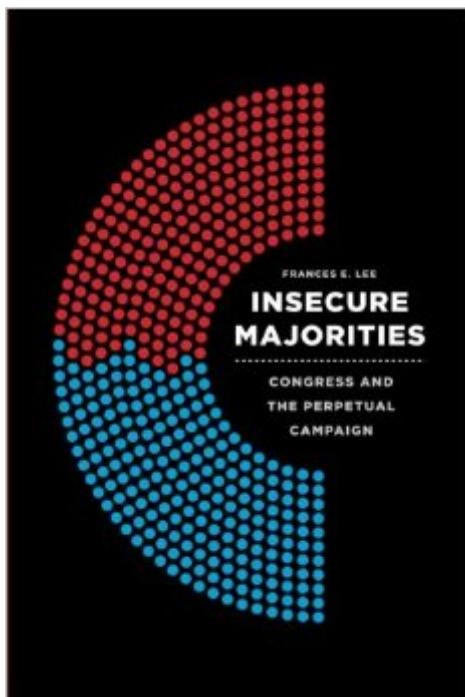


The book was found

# Insecure Majorities: Congress And The Perpetual Campaign



## Synopsis

As Democrats and Republicans continue to vie for political advantage, Congress remains paralyzed by partisan conflict. That the last two decades have seen some of the least productive Congresses in recent history is usually explained by the growing ideological gulf between the parties, but this explanation misses another fundamental factor influencing the dynamic. In contrast to politics through most of the twentieth century, the contemporary Democratic and Republican parties compete for control of Congress at relative parity, and this has dramatically changed the parties' incentives and strategies in ways that have driven the contentious partisanship characteristic of contemporary American politics. With *Insecure Majorities*, Frances E. Lee offers a controversial new perspective on the rise of congressional party conflict, showing how the shift in competitive circumstances has had a profound impact on how Democrats and Republicans interact. For nearly half a century, Democrats were the majority party, usually maintaining control of the presidency, the House, and the Senate. Republicans did not stand much chance of winning majority status, and Democrats could not conceive of losing it. Under such uncompetitive conditions, scant collective action was exerted by either party toward building or preserving a majority. Beginning in the 1980s, that changed, and most elections since have offered the prospect of a change of party control. Lee shows, through an impressive range of interviews and analysis, how competition for control of the government drives members of both parties to participate in actions that promote their own party's image and undercut that of the opposition, including the perpetual hunt for issues that can score political points by putting the opposing party on the wrong side of public opinion. More often than not, this strategy stands in the way of productive bipartisan cooperation—and it is also unlikely to change as long as control of the government remains within reach for both parties.

## Book Information

Paperback: 248 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 022640904X

ISBN-13: 978-0226409047

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #431,363 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #166 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Legislative Branch #399 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Political Parties #597 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace: How We Got to Be So Hated Testifying Before Congress: A Practical Guide to Preparing and Delivering Testimony Before Congress and Congressional Hearings for Agencies, Assoc London Congress on Nuclear Radiation, Control and Health (Congress Lectures) Theta Clear Congress (Congress Lectures) Clearing Congress (Congress Lectures) British & Irish Campaign Medals - Volume 2: 1899 to 2009 (British & Irish/Empire Campaign Medals) British & Empire Campaign Medals - Volume 1: 1793 to 1902 (British & Irish/Empire Campaign Medals) How To Stop Worrying and Start Living - What Other People Think Of Me Is None Of My Business: Learn Stress Management and How To Overcome Relationship Jealousy, Social Anxiety and Stop Being Insecure How to Stop Being Insecure: Learn How to Overcome Emotional and Relationship Insecurity REAL POWER: Rise Above Your Nature and Stop Feeling Angry, Anxious, or Insecure (1) The Insecure City: Space, Power, and Mobility in Beirut Althusser and His Contemporaries: Philosophy's Perpetual War (Post-Contemporary Interventions) Perpetual Mirage: Photographic Narratives of the Desert West The Goddess Book of Days: A Perpetual 366 Day Engagement Calendar The Treatment of Endometriosis-And Other Disorders and Infections (World Congress on Fertility and Sterility Proceeding) Science and Football V: The Proceedings of the Fifth World Congress on Sports Science and Football: v. 5 Acts of Congress 1789: Includes the Constitution and the Bill of Rights Internet Governance and the Domain Name System: Issues for Congress Asthma - A Link Between Environment, Immunology, and the Airways: Proceedings of the XVIth World Congress of Asthma, Buenos Aires, October 17-20, 1999

[Dmca](#)