

Forming a Government

Political Science

What happens when no party wins a majority.

The bargaining.

Considerations

Minimal winning coalitions are common

Ideological compatibility matters

The formateur has an advantage

Portfolio allocation roughly proportional

Minority governments with confidence deals

Consequences

Manifesto commitments are traded away

Coalition agreements bind the parties

Accountability is blurred between partners

Small parties can hold disproportionate leverage

Educational reference. Voters cannot directly choose a coalition, which is the recurring accountability objection to PR systems.