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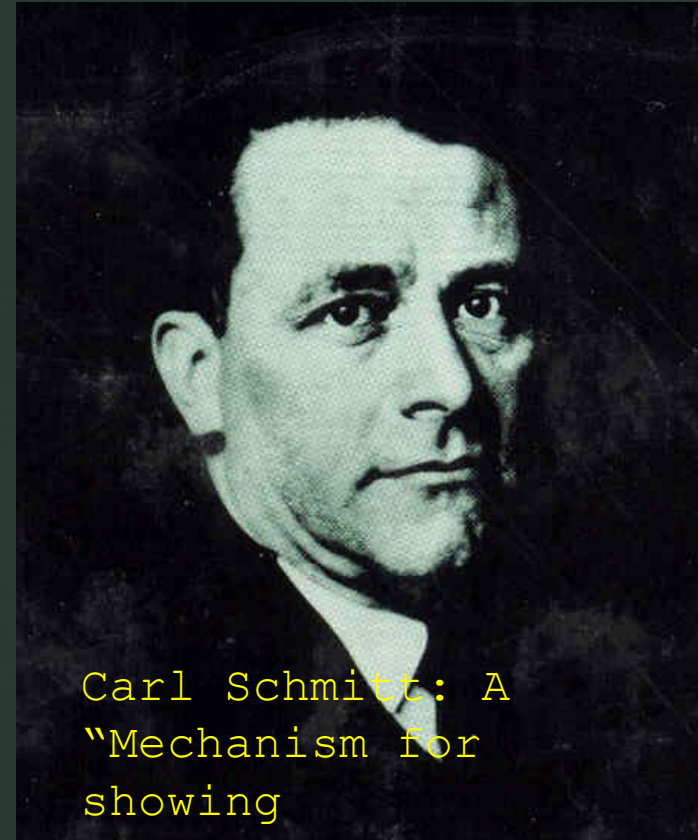
Coventry University

Referendums  
and  
Populism

Referendums: The People's Veto  
or the Demagogue's Tool

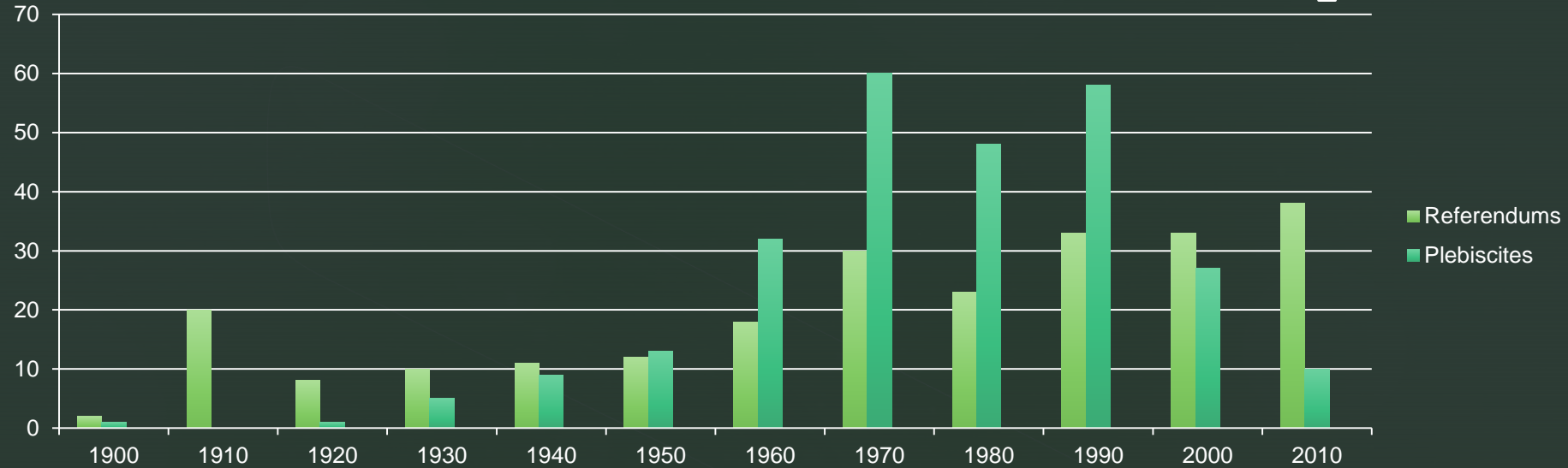


Hugo Preuß: "A mechanism for voters to show disapproval for the elected representatives"



