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To understand public policