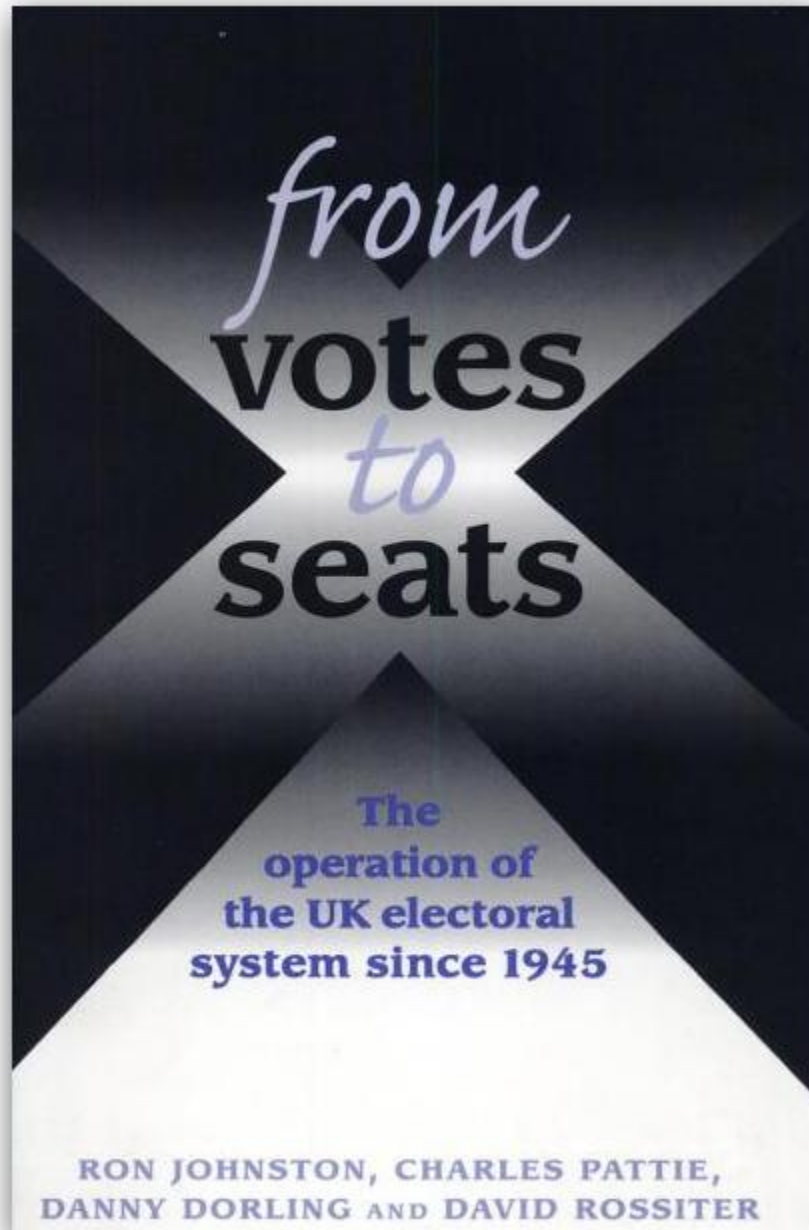


### **From Votes to Seats: the operation of the UK electoral system since 1945**

Danny Dorling is co-author of this book written mainly by Ron Johnston, with Charles Pattie and David Rossiter. The book explains how the British electoral system treats parties disproportionately and differentially. An original study of the fourteen general elections held between 1950 and 1997 shows that the amount of bias in those election results increased substantially over the period, benefiting Labour at the expense of the Conservatives. Labour's advantage peaked at the 1997 general election when, even assuming there had been an equal share of the votes for the two parties, it would have won 82 more seats than its opponents.



# Contents

List of figures	<i>page</i> vi
List of tables	xii
List of boxes	xiv
Preface	xv
A note on the figures	xxii
1 From votes to seats: disproportionality and bias	1
2 Geography, malapportionment and gerrymandering	20
3 Defining Parliamentary constituencies in the UK	50
4 From theory to practice: the components of bias in UK general election results	90
5 Malapportionment: UK style	103
6 The gerrymandered UK	129
7 Reactive malapportionment	178
8 Conclusions: electoral reform?	198
Appendix	229
References	231
Index	237