Carl Schmitt: A "Mechanism for showing acclamation for the Führer"

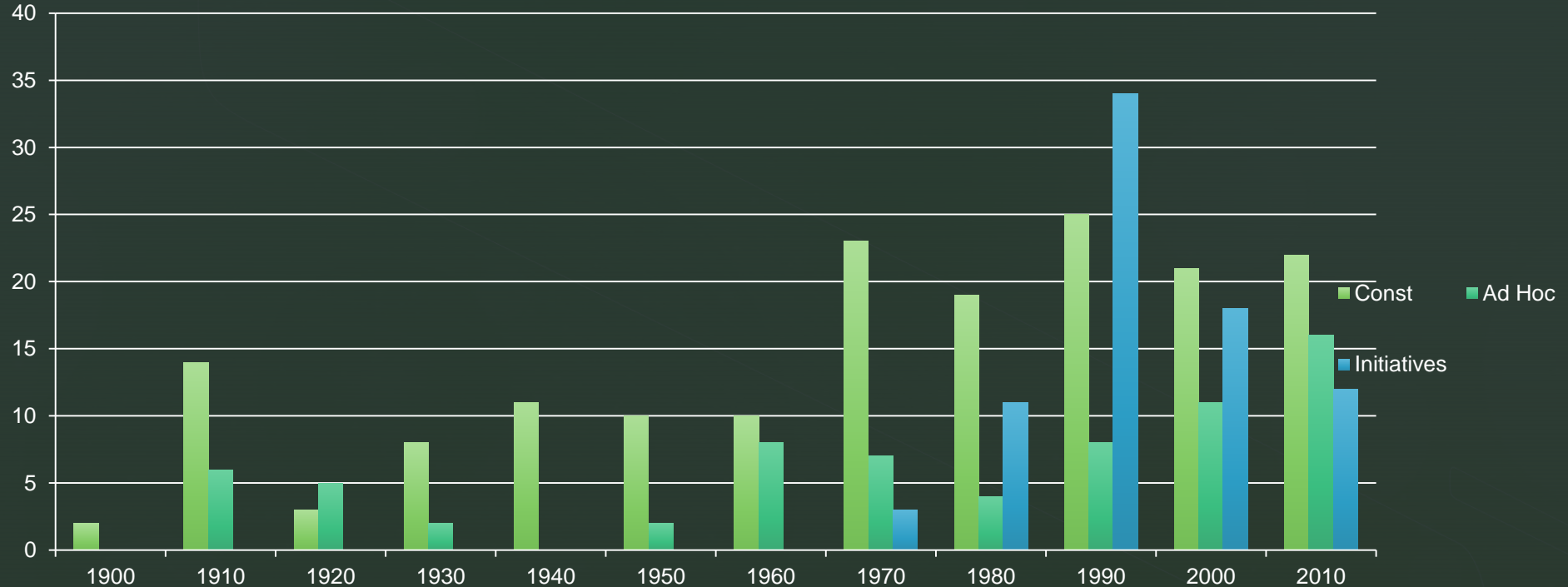
# Referendums and Plebiscites: A Historical Perspective



Source: C2D and Qvortrup (ed) *Referendums Around the World* (2017).

Plebiscites are defined as votes in countries that score 0- -10 on the Polity

# The Use of Different Forms of Referendums 1900-2016



Source: C2D and Qvortrup (ed) *Referendums Around the World* (2017)

## Referendums: The 'so-what' Question

- The Number of Referendums are positively correlated with lower levels of inequality
- Referendums are not correlated with greater electoral success of populist parties
- The number of referendums are statistically (positively) correlated with lower taxation
- Countries with provisions for referendums tend to have less clean environments