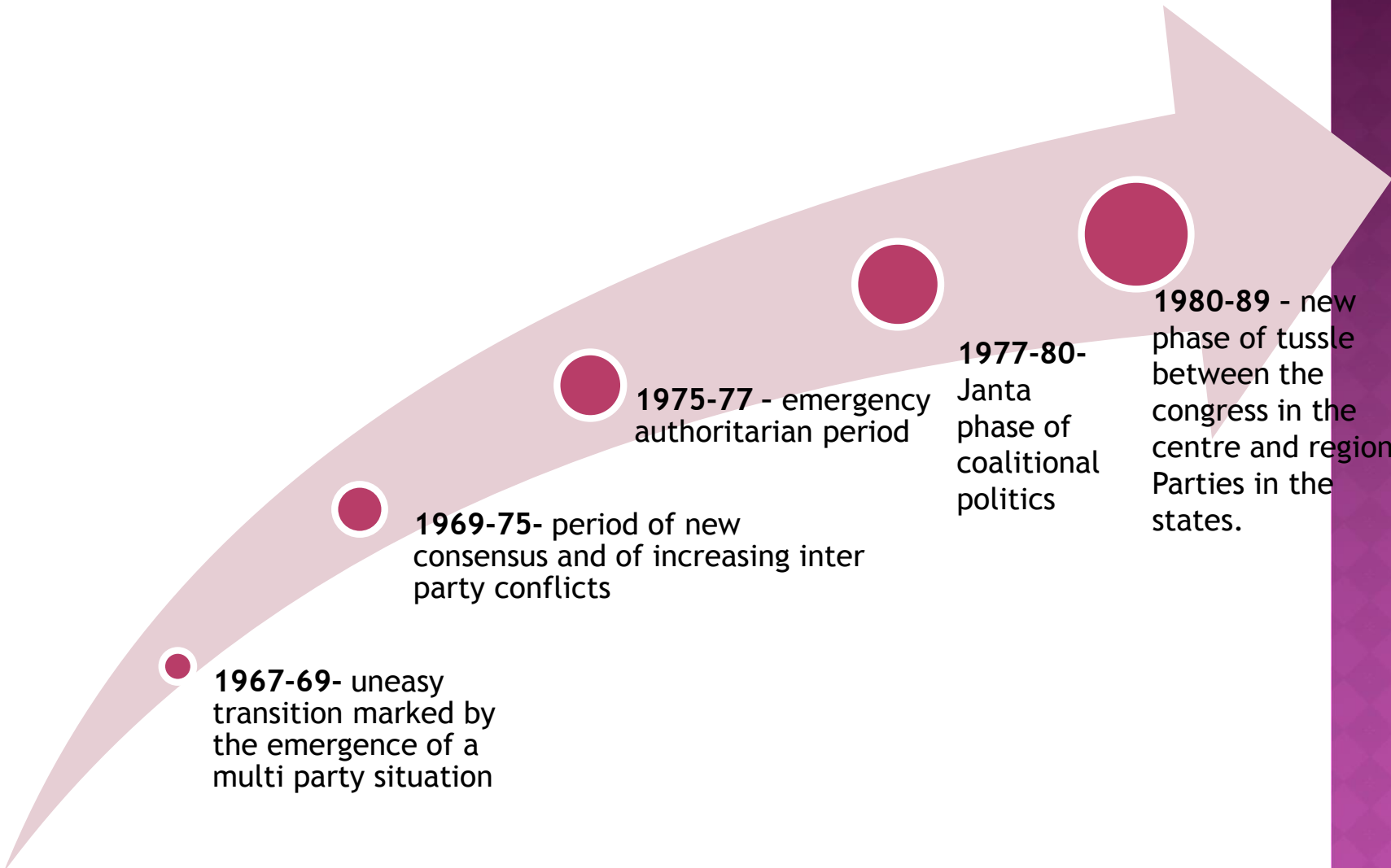- *Regional Grievances*

  The general slump in the popularity of the Congress had been accentuated in different regions by regional grievances. In Madras, the main issue that swept the **Dravida Munnetra Khazagam** to power was fear of the imposition of Hindi as the sole official language of India. In **Punjab**, the fall in Congress stock was largely due to squabbles attending the partition of the two states. In **Uttar Pradesh and Delhi**, the **Jan Sangh** gathered a large number of votes through its agitation against cow slaughter

