

YOUTH AND POLITICS

TOWARDS A NEW MODEL OF CITIZENSHIP IN ADVANCED DEMOCRACIES

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A new citizenship model?

The Triptych:

Mistrust,
Intermittent Voting,
Protest

A new framework for politicization among
younger generations

1. MISTRUST OF POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

- Negative perception of politics
- Generalized lack of confidence in politicians and the political system
- Huge and growing gap between ordinary citizens and the so called political elite

A General Crisis for Representative Democracy

(CEVIPOF Political Trust Barometer, Wave 4, December 2012)

- 54% of French people think that democracy doesn't work well in France
- 88% don't trust political parties
- 52% trust neither the Left nor the Right to govern the country
- 85% consider that politicians don't care about people like them

When you think about politics, what do you feel ?

(CEVIPOF Political Trust Barometer, Wave 4, December 2012)

- The three words most often used to express the feeling of young people towards politics are:
 - **Mistrust** (34%)
 - **Disgust** (24%)
 - **Boredom** (15%)
- Positive words are very few in number:
 - **Interest** (14%)
 - **Hope** (6%)
 - **Respect** (1%)

2. INTERMITTENT VOTING

- New habits in the process of political socialization among the youngest generations and deep change in electoral behavior
- Widespread abstention
- Non-voting: towards a new kind of political legitimation in advanced democracies
- Young people still more likely to abstain than their elders but above all they are **intermittent voters**

Voting Habits

(CEVIPOF Post-Electoral Survey, June 2012)

Usually, you vote in:

<i>COHORTS :</i>	All elections	Almost all elections	Few elections	None	
Before 1945	71	27	2	-	100%
1946-1960	58	35	6	1	100%
1961-1980	47	40	12	1	100%
After 1980	51	26	17	6	100%

Social divides among categories of young people reflect divides in electoral turnout. (Post-Electoral Survey French Presidential Election 2012, CEVIPOF)

- 62% of students say they vote at all elections, only 49% of young people in employment do, and 42% of the unemployed do.
- 26% of students hesitant until election day, made final choice at last minute, 27% of young people in employment, and 34% of the unemployed did so.
- 75% of voters born before 1945 said their choice was made a long time prior to the election, only 45% of young voters born after 1980 said the same (-30 pts)

3. Protest

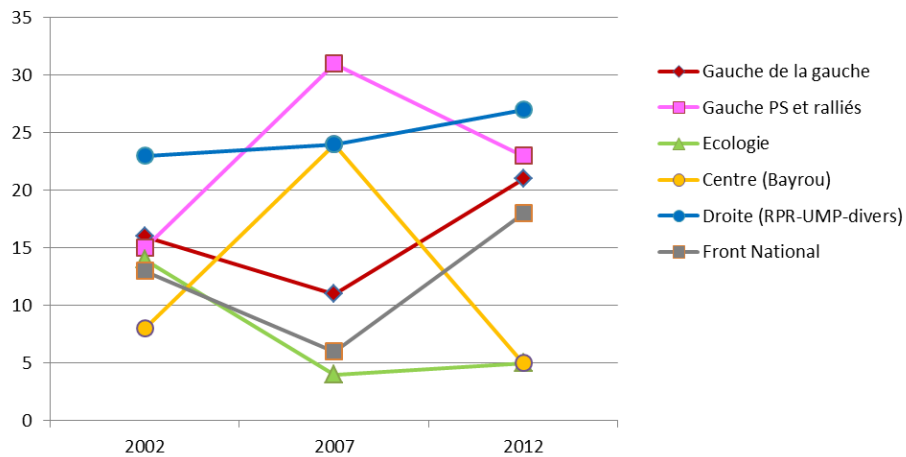
Protest through conventional political participation

- Mounting individualism in voting (or non voting),
- Abstention as a political answer to express dissatisfaction
- Decline in party allegiances, and rise in intermittent voters,
- Attraction of extremist parties (far Left and far Right)

Protest Votes among Young People

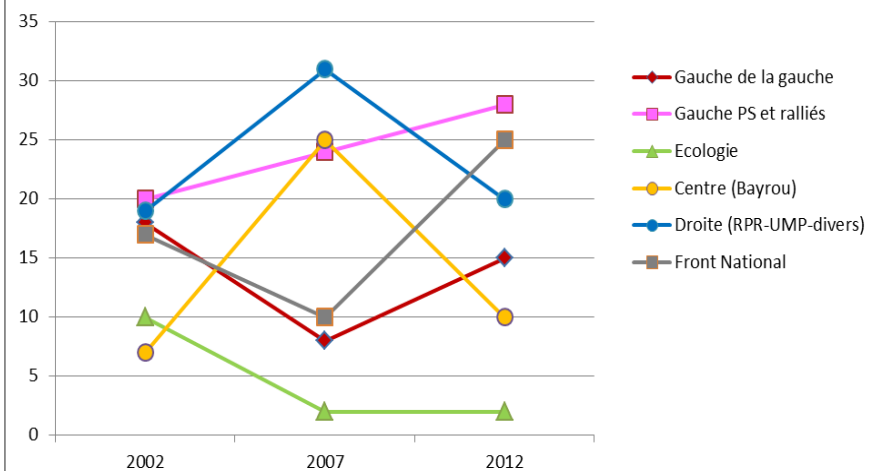
18-24 years old

Changes in voting patterns among 18-24 year-olds between 2002 and 2012 in the first round of the presidential election (as a % of votes cast)



25-34 years old

Changes in voting patterns among 25-34 year-olds between 2002 and 2012 in the first round of the presidential election (as a % of votes cast)



Source : CEVIPOF electoral surveys (PEF 2002, PEF 2007, Post-election telephone survey 2012)

3. Protest

Protest through non-conventional political participation

- More calls for direct democracy
- Greater involvement in protest campaigns
- Increase in demonstrating

Increase in Radicalism

European Value Surveys

<i>Choose first :</i>	1981	1990	1999	2008	2008 30 years old and +
LIBERTY	53	47	49	40	40
EQUALITY	35	43	41	57	57
None	8	7	8	3	2
Don't know	4	10	2	-	1

<i>Do agree :</i>	1981	1990	2008	2008 30 years old and +
The entire organisation of our society should be radically changed by revolution	11	6	24	14

Increase and Diversification in Types of Protest among Young Generations (%)

European Value Surveys

Forms of political protest	1981	1990	1999	2008	2008 30 ans et plus
Signing a petition	47	46	62	64	64
Participating in legal demonstrations	34	30	41	48	40
Participating in boycotts	14	9	9	16	15
Participating in wildcat strikes	12	3	8	11	12
Occupying offices and factories	7	2	3	5	10

Political Change from One Generation to Another

- Significant decrease in identification with political parties and more distance towards political institutions
- Less straightforward attitude to voting
- More electoral volatility
- Greater propensity to protest, in particular by participating in political demonstrations

What will tomorrow's citizens in western democracies be like?

Critical but involved citizens