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# A Study Of Interactions Among Voters, Candidates, And Their Environments

**Tripti Juyal** Maya Group of Colleges, Dehradun, India.

**Ashish Semwal** Maya Group of Colleges, Dehradun, India.

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## **Abstract:**

The world is full of aspiring political leaders but sadly, very few live up to the leadership ideals. In fact, many political leaders seem to severely lack some of the most important leadership qualities, such as integrity and accountability. It is no coincidence that for many people, the word “politician” has such negative connotations! However, history – and present day – shows us that there are still a few who come close to the leadership ideals and who are good examples of an effective political leader.

Building this kind of leadership has to start at the local level, so we support national- and state-based progressive organizations as they build collaborative leadership pipelines across the country. We help states identify new and emerging activists and leaders, train them to explore and advance their community leadership in a multitude of ways, and engage elected officials who are interested in co-governing with community organizations on the ground.

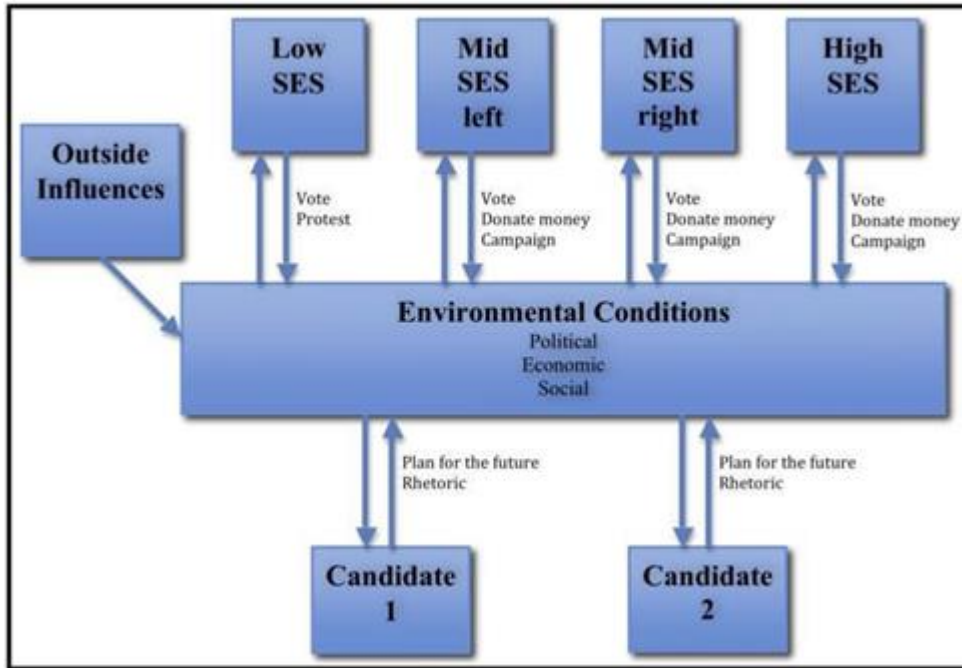
We believe that local organizations must be at the center of this effort to surface, recruit, and support civic leaders because they have the relationships and strategic perspective on opportunities. Our role is to provide the expert training, tools, and technical assistance that are extremely difficult to develop and resource at the local level. While we are training and empowering today’s leaders and candidates, we are also building the bench for the future by developing diverse, progressive champions at the municipal level. We’re opening doors for those who never thought their leadership was possible, and teaching valuable electoral skills to both candidates and campaign staff.

**Keywords:** Politician, Leadership, Voter, Candidates.

## **Introduction**

The prototype model simulates the interactions between candidates and voters to determine the dynamics of the political system. Voters are separated into different groups depending on their socioeconomic status and political leanings. The cognitive framework determines the attitudes and behaviors of each candidate and group of voters with inputs determined

by the political, economic, and social conditions within the political system. These conditions are in turn affected by the behaviors of all of the cognitive entities. The high-level structure of one potential prototype model design is shown in the sector diagram in figure.



**Fig: Sector Diagram of the Prototype Model**

The interactions that each cognitive entity has with its environment depend on the cues that it is receptive to and its potential behaviors, both of which are identified by the structure of the prototype model. Some cues are political between cognitive entities, while others apply only to one or a subset of entities. Violent crime rates, for example, are likely to affect all decisionmakers in the modeled society. Each entity will process this information differently, and different behaviors will result from each entity’s cognitive framework. The potential behaviors of each cognitive entity focus on political actions. Voters can affect change through voting, campaigning, monetary support for a particular candidate, or voting. Political candidates react to environmental conditions and voter behaviors primarily through policy decisions. They may alter their support of suppression of societal disorder, measures that help the poor, non-corruption policies, economic policies, nationalistic sentiment, government intrusion into citizens’ personal lives, levels of policing, media control, or other policies.