- Despite these regional issues and mounting popular disenchantment with its rule, Congress would not have fared as badly as it did had its own house been in order.
- Twenty years of uninterrupted enjoyment of power had made it *smug and arrogant*. One reflection of this could be seen in their *uncompromising attitude towards the dissidents inside their party*, the continued and relentless **exclusion** of the latter from all position of authority.
- The *bitter infighting* that followed this led to large-scale expulsions and resignations and in West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar ex-Congressmen formed parties which contested the official Congress in the elections.
- In other states, where no such extreme development took place, Congressmen often allied secretly with opposition candidates to defeat candidates belonging to *rival factions of their own party*.

- **Bangla Congress, Jana Congress, Jana Kranti Dal and Swatantra Party** gained big in this period . The first three parties were breakaway units of the Congress and shared much of its moderate approach to social and economic issues, Swatantra Party was different in that it did not believe in economic planning. But then it was not communal and did not have any extra-territorial loyalty like the Communists.

- Their emergence as important political parties could have been said to be very hopeful sign for Indian democracy.

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES POST INDEPENDENCE: 1967-89
BROAD PERSPECTIVE

Post Independence Period – 1967 to 1989

1980-89 – new phase of tussle between the congress in the centre and regional Parties in the states.

1977-80- Janta phase of coalitional politics

1975-77 – emergency authoritarian period

1969-75- period of new consensus and of increasing inter party conflicts

1967-69- uneasy transition marked by the emergence of a multi party situation

Continued....

➤ **1967 elections-** Congress won only 40% of votes and 54% of seats

 -Lost power in 8 states.

➤ Land reforms in late 1950s ,emergence of new land owners and increased participation of peasant class attributed to the decline of Congress.

➤ Indira Gandhi used the Congress dominance to make the centre stronger and the controversial 42nd Amendment to the constitution made centre more powerful at the expense of the states.

➢ **1971-**Gandhi led congress party won on grounds of policies like **garibi hatao**, abolition Of **Privy Purse** and **nationalisation** of 14 largest banks.

➢ **1971-** grand alliance between Bharatiya Jan Sangh, Congress(O) and SSP (Samyukta Socialist Party).

➢ Pyramidal decision making, autocratic functioning, rising corruption, centralized and weakened power led to defeat of Congress in 1977 elections.

WO KAHATE HAIN
INDIRA HATAO,

MAIN KAHATI HOON
GARIBI HATAO

➢ **1975-** JP movement

➢ **1973** oil crisis, challenges of drought , strikes, protests, massive political opposition paralyzed the government which ultimately led to the imposition of "internal emergency".

1977-Janta party came to power

1979- split in Janta party on the grounds of dual membership-downfall of government -Mrs Gandhi returned to power

1980- BJP

1984- Bahujan Samaj Party

1985- Asom Gana Parishad

- Rajiv Gandhi government tried to centralise powers by introducing Panchayati Raj Bill and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

EVOLUTION OF INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES POST INDEPENDENCE: 1990 ONWARDS
BROAD PERSPECTIVE

REGIONAL PARTY

What is a regional party?

- **R**egional party propagates the ideology of regionalism or thrives on invocation of regional pride.   e.g. TDP, DMK

- However, another type of party can be incorporated in the regional party list:-

  Parties which enjoy considerable support only in one state. They may not emphasize regionalist outlook and may have an all India prospective but have limited regional reach.

