

Crime and Government

Here we'll examine certain US Government processes starting with the crime family as a model.

We'll look at the special case of Donald Trump first. But examining the "normal", pre-Trump case is even more instructive, as we'll see.

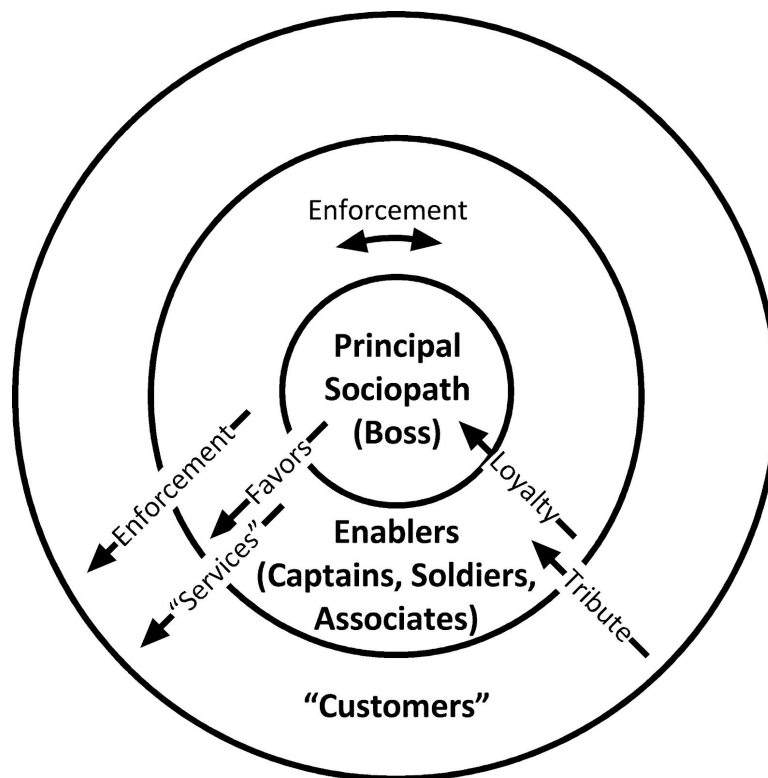
(h/t: [@sarahkendzior](#))

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Here is the general structure of a crime family.

I'm including the "customers" because they complete the transaction loop that makes this a marketplace, and it's the dynamics of the marketplace that will give us some interesting results.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caporegime>



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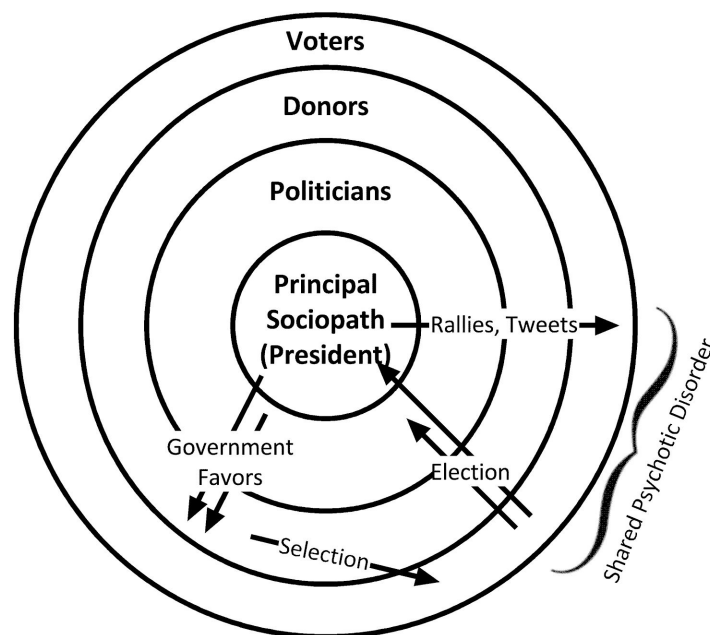
Shared Psychotic Disorder binds voters directly to President Trump. This is necessary, but not sufficient, to lock in the crime-family structure of the Republican Party. You also need punishments applied to politicians, to be described below.

https://twitter.com/conways_law/status/1335613207675891715

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The President's tweets and rallies couple his mind directly to the minds of voters, who keep the Congress in line. The Congress provides useful Government favors to donors, who assure their election by funding campaigns.

