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Changing the rules of the game : the development and reform of party law in Latin America

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Reforming the Rules of the Game The development and reform of party law in Latin America

van Fransje Molenaar

1. Not all party law reforms are designed to maximize the total amount of resources available to political parties.
2. Party law reforms are best understood as a means for politicians to protect their access to party organizational resources against intra- or extra-organizational resource threats.
3. Public demands for change generally result in party law reforms that do not alter the basic rules of the game.
4. The adoption of party law reforms resembles strong institution building mainly when such reforms appoint an independent arbiter to mitigate partisan conflict.
5. Party law scholars should aim for a better understanding of party law's effects on individual party organizations before moving on to examine its effects on party systems.
6. The OECD-bias in the comparative study of political systems and political behavior hinders the development of more broadly generalizable theories.
7. Just as organizations are more than the sum of their parts, democracy is more than a sum of the institutions and procedures sustaining it.
8. The Latin American experience with populist leaders and exclusionary political systems offers valuable lessons to understand contemporary political cleavages in much of the Western world.
9. Fiction and poetry often provide clearer insights into political systems than standard political science textbooks.
10. Given the proliferation of drug trafficking in the region, it should not surprise us that some of the earliest manifestations of cartel party systems are to be found in Latin America.