



**Coffee & Politics Series**



# The Three Worlds of Postwar American Politics



The post-WWII political landscape has been distinguished by three distinct patterns – the first a continuation of the New Deal Era, with unified partisan control in mainly Democratic hands. The second was the Era of Divided Government – a story of split partisan control. The most recent era is characterized by unified partisan control, but tending to swing between Republicans and Democrats. How does this understanding of the American political landscape help us grapple with the politics of today and put the Obama presidency in perspective?

**Byron E. Shafer** is Glenn B. and Cleone Orr Hawkins Chair of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before coming to Wisconsin, he was Andrew W. Mellon Professor of American Government at Oxford University. He is a specialist in the politics of presidential selection and has written extensively about campaigns and elections, about political parties, about policy conflicts, and about the big picture in American politics.

Join us for pizza, pop, and stimulating discussion. RSVP to [relgar@wsu.edu](mailto:relgar@wsu.edu)

**Tuesday, January 15**  
**12 noon – 1:15pm**  
**Foley Speaker's Room**  
**Bryan Hall 308**