Political Facts of Life

--organized power determines outcomes in the society

--shaping and controlling the public agenda is the key form of power

--power has two faces:
--deciding what will be on the public agenda
--keeping issues off of the public agenda

--the structure of the American system necessitates Coalitions

--the New Deal coalition produced the American social welfare system

--the New Deal coalition unraveled in the 1970s and ‘80s.

--wedge issues are the key to tearing a coalition apart