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Ewing: CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS 1896-1944

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CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS 1896-1944. *Cortez A. M. Ewing*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 1947. Pp. x, 110. \$2.

Dr. Ewing is professor of government at the University of Oklahoma and author of numerous books in that field. Students of American politics pay a great deal of attention to figures, and the principal virtue of this little book is that it presents some interesting and significant statistics on Congressional elections. The author points out that never during the period covered has one party taken the presidency away from the other without having previously obtained control of the Congress sitting when the presidential election was held. This suggests that the popular notion that Congressional candidates ride into office on the coattails of their party's presidential nominee is not well founded. Another important point brought out is that most Congressional elections in the North, the Middle West, and the West are closely contested, and that the

Republican party must prevail in a very large majority of these races in order to have any chance of controlling the House of Representatives. The book is not long enough for a thorough analysis of the statistics, and it contains too many broad general statements which are not shown to follow from the facts presented, but one who is interested in the electoral process can find much material here which can be used in forming his own conclusions.