  E.g. revolutionary socialist party in W.B

RISE OF REGIONAL PARTIES

- When the interest of particular region are not properly safeguarded.
  - E.g. DMK,ADMK, national conference J&K
- Due to ethnic, racial and religious orthodoxy
- Language issues
  e.g. DMK, ADMK, TPS
- Internal conflicts of the big national parties

RISE OF REGIONAL PARTIES

In Indian context there were three main reasons responsible for the rise of regional parties

- ❑ Demise of Nehru
- ❑ Proclamation of emergency
- ❑ Formation of Janta Party

SOME EXAMPLES

- DMK and ADMK almost eliminated INC from electoral race in T.N since 1962
- TDP proved a strong opponent from 1985 onwards
- CPI(M) which is the left front of W.B. accounted for reasonably high vote share since 1977
- Shiromani Akali Dal emerged as a single largest party in 1972,1977 and 1985
- Jammu & Kashmir National Conference formed by Sheikh Abdulah won every election from 1977 upto 2002.

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF RISE AND ROLE OF REGIONAL PARTIES IN INDIA

Gradually Many of the leading power brokers in contemporary Indian politics hail from regional parties

The exponential increase in the number of parties contesting elections, particularly over the past two decades, and the shrinking margins of victory in parliamentary elections are direct results of the emergence of new regional power centers
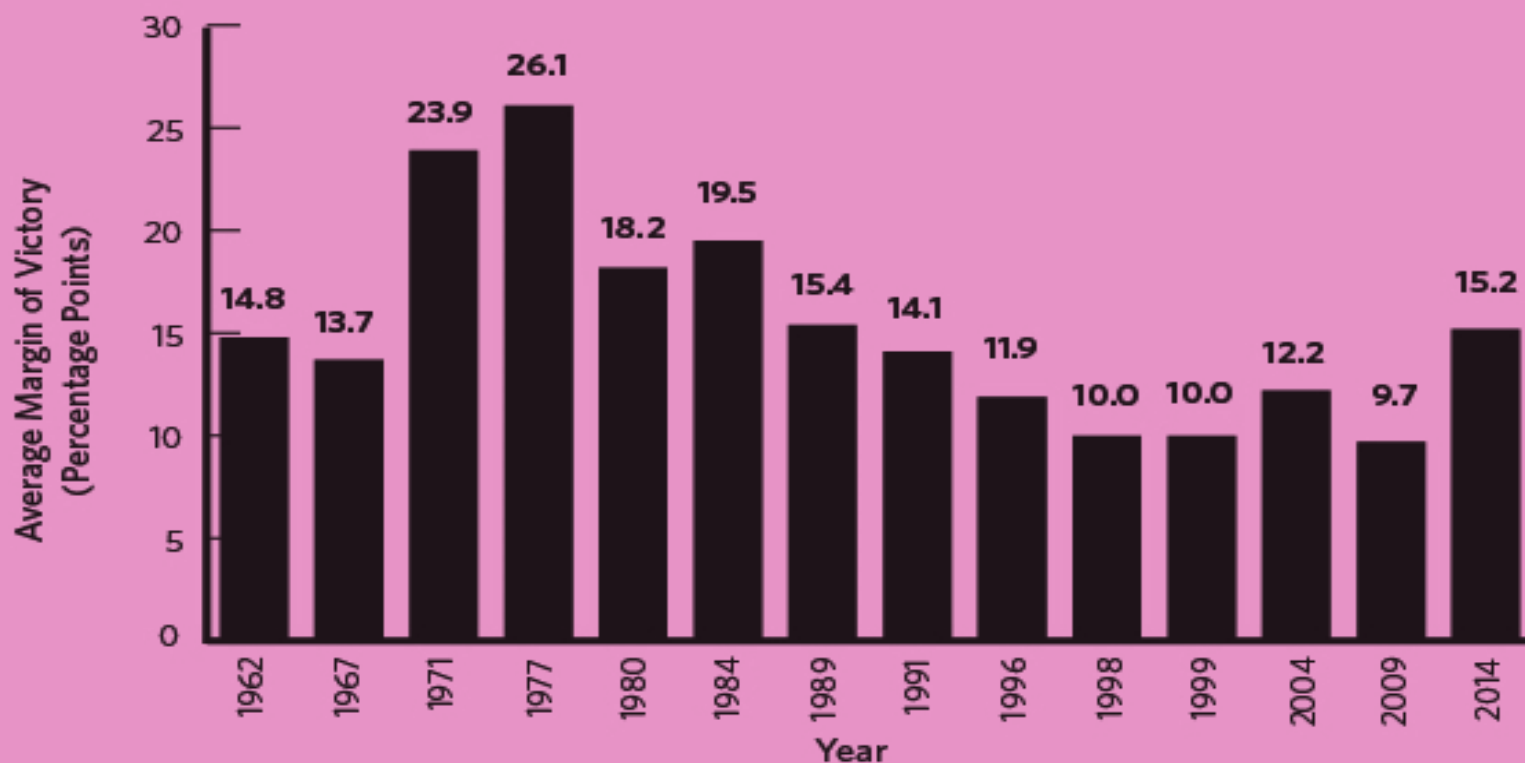
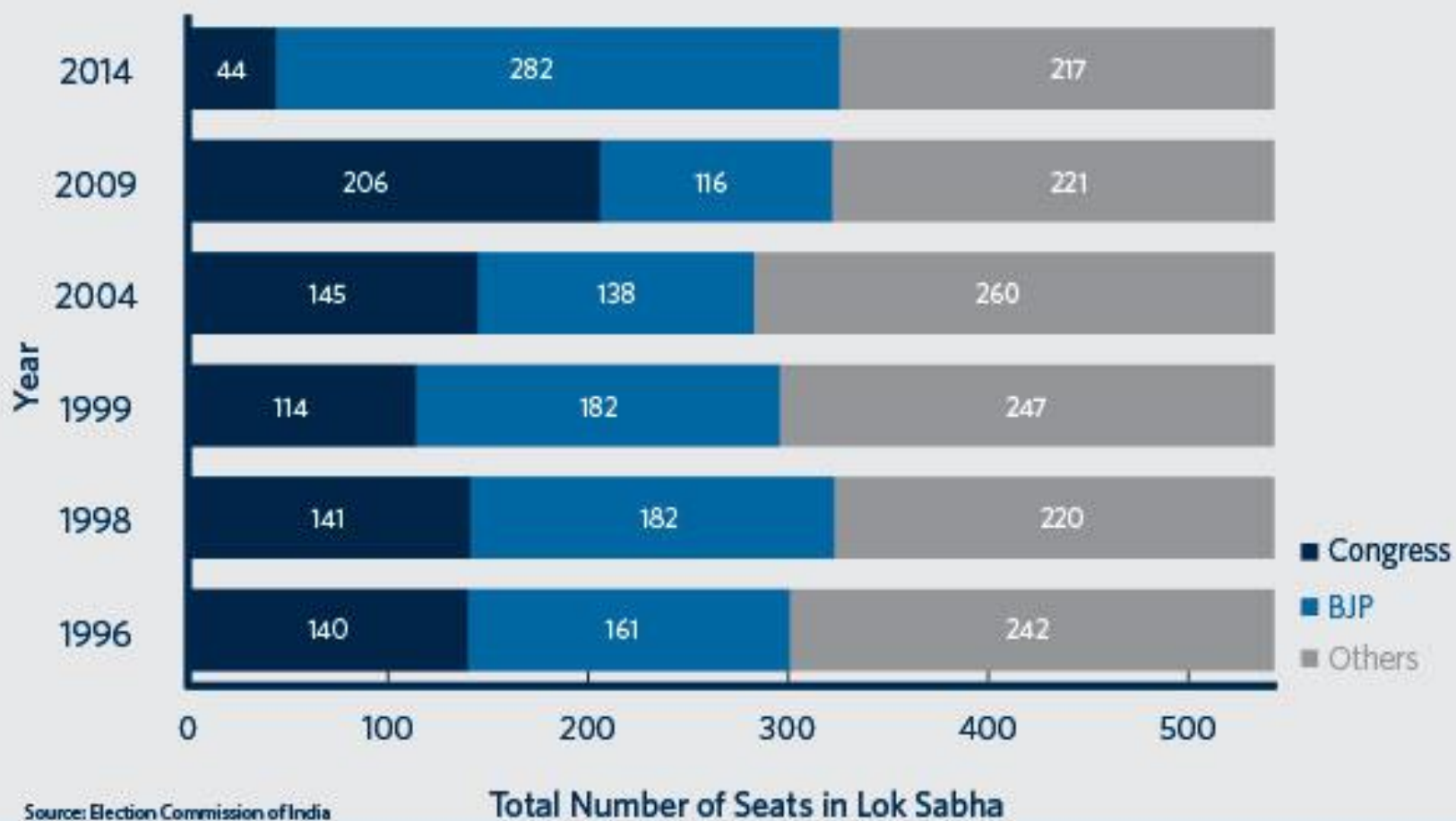Figure 3. **Average Margin of Victory in Lok Sabha Elections, 1962–2014**

Sources: Election Commission of India; Economic and Political Weekly; Authors' calculations

Figure 6. **Distribution of Seats in Lok Sabha Elections, 1996–2014**

Source: Election Commission of India

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DO REGIONAL PARTIES UNDERMINE NATIONAL PARTIES ?

Figure 1. **Regional Party Vote and Seat Shares in Lok Sabha Elections**
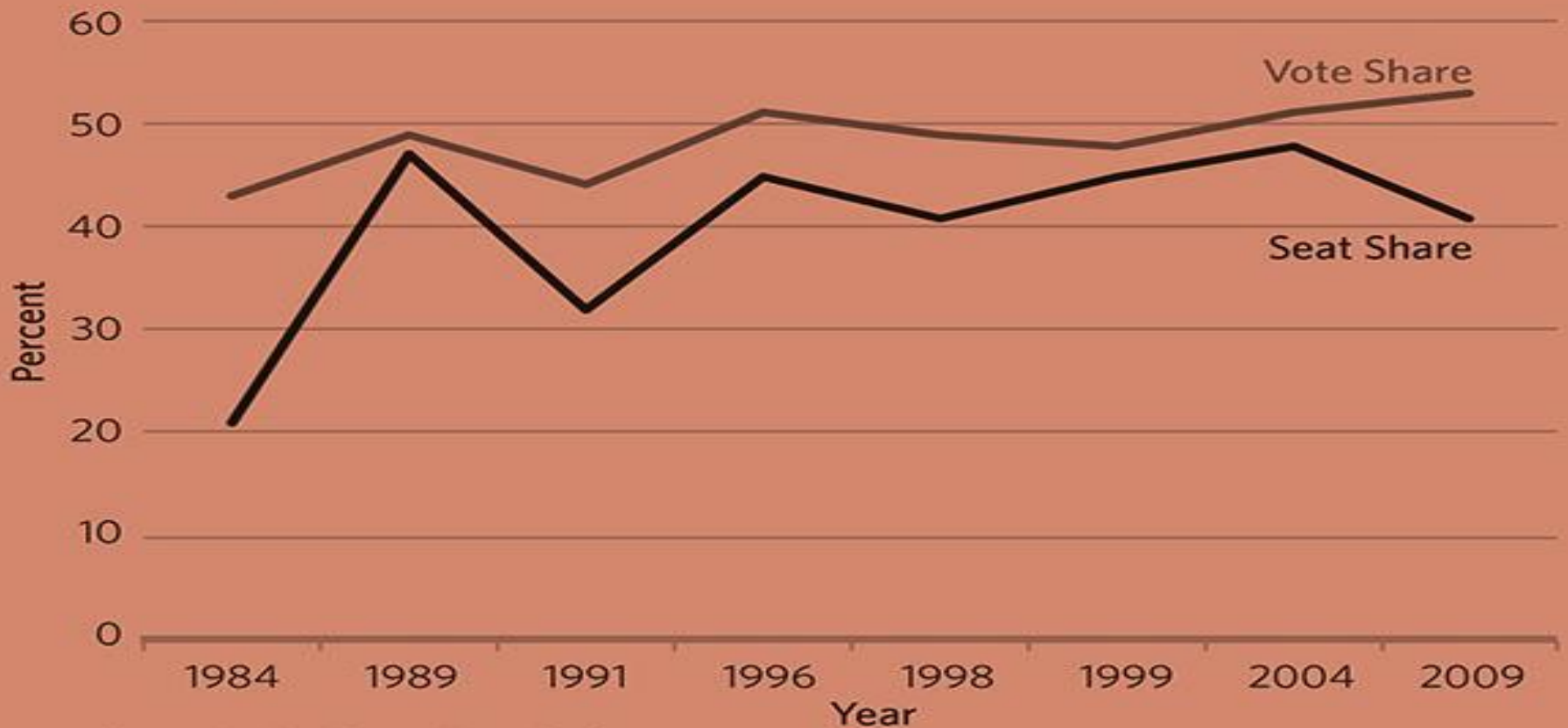
Source: Election Commission of India

