A Renewed Look at Ideology and Legislative Professionalism

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Abstract
In the 1960s a wave of transformations took place within American State Legislatures. Reforms included expanded session length, and increase in staffing and legislator salaries. While some states adopted these reforms quickly, others were more resistant and lagged behind. Scholars have developed a variety of possible explanations for this phenomenon, however the influence Ideology has often been overlooked. This paper examines the relationship between Ideology and Professionalization by surveying Oregon Legislators. Oregon is ideally suited for such a study as the legislature recently approved the change to annual sessions and increases in legislator pay. The data gather from the survey illustrates the potential impacts ideology may have in determining policy outcomes favorable to Professionalization. Democrats, and more specifically Liberals, are more likely to favor aspects of Professionalization while Republicans tend to oppose reform. The Oregon case study reopens the door for further research into ideological factors that continue to influence the Professionalization of Legislatures across the nation.

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Ideology is a system of concepts and views which serves to make sense of the world while obscuring the social interests that are expressed therein, and by its completeness and relative internal consistency tends to form a closed system and maintain itself in the face of contradictory or inconsistent experience. Marx's
Theory of Ideology. German philosopher Karl Marx is considered the first to provide a theoretical framing of ideology within the context of sociology. Michael Nicholson / Contributor / Getty Images. According to Marx, ideology emerges out of a society’s mode of production. This book looks at the effects of term limits at the state legislative level. This book (and other research) does suggest that there are indeed effects of term limits. Other research suggests that one effect is a tendency for governors, interest groups, and legislative staff to become stronger with respect to legislatures. That is, legislatures are less powerful in comparison with these other actors. Whether that is positive or negative is a matter open to discussion. This book looks at extant evidence to develop its own conclusions. The movement to ward legislative... Professionalisms, as the term itself signifies, are the words used in a definite trade, profession or calling by people connected by common interests both at work and at home. Professional words name anew already-existing concepts, tools or instruments, and have the typical properties of a special code. The main feature of a professionalism is its technicality. Professionalisms are special words in the non-literary layer of the English vocabulary, whereas terms are a specialized group belonging to the literary layer of words. Terms, if they are connected with a field or branch of science or technology, take on the characteristics of the discipline to which they belong. Thus, a professionalism is a set of words that are used in a specific field or profession, whereas a term is a word that is used in a more general context.

B. The Claim for Self-Regulation. Ideologies of Professionalism. Pepperdine law review. To be sure, the legal profession in California and elsewhere had previously been the target of public outrage over ineffective discipline. Drawing on the historical example of the medieval guild, Durkheim looked to occupational groups to perform this function, serving as a “corps intermediaires,” to instill moral values and discipline and to maintain social order. What we especially see in the occupational group is a moral power capable of containing individual egos, of maintaining a spirited sentiment of common soil.