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978-0-521-12645-8 - Strategy, Risk and Personality in Coalition Politics: The Case of India

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita

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Strategy, Risk and Personality in Coalition Politics The Case of India

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Cambridge University Press

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Rochester

May, 1975

Glossary of political party names

- AD (M): Akali Dal (Master)** This Punjabi party was formed when dissident members of the Akali Dal, led by Master Tara Singh, withdrew their support from the parent Akali Dal organization. By 1969 it had virtually ceased to exist.
- AD (S): Akali Dal (Sant)** This predominantly Sikh party, located in the Punjab, continues to be one of the major political forces in that state. Its primary concern is to promote Sikh culture and to insure adequate political representation for that religious group.
- JS: Bharatiya Jana Sangh** The Jana Sangh is one of the major All-India parties. Based on a commitment to Hindu culture and Hindi as India's national language, it has secured a great deal of support in northern India. In recent years it has been attempting to spread its influence to southern India. Although it suffered a serious setback in 1971, it continues to be a major political force in several states.
- BKD: Bharatiya Kranti Dal** The BKD emerged after the 1967 general election in response to dissatisfaction among many Congressmen with the leadership of their party. Under the guidance of Chaudhuri Charan Singh it achieved remarkable success in Uttar Pradesh, while securing a foothold in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.
- BC: Bangla Congress** This West Bengali party was formed by dissident members of the Congress Party. It enjoyed a period of great strength and influence, particularly between 1967 and 1970, when its leader, Ajoy Mukherjee, was chief minister of West Bengal. In the 1971 election it lost almost all of its support.
- CPI: Communist Party of India** The CPI is one of the major All-India parties. Its support is widespread, though it has enjoyed its greatest triumphs in West Bengal and Kerala. The party suffered a split in the early 1960s in response to differences of strategy and differences in attitudes toward the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. The CPI, after its division, maintained the support of the more moderate, and more Soviet-oriented of India's communists.
- CPI (M): Communist Party of India (Marxist)** When the CPI split, the more revolutionary, Chinese-oriented of its members joined the CPI (M). This party has managed to secure an extremely large following in West Bengal, where its base of support seems to be in a state of flux. It has enjoyed a period of great success in Kerala as well. In that state, however, its influence seems to be declining, especially since late 1969, when the CPI (M)-led ministry in Kerala suffered a series of setbacks.

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The CPI (M) registered remarkable gains during the 1971 general election.

Congress The Congress Party has controlled the national government of India since independence. In October of 1969 it was split into two factions. One, led by Indira Gandhi, became known as the new Congress, or the Congress (R). The Nijilingappa-led Congress became known as the syndicate, or the Congress (O). The former group is generally considered to be the more progressive, while the latter group is thought of as being composed of the old-guard, conservative members of the Congress. In 1971, the Congress (R) enjoyed an unprecedented electoral success, while the Congress (O) suffered very serious setbacks in virtually every state.

FB: Forward Bloc Although this party maintains an organization in several states, it has really only succeeded in securing a sizable quantity of support in West Bengal. It participated in the coalition governments in that state between 1967 and 1970. As with the other members of those coalitions, it is a progressive, socialist party.

FB (M): Forward Bloc (Marxist) This party is composed of a small group of dissident members of the Forward Bloc in West Bengal.

GL: Gorkha League The Gorkha League is a very small, but stable, political party in West Bengal. Although they win very few seats, they continue to command control of the few constituencies where there are large numbers of Gorkhas. They were members of the Bengali coalition governments.

HMS: Hindu Maha Sabha The Maha Sabha is a very conservative, religiously oriented Hindu party. Until Gandhi's assassination it was the major voice of Hindu conservatism in India. After the formation of the Jana Sangh it lost much of its appeal and support to that party.

HJ: Hul Jharkhand This extremely small Bihari party was composed of dissident members of the Jharkhand. It played a major role in toppling one of the coalition governments that was formed in Bihar. After 1970 it virtually ceased to exist.

