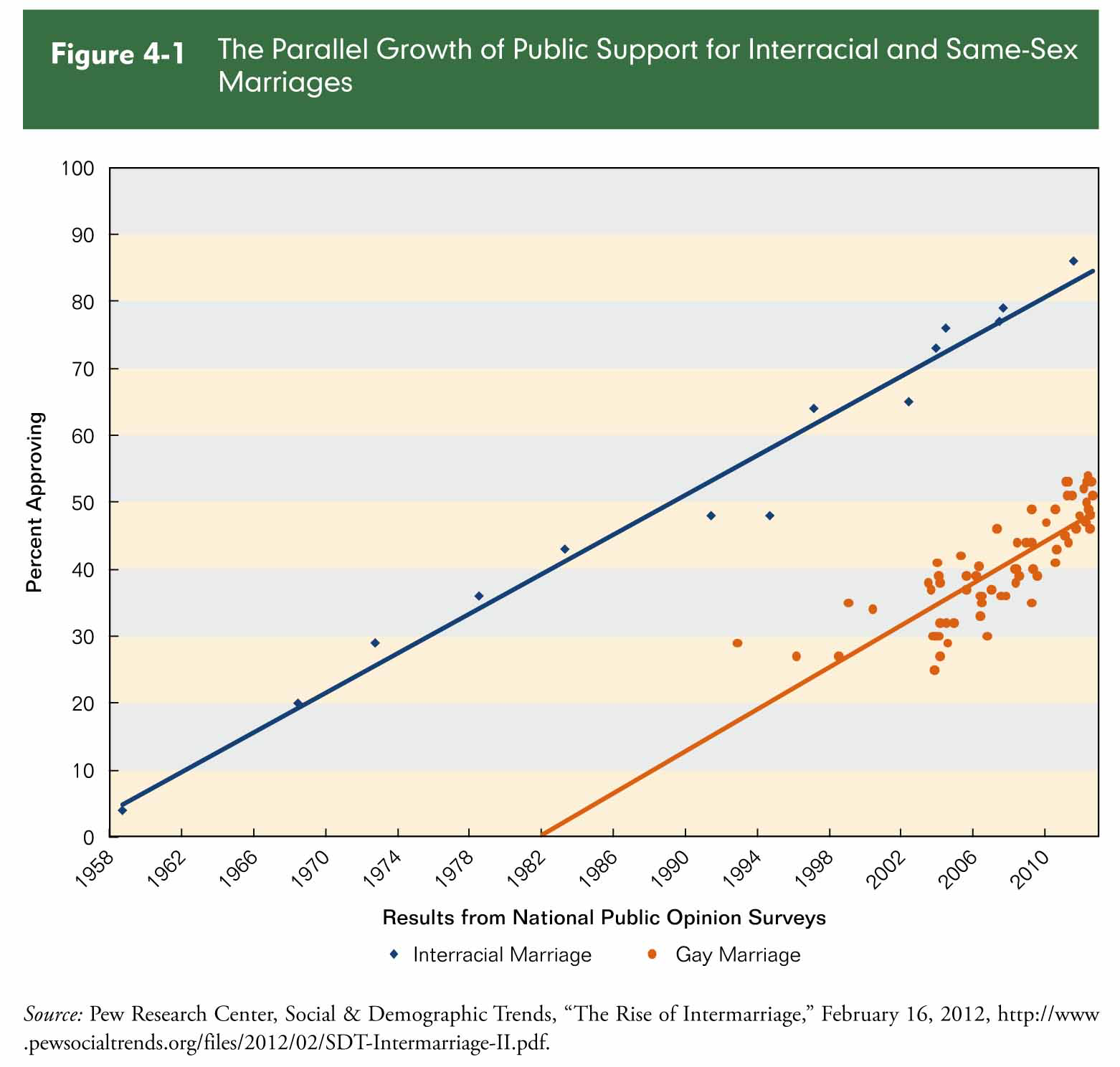
*The Logic of American Politics*, 7th Edition

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Data Literacy Exercises: Chapter 4

Figure 4-1:



**Learning Objective:**  4.3 Discuss the political efforts to seek civil rights for African Americans from the nineteenth century to the present day.