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An example of how these relationships might affect the political system is shown in figure. If the low socioeconomic status (SES) population becomes less satisfied with the current

government, they are more likely to protest against the government. This leads to more dissatisfaction with the government, among not only low, but also high SES voters. More protests would also lead the government to strengthen its commitment to law and order, which would increase the high SES population's satisfaction. This higher satisfaction would cause the high SES population to increase campaigning and monetary support to the current government, further strengthening the government's commitment to law and order. This strengthened commitment from the government would, however, increase the perception throughout the society that the government emphasizes maintaining the status quo. While this is a good thing for the high SES population, it will decrease the low SES population's satisfaction with the government even further. The government thus has a large incentive to keep the low SES population satisfied. One way that they might do this is to build low income housing, which decreases the perception that the government wants to maintain the status quo, and may keep the low SES population from becoming dissatisfied with the current government.

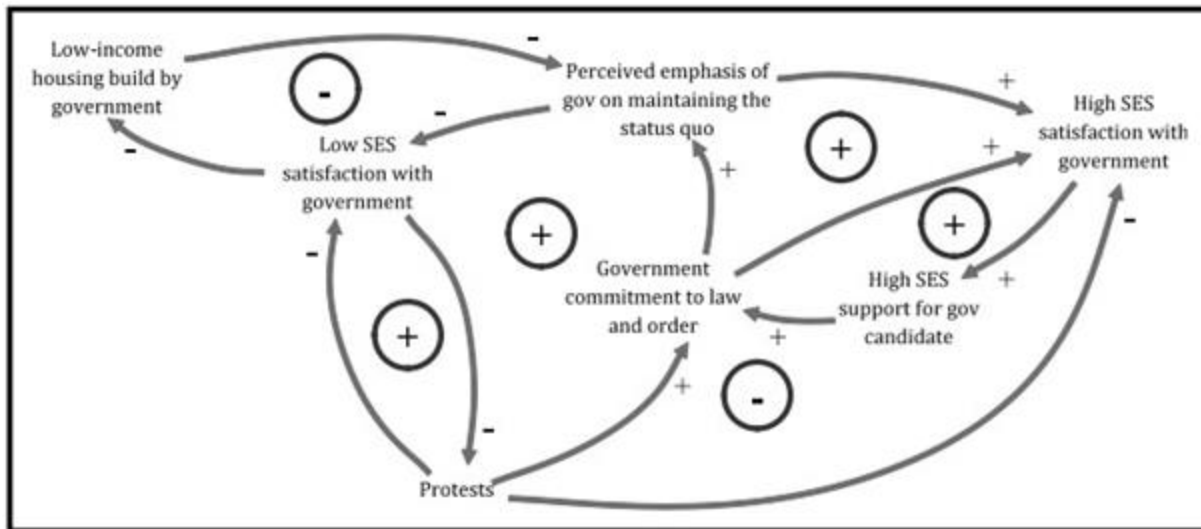


Fig: Casual Loop Diagram of Protest-Driven Dynamics in the Prototype Model

### Confidence Management

This project incorporates confidence management, a collaborative assessment of the model and its development process that will take place throughout the lifetime of the project. This component of the project is designed to inform model builders and end users about the level of confidence they should have in the model, as well as identifying potential improvements that could strengthen this confidence. Confidence management consists of a suite of techniques, with categories including documentation, verification, validation, uncertainty quantification, and sensitivity analysis.

One major component of confidence management is documentation. All major components of the project will be documented. Capability requirements for both the model and project

were documented to provide an overview of the project expectations. The design of the model will also be documented. This will include the justification for the chosen structure of the model, including background theory from the fields of psychology, system dynamics modeling, and other applicable subjects. It will also include an explicit account of assumptions made, as well as documentation of all confidence management activities. The documentation will also include a description of the sources of data used to define the model structure and parameters.

Verification is used to determine whether the computer model is an accurate mathematical representation of the mental model on which it is based. Extreme value tests and integration error tests (Sterman 2000) are examples of verification methods that are commonly used in system dynamics modeling. This project will use extreme value tests to look for implausible behaviors caused by certain ranges of parameter values. To test the accuracy of the code used for numerical integration, the code will be applied to benchmark problems. To test for integration error, the model will be simulated once with the standard time step ( $dt$ ), once with the time step cut in half, and once with the time step cut by another factor of two. The simulations will then be compared and tested for convergence.