After a period of unprecedented growth in the standing of regional parties during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the pattern of electoral competition at the national level has achieved a surprisingly stable balance of power.

The aggregate vote shares won by the two truly national parties and "the rest," meaning primarily regional parties, in the past five elections illustrate strikingly that the respective popularity of these two groups is in a rather steady holding pattern.

Rise of regional players directly threatens the status of national players overlooks the possibility that regional parties can also hurt one another.
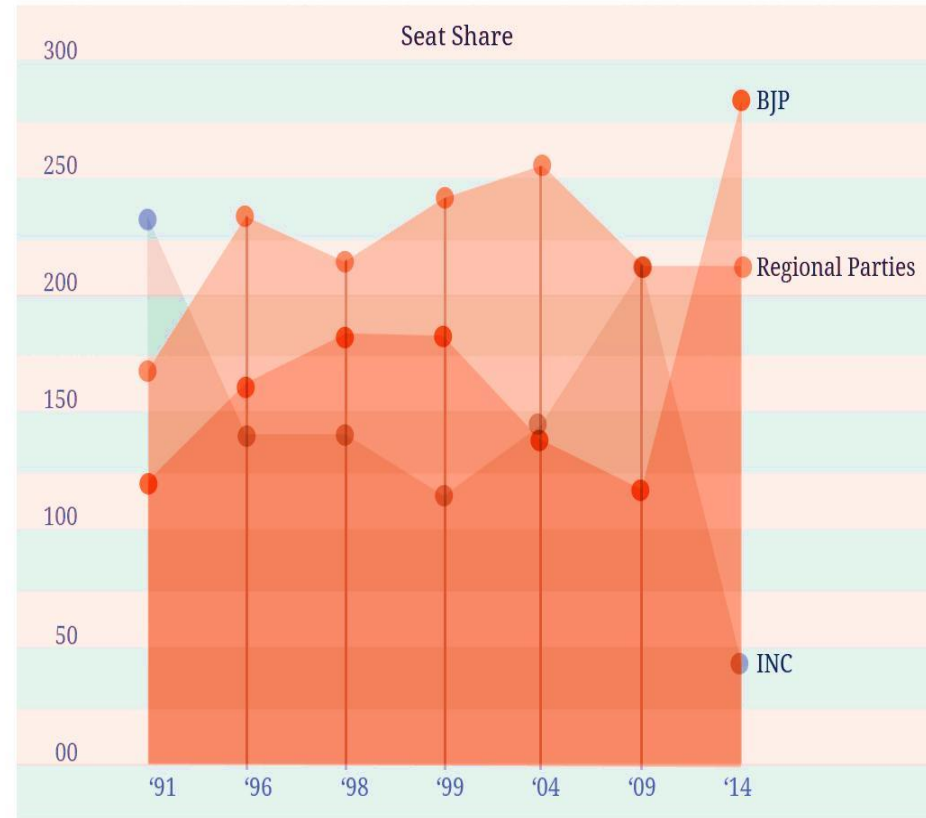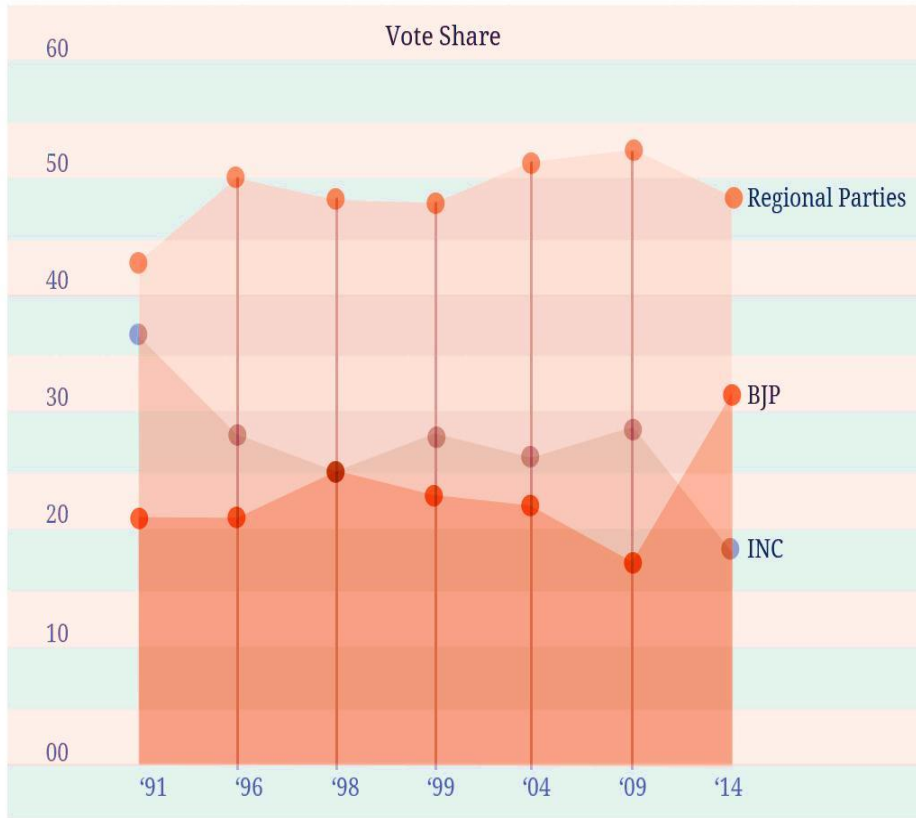
In India's winner-take-all electoral system, where victories are possible with a small minority of votes in any given constituency, increasing levels of political competition have led to a greater fragmentation of the vote.