Since 2010 many states have passed more restrictive voter ID laws, requiring voters to present specific forms of identification before they can cast a ballot. This has led to allegations from some critics that the new laws, ostensibly meant to reduce the occurrence of voter fraud, are being used to legally reduce the ability of minorities to vote. Poorer minorities in particular may not possess the required identification.

This chapter’s discussion of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 highlights how blacks and other minorities were finally able to express their political power at the voting booth. The Supreme Court has upheld the right of states to require photo identification, but civil rights groups remain concerned that such laws will depress voter turnout among minorities. Indeed, evidence exists that such laws were more likely to be passed in states with high minority populations and, in particular, in those states where minority turnout increased in 2008 (Bentele and O’Brien, 2013).In twenty of the twenty-two states that enacted more restrictive standards, Republicans controlled the process.

Sources:   Keith Bentele and Erin O’Brien, “States with higher black turnout are more likely to restrict voting.” The Washington Post, December 17, 2013, accessed at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2013/12/17/states-with-higher-black-turnout-are-more-likely-to-restrict-voting/>

Brennan Center for Justice, <http://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/state-voting-2014>

**Questions to Consider:**

1. The most restrictive voter ID laws tend to be in which region of the country?

\*a. the South

b. the North East

c. the Pacific Coast

d. the Midwest

2. The least restrictive voter ID laws tend to exist in the Northeastern and Pacific Coast states:

\*a. True

b. False

3. Voter ID laws probably are purely racially focused and have little to do with partisanship.

a. True

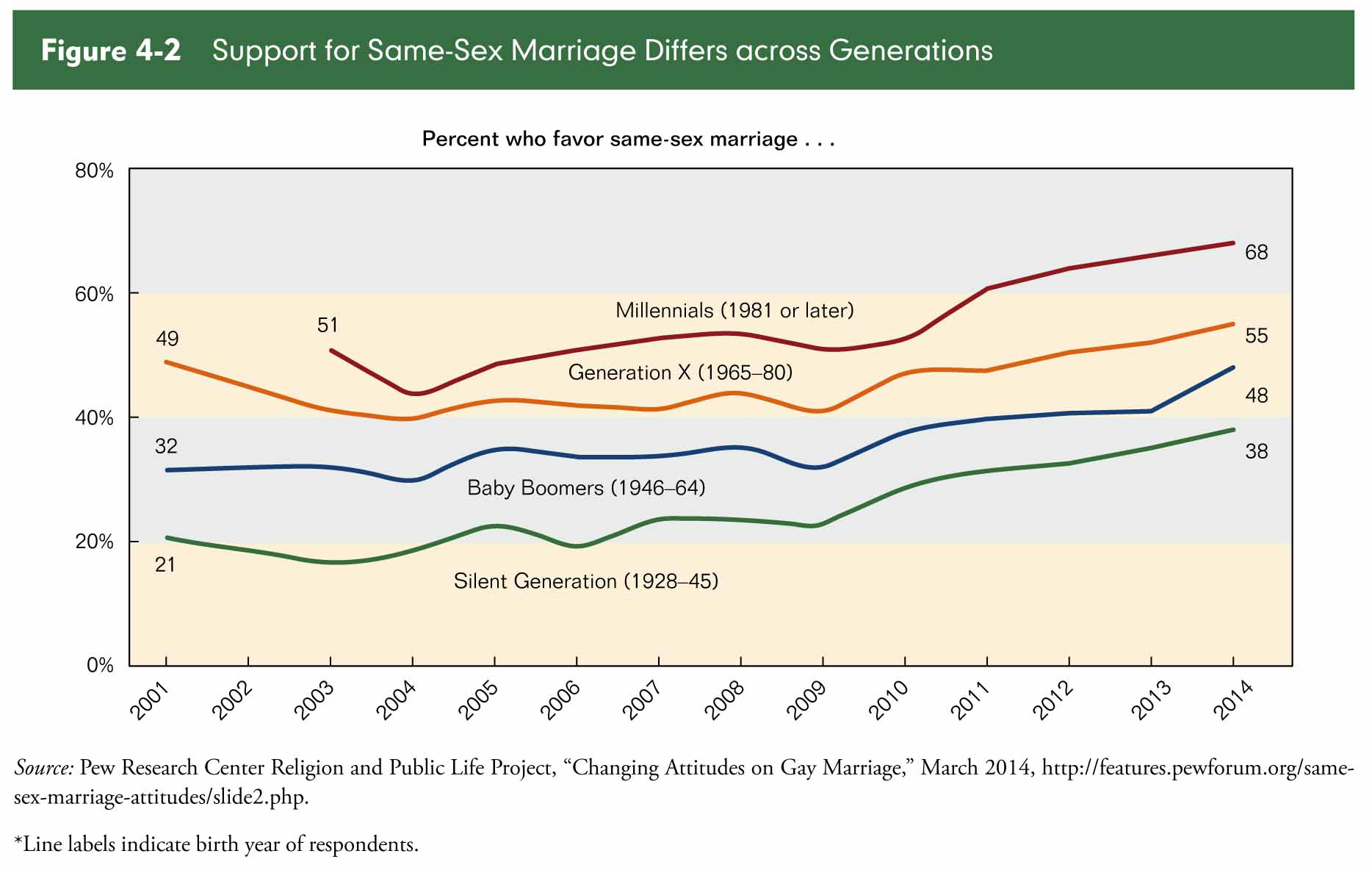
\*b. False

4. Most states have strict identification requirements.

a. True

\*b. False

Figures 4-2



**Learning Objective:**  4.4 Explain the legacy of the civil rights movement for groups such as women, Hispanics, and members of the LGBT community.

Public opinion in support of gay marriage has dramatically increased in the last two decades (survey questions about the subject are hard to come by before 1990). This seems to follow a general liberalization of views about marriage between individuals that were once considered taboo. Although as Figure 4-1 shows, acceptance of interracial marriage has and continues to be greater than that of gay marriage, they seem to have followed similar trends, both linear and positive across time.