Validation tests whether the model is an accurate representation of the real world. Behavior reproduction (Sterman 2000) is a good example of a validation technique. Face validation, by both the project team and subject matter experts, is the first step in the project validation process.

Throughout the model building process, the model will be political and assessed by the group for reasonableness. Diagrams of model structure, including stock and flow and causal loop diagrams, will be created to help with this process. Historical data will also be used to crossvalidate the model. A subset of this data will be used to populate the model, and results will be compared to remaining data to determine the effectiveness of the calibration data set. The final validation methodology planned for the project is docking. The model is being developed in stages, with a different version of the model developed at each stage.

Political leadership is leadership that is broadly distributed, such that people within a team and organization lead each other. It has frequently been compared to horizontal leadership, distributed leadership, and collective leadership and is most contrasted with more traditional "vertical" or "hierarchical" leadership which resides predominantly with an individual instead of a group.

### **Definitions**

Political leadership can be defined in a number of ways, but all definitions describe a similar phenomenon – team leadership by more than only the appointed leader. Below are a few examples from researchers in this field:Yukl (1989): "Individual members of a team engaging in activities that influence the team and other team members."

Pearce. and Sims (2001): "leadership that emanates from members of teams, and not simply from the appointed leader."

Pearce and Conger (2003): "a dynamic, interactive influence process among individuals and groups for which the objective is to lead one another to the achievement of group or organizational goals or both." They also added that "this influence process often involves peer, or lateral, influence and at other times involves upward or downward hierarchical influence"

Carson, Tesluck, and Marrone (2007): "An emergent team property that results from the distribution of leadership influence across multiple team members."

Bergman, Rentsch, Small, Davenport, and Bergman (2012): "Political leadership occurs when two or more members engage in the leadership of the team in an effort to influence and direct fellow members to maximize team effectiveness."

Political leadership is also commonly thought of as the "serial emergence" of multiple leaders over the life of a team, stemming from interactions among team members in which at least one team member tries to influence other members or the team in general. While the definition clearly has several variants, they all make the fundamental distinction between political leadership and more traditional notions of hierarchical leadership. As Pearce, Manz and Sims (2009) summarize, all definitions of political leadership consistently include a "process of influence" that is "built upon more than just downward influence on subordinates or followers by an appointed or elected leader." Nearly all concepts of political leadership entail the practice of "broadly sharing power and influence among a set of individuals rather than centralizing it in the hands of a single individual who acts in the clear role of a dominant superior."

### **Conclusion:**

Though a relatively new phenomenon in the literature, the concept of political leadership can actually be traced back several centuries. In a 2002 paper, David Sally noted that political leadership was present even in the early days of Republican Rome. Indeed, during those ancient times, Rome "had a successful system of co-leadership that lasted for over four centuries. This structure of co-leadership was so effective that it extended from the lower levels of the Roman magistracy to the very top position, that of consul." (Sally, 2002) Despite such early incantations of the practice, however, most of the scholarly work on leadership has still been predominantly focused on the study of leadership in its hierarchical form. Leadership is conceived around a single individual – the leader – and how that person inspires, entices, commands, cajoles and controls followers. Research on political leadership instead departs from the notion that leadership may well be studied as a collective phenomenon, as activities involving several individuals beyond the formally appointed

manager.

There are some earlier conceptualizations of political leadership. In 1924, Mary Parker Follet wrote that "one should not only look to the designated leader, but one should let logic dictate to whom one should look for guidance" (as cited by Crainer, 2002, p. 72). Along similar lines, Gibb, in 1954, wrote that "leadership is probably best conceived as a group quality, as a set of functions which must be carried out by the group." Despite these early nods toward group leadership, the formalized construct of political leadership did not become more developed and experimentally explored until recently. Current research suggest that political leadership forms may imply significant advantages at individual-, team-, organizational- and societal levels

The shift in this scholarly paradigm might partly be explained by looking at the rise of studies on teamwork. Teamwork is becoming increasingly important in the workplace literature as many organizations recognize the benefits that teamwork can bring. Thus, organizations consider it important to investigate team effectiveness and the elements that increase this. Leaders have been pointed to as critical factors in team performance and effectiveness; some have even gone as far as to say they the most important ingredient for team effectiveness. Additionally, problems associated with team leaders are often cited as the primary reason for failures of work involving teams.

With the complexity and ambiguity of tasks that teams often experience, it is becoming more apparent that a single leader is unlikely to have all of the skills and traits to effectively perform the necessary leadership functions. Thus, political leadership is becoming increasingly popular in teams, as multiple team members emerge as leaders, especially when they have the skills/ knowledge/ expertise that the team needs.

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