

## HOW DO SELECTED CRITERIA OF THE AMERICAN AND GERMAN ELECTORAL SYSTEMS INFLUENCE THE PARTIES' OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL?

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### ABSTRACT

The present study deals with a participation analysis of the electoral systems of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, focusing on the participatory possibilities of voters to influence aspects of political decision-making processes through their participation in elections. For this purpose, a detailed examination of the electoral systems and their determinants as well as the highlighting of their differences is offered. In a final conclusion, it is shown that the party landscape in the U.S. differs significantly from the party landscape in Germany, both in terms of representativeness and in terms of the selection and diversity of political agendas. In essence, the electoral system in the FRG offers more participatory elements of political participation.

**Keywords:** Electoral System, USA, FRG, Parties, Participation, Differences.