Patronage and Party Organization in Argentina:
The Emergence of the Patronage-Based Network Party
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1- Patronage is the indispensable resource to recruit and sustain the two types of networks which make up the party organizations in contemporary Argentina: the networks dedicated to the management of the state and the networks aimed to mobilize voters on the basis of clientelistic exchanges.

2- The weakness of Argentine state bureaucracies makes it possible for every new elected president (at the national level) and governor (at the provincial one) to proceed with a simultaneous process of colonization of state structures and party building through the appointment of networks of functionaries and employees.

3- Rather than rewarding party members, political appointments at the Argentine national state are mainly aimed to obtaining responsive competence, meaning a combination of strong political loyalty and at least a minimum level of competent management.

4- Political appointees at all levels of the Argentine national state are principally selected on the basis of leaders’ personal linkages. Party membership is a marginal factor in the recruitment process.

5- By embedding their networks in top state positions ruling parties in Argentina get control over the policy-making process and simultaneously consolidate themselves as networks of office-holding politicians.

6- In the context of audience democracy parties no longer function as expressive-representative institutions but as the indispensable agencies of government in democratic regimes.

7- Contemporary parties have turned to the state in order to secure their survival as organizations, both in terms of legitimacy and resources.

8- A rank and file recruited and mobilized by patronage does not make its loyalty contingent on the party leadership’s stances.

9- Patronage is not only a mode of linkage between parties and society but a crucial resource for parties to dominate processes of policy-making and implementation.

10- Understanding the actual functioning of a party organization requires observing the many ends of the diverse actors which make up the organization.

11- Good research requires that measurement and quantification enters the scene only after we have clearly identified and defined the concepts we want to measure.

12- In politics, power wears out those who do not have it.

13- Those who know there is only one true answer to all questions and have metaphysical a priori guarantees of it are always wrong and often dangerous (Isaiah Berlin)