(h/t: [@CultExpert](https://twitter.com/CultExpert))



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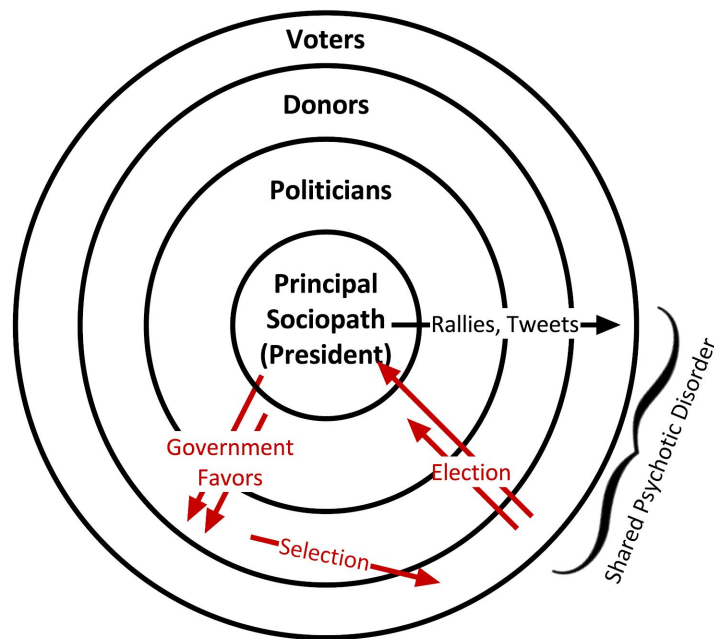
Donors participate in this process in order to obtain Government favors from the President and Congress, such as mineral-extraction licenses, low taxes, deregulation, other favorable legislation, and judicial appointments.

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Donors are effective because they install friendly politicians; they do so in this expensive media environment by funding the elections only of those politicians who will provide the desired favors. That's the meaning of the "Selection" arrow.

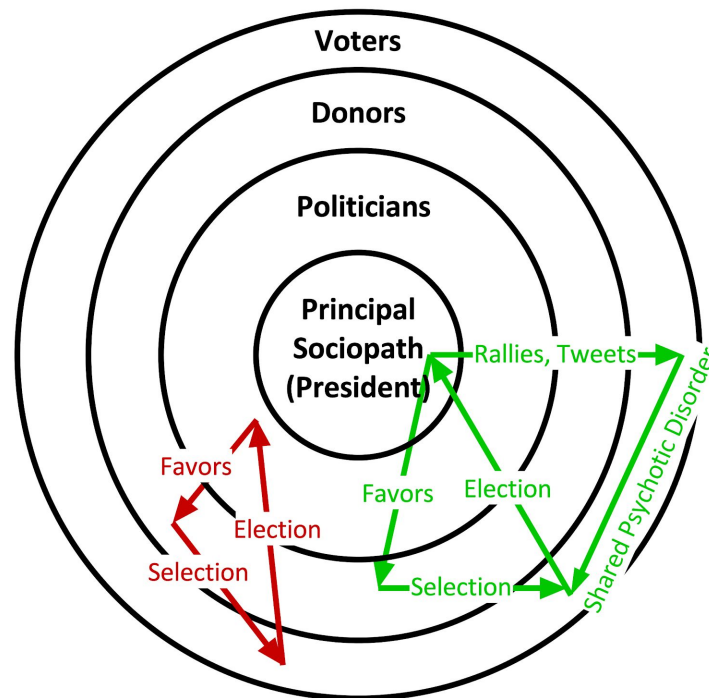
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Hidden in this drawing is a transaction loop, driven by donors. It's shown in red here. Note the coupling with the Shared Psychotic Disorder loop through a common Election transaction.



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If the interests of the donors are aligned with the interests of the President, the two transaction loops reinforce each other. The Presidential transaction loop is shown in green. The key Presidential favors are judicial appointments.

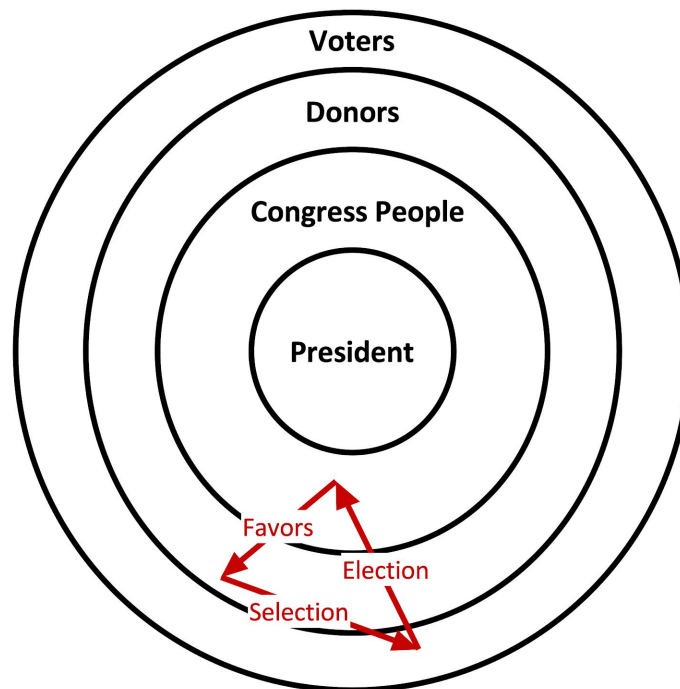


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This occurred in the 2016 US Presidential election and is documented by [@anelsona](#) in “Shadow Network”.