Figure 4-2 displays what is called a cohort analysis. Rather than assessing at any given time attitudes based upon age, a cohort analysis makes comparisons based on generations. A Generation X respondent in 2012 would be much older than a Generation X respondent in 2001.  As we can see in this figure, at any given time, Millennials were more supportive of gay marriage than were members of the Silent Generation, regardless of age.  As an example, individuals between 32 and 47 in 2012 (Generation X) were more supportive than individuals of roughly similar age would have been in 2001 (mainly Baby Boomers, with a small fraction from Generation X). The increase in support among all generational groups since 2009 is striking, indicating an across the generational divide effect.  Of course, it is probably also caused by the passing of the oldest of the least supportive generation and the entry of even younger members of the most supportive.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. According to Figure 4-1, public support for gay marriage since 2010 has been roughly equal to support for interracial marriage in which decade?

a. the 1970s

b. the 1980s

\*c. the 1990s

d. the 2000s

2. At any given time, support for interracial marriage has been greater than support for gay marriage,

\*a. True

b. False

@ Feedback: The graph point is always higher.

3. The Silent Generation has never reached even the lowest level of support of gay marriage displayed by Millennials.

\*a. True

b. False

@ Feedback: According to the graph, their peak support in 2014 (38%) is lower than in any year for “Millennials.”

4. The Silent Generation has never reached the level of support of gay marriage displayed by Baby Boomers.

a. True

\*b. False

@ Feedback: Their highest level of support (38%) is higher than that listed for “Boomers” in 2001 and, it seems, up to 2009.  Of course, given statistical margins of error in sampling (Chapter 10, p. x) we perhaps shouldn’t place much confidence in this assessment.

5. The steady increase of support for both interracial and gay marriage is most likely influenced by both the liberalization of views among old cohorts and the replacement of earlier cohorts with more supportive newer ones.

\*a. True

b. False