N. Nevitte, E. Gidengil, A. Blais, and R. Nadeau, *Anatomy of a Liberal Victory: Making Sense of the Vote in the 2000 Canadian Election* (Peterborough, 2002)

**Overview**

Authors take a voter choice approach, stating in the introduction that “on election day, Cdns do not just decide which party will form the government, they also determine which person will become the Prime Minister”

**Conclusions**

* The impact of social cleavages on vote choice:
  + These factors may well have declined in most advanced industrial states between the 1960s and 1980s, however, whether this trend has continued along the same trajectory is unclear. What is clear is that there is no such pattern in Canada. Region and religion remain as crucial now as they once were
* The impact of values and beliefs on vote choice:
  + Conventional wisdom is that Cdn elections are based on brokerage politics, in which styles and leaders predominate. The implicit assumption is that battles about ideas matter little to the outcomes of Cdn elections and that individual vote decisions are disconnected from values. The findings from this book however, emphatically challenge that conventional wisdom. Core values and beliefs had a substantial impact on vote choice, and ideas and world-views played a major role in 2000 election.
* Partisan loyalties on vote choice:
  + Conventional wisdom suggests that partisan attachments are weak in Canada and the country is peopled by voters who are “flexible partisans” – voters who are always willing to consider all the options and who will shift from one party to another depending on circumstance. While some voters are undoubtedly “flexible partisans” – it is the authors’ view that there is an important core of “not so flexible” partisans in Canada as elsewhere. The proportion in Canada may be smaller than in other countries, but it forms a crucial component of the electorate.
* Leader evaluations are a crucial element of vote decision in Canada – probably more so than in other nations.
  + According to the study estimates, about 1/5 voters would have voted differently were it not how they felt about the leaders
* Economic perceptions were not that decisive in the vote decision
  + On balance, the evidence does not point to the conclusion that the economy was the main cause of the Liberal victory in 2000
  + One possibility is that individual economic perceptions matter more when there is an economic downturn
* Analyses indicate that there was little strategic voting in the 2000 election