

Party Systems

Political Science

How many parties compete, and what determines that.

System and typical conditions.

System	Arises with
Two-party	Single-member districts, plurality rule
Multi-party	Proportional representation
Dominant-party	One party wins repeatedly, others compete
Single-party	Competition prohibited

Educational reference. Duverger's law links plurality rule to two-party competition, though the relationship is a tendency, not a rule.