For example, the electoral impact of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena party, which took votes away from its key regional rival, the Shiv Sena, in the state of Maharashtra. And competition between upstart and established Telugu regional parties in Andhra Pradesh redounded to the benefit of the Congress Party.

Variation in Vote Share & Seat Share from 1991 to 2014

Vote Share

Regional Parties

BJP

INC

'91 '96 '98 '99 '04 '09 '14

Seat Share

BJP

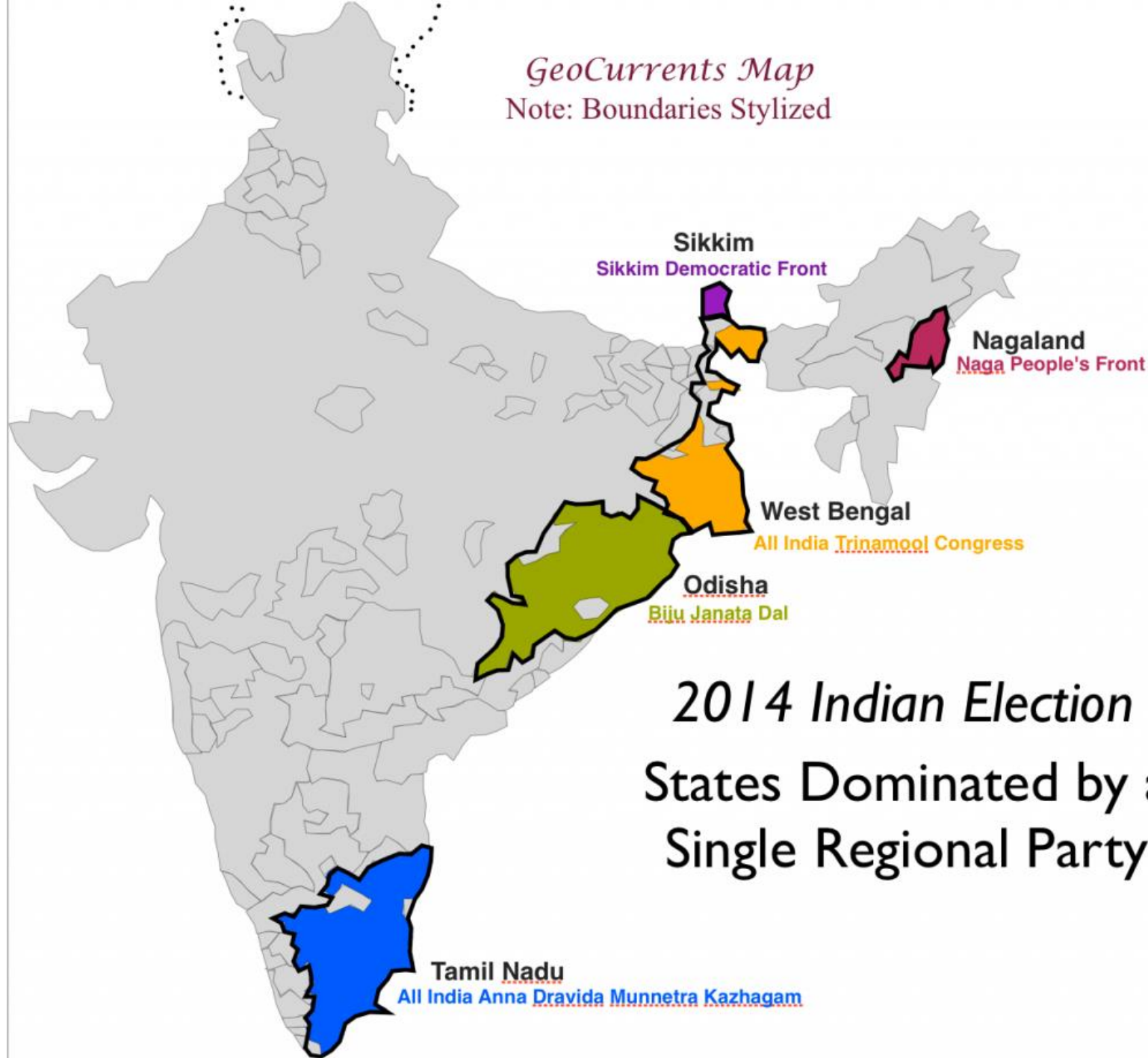Regional Parties

INC

'91 '96 '98 '99 '04 '09 '14

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DO REGIONAL PARTIES RULE THE REGIONS ????

Figure 2. **Share of Chief Ministerial Posts**

GeoCurrents Map
Note: Boundaries Stylized

Sikkim
Sikkim Democratic Front

Nagaland
Naga People's Front

West Bengal
All India Trinamool Congress

Odisha
Biju Janata Dal

2014 Indian Election
States Dominated by a
Single Regional Party

Tamil Nadu
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

ADVANTAGES

- Greater representation of local peoples aspirations at the national level.
- Establishing true Federal structure
- Preventing the authoritarian intentions of the single party dominance
- More funds for their state and hence their development
- Keeps in check, any irresponsible acts of governance
- Regional parties on the contrary will oppose any move by the central government which they believe is against the interests of its people
- Help in preserving and promoting the Culture and traditions of their land.

DISADVANTAGES

- Use their power to stall the development activities of the Centre
- Divide the people of different states on the lines of language, culture, traditions etc
- Serious issues like "India's foreign policy" will be influenced and compromised by the "coalition dharma"
- Local parties that are part of the ruling coalition government will influence the annual budget
- Disputes between the states that are ruled by the local parties becomes difficult to settle
- Subsidising more and more basic necessities thereby making the people lethargic

CONCLUSION

- By weighing the advantages and disadvantages, we can clearly say that multi-party system does more good than harm.
- Some disadvantages like transfer of more funds to a particular state are actually advantages in disguise
- The major concern emerging from the multi-party system is its inherent threat to the unity and security of the country
- People are the masters in Democracy, they decide how they want to be governed
- Every system will have the loopholes, it's the number and the pluggability of loopholes that distinguish each system from the other in terms of efficiency.

THANK YOU