INDF: Indian National Democratic Front The INDF was composed of a group of defectors, led by Ashutosh Ghosh, who withdrew their support from the Congress-supported coalition in West Bengal in 1968. This group was unable to form a government and so President's Rule was instituted. The INDF no longer exists.

ISP: Indian Socialist Party The ISP was formed when a group of legislators from the Samyukta Socialist Party refused to follow a directive from the SSP's national office. This Kerala-based party was unable to maintain its legislative strength when forced to contest in the elections. By 1971 it had all but disappeared.

JC: Jan Congress Actually, there were two Jan Congress parties. One,

Glossary of political party names

located in Madhya Pradesh, was made up of a group of defectors from the Congress Party. It ceased to exist shortly after its formation in 1967. The other, based in Orissa, was a partner in the Swatantra-led coalition government in that state. Although it secured a large number of seats in 1967, it failed to develop a strong base of support. After the 1971 election it lost virtually all of its representation in the state legislative assembly.

JKD: Jana Kranti Dal This Bihari party existed for only a short while. During that period, however, it provided Bihar with a chief minister, and with the margin of strength to prevent the Congress from returning to power. Many of its members later joined the BKD.

JP: Janata Party There were actually two Janata Parties in India between 1967 and 1971. One, formed in the Punjab, was composed of defectors from the Akali Dal (Sant)-led coalition government. They formed their own coalition which was soon overthrown. That party no longer exists. The other Janata Party was formed in Bihar by the Raja of Ramgarh. It frequently appeared and disappeared as the Raja shifted political allegiance. With the Raja's death in 1970 the party has lost much of its former influence and strength.

Jharkhand The Jharkhand Party was a very small Bihari party which participated in several of that state's coalition governments. Although very small to begin with, it was torn by factionalism and eventually split in two. It appears that the Jharkhand Party no longer exists.

KMP: Kisaan Mazdoor Party This is another very small party. Although at one time it was an important voice of farm laborers, it is now virtually non-existent.

LCD: Loktantric Congress Dal Many defectors in Bihar banded together after 1967 to form this party. It no longer exists.

LSD: Lok Sevak Dal The Rajmata of Gwalior formed this party in Madhya Pradesh while a member of that state's coalition government. It was later disbanded when she joined the Jana Sangh.

ML: Muslim League The Muslim League was once the major voice of Muslims in India. After partition it lost most of its strength. In Kerala, however, it has continued to be a fairly influential, though small, political party. It enjoyed membership in the Kerala government throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s.

PSP: Praja Socialist Party The PSP was one of India's major parties. The PSP merged with portions of the Samyukta Socialist Party in 1971 forming the Socialist Party.

RPI: Republican Party of India The late Dr Ambedkar founded this party to be the voice of the Harijans and other downtrodden people. Although it is a small party, it enjoys support in several states and continues to represent the poorer, oppressed classes of Indian society.

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RSPI: Revolutionary Socialist Party of India The RSPI is a Marxist party with support in both Bihar and West Bengal.

RCPI: Revolutionary Communist Party of India This is a small, revolutionary party composed of dissidents from West Bengal's other Communist parties.

SSP: Samyukta Socialist Party The SSP is one of the major All-India parties. It was formed in 1964 by a group of dissident members of the PSP. While it continues to enjoy support in most states, it has suffered serious losses in recent elections. The SSP and the PSP have been seriously negotiating toward a merger for quite some time, but especially after the 1971 general election.

SUC: Socialist Unity Conference The SUC is a small, Marxist, West Bengali party. It participated in both coalition governments in Bengal between 1967 and 1970.

Swatantra Party Swatantra is one of the major All-India parties. Formed in 1959, it captured much of the conservative vote in 1967. In 1971, however, Swatantra suffered a serious setback in the general election. Nevertheless, it continues to be a very important political force in India.

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*In memory of my
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