Elections and Voters

Also by Martin Harrop

Comparative Government: An Introduction
(with Rod Hague)

Also by William L. Miller

Electoral Dynamics
The End of British Politics?
The Survey Method

Elections and Voters

A comparative introduction

Martin Harrop
and
William L. Miller

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First published 1987 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-34760-7

ISBN 978-1-349-18912-0 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-18912-0

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

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Preface

When Steven Kennedy of Macmillan suggested we write a textbook on voting behaviour we readily agreed. There clearly was a need for such a book and we felt familiar enough with the literature. We thought it would not take very long to write.

Several years and as many drafts later the manuscript is now complete, but it is no longer restricted to electoral behaviour. To understand voters, we had to understand elections. To understand competitive elections, we had to understand non-competitive elections. And so the book's scope expanded into its present form. To teachers, students (and publishers!) who would have preferred a shorter text restricted to the findings of voting surveys, we can only say that it makes more sense to look at both elections and voters together.

As the book's range has extended, we have drawn more and more on the expertise of our colleagues. We would like to thank Hugh Berrington, Richard Crook, Rod Hague, Stephen White and John Wiseman for their help. We are also grateful to Macmillan's academic readers for their constructive (if occasionally conflicting) advice. The errors and omissions remain our own.

On one point we have not wavered. A textbook written *for* students must be comprehensible *by* students. We are grateful to undergraduates at Glasgow, Newcastle and Strathclyde Universities for ruthlessly expunging any unnecessary jargon from earlier drafts – and for persuading us that most of the jargon *was* unnecessary.

Joint authors often indicate which author wrote which chapters. We began by drafting out half a book each. But as the text evolved we edited each other's drafts with vigour, shifted material between chapters, and recast the structure of the book. A few single-authored paragraphs may have survived, but we take joint responsibility for all the chapters.

MARTIN HARROP
WILLIAM L. MILLER