

American Politics, the Presidency of the World Bank, and Development Policy

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The Presentation

1. How the paper came about
2. What am I asking in it?
3. My answer to the question
4. The evidence I provide for the answer
5. Why does archival work matter for these questions?



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Background to the Paper



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Question the paper addresses

What does the selection of the World Bank's president by the US mean for the relationship between the organization and its largest shareholder?



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The (working) answer:

Two presidents with the most extensive political networks prior to their appointment (McNamara and Wolfensohn) made use of these connections to introduce greater institutional independence to the Bank as a development agency.

They were able to navigate partisan politics in Washington successfully, particularly when new US presidential administration assumed power.



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Historical evidence (four cases)

- Eugene Meyer
- Eugene Black
- Robert McNamara
- James Wolfensohn



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World Bank Presidencies and US Political Parties by Branch of Government

World Bank President	Years in Office	US Congress	Senate	House	US Presidential Administration		
Eugene Meyer	June 1946 to December 1947	1945–1947	D	D	Harry S. Truman (D)		
John J. McCloy	March 1947 to June 1949						
Eugene Black	July 1949 to December 1962	1947–1949	R	R			
		1949–1951	D	D			
		1951–1953	D	D			
		1953–1955	R	R	Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)		
		1955–1957	D	D			
		1957–1959	D	D			
		1959–1961	D	D			
George Woods	January 1963 to March 1968	1961–1963	D	D	John F. Kennedy (D)		
		1963–1965	D	D	Lyndon B. Johnson (D)		
		1965–1967	D	D			
Robert McNamara	April 1968 to June 1981	1967–1969	D	D	Richard Nixon (R)		
		1969–1971	D	D			
		1971–1973	D	D	Gerald Ford (R)		
		1973–1975	D	D			
		1975–1977	D	D			
				1977–1979	D	D	Jimmy Carter (D)
				1979–1981	D	D	
Alden Clausen	July 1981 to June 1986	1981–1983	R	D	Ronald Reagan (R)		
		1983–1985	R	D			
Barber Conable	July 1986 to August 1991	1985–1987	R	D	George H. W. Bush (R)		
		1987–1989	D	D			
		1989–1991	D	D			
Lewis Preston	September 1991 to May 1995	1991–1993	D	D	Bill Clinton (D)		
		1993–1995	D	D			
James Wolfensohn	July 1995 to June 2005	1995–1997	R	R			
		1997–1999	R	R			
		1999–2001	R	R			
		2001–2003	R/D	R	George W. Bush (R)		
		2003–2005	R	R			
Paul Wolfowitz	June 2005 to May 2007	2005–2007	R	R			
Robert Zoellick	July 2007 to June 2012	2007–2009	R	D	Barack Obama (D)		
		2009–2011	D/R	D			
Jim Y. Kim	July 2012 to present	2011–2013	D	R			

Conclusion

Why does archival work matter for this study?



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