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Now we'll carry this idea further. Let's return to the red transaction loop in which donors select useful Congress people and get them elected. I assume that this transaction loop has been in operation since at least the late 19th century.



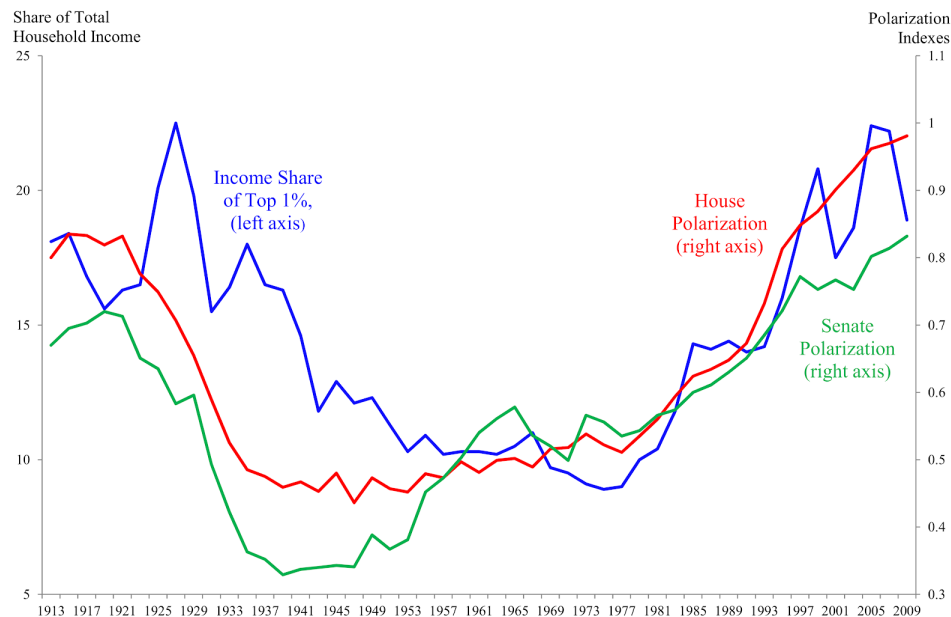
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Since the 1970's the political and economic power structure in America has been dominated, directly and indirectly, by public corporations. Coincidentally, political polarization and income inequality have been growing steadily since that time.

http://melconway.com/CBH/Historical_Overview.pdf

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Here is a figure, taken from page 15 of the above historical overview, that shows the effect using one simple measure of inequality, income share of the top 1%.

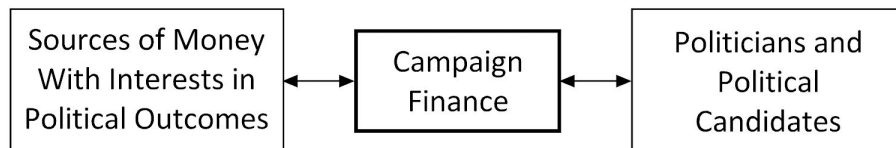


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I have not seen research that persuasively argues that the new power of public corporations beginning in the 1970's was the root cause behind this growth of inequality and polarization.

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The above red transaction loop provides that causation argument. It implies the existence of a market, shown here, containing a mutual-interest-driven positive feedback loop that has increased the coupling between Congress and the financial community since the 1970's.



The Two-sided Campaign-finance Market

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1. Income inequality arises from the decoupling of Main Street and Wall Street that arose from attitude shifts in the 1970's.
2. Polarization arises from the role of the parties as aggregators in the campaign-finance market.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1970/09/13/archives/a-friedman-doctrine-the-social-responsibility-of-business-is-to.html>

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There remains the important question of the source of America's epidemic of political denial and delusion, manifested by large-scale resistance to public-health measures in the COVID-19 pandemic. This too is a result of processes arising from the events of the 1970's.

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I am developing that case elsewhere. It is a Community-Behavioral-Health argument that uses systems thinking to combine concepts from engineering, biology, and psychology.

Politics and Community Behavioral Health are inseparable.

http://melconway.com/CBH/Missing_Quadrant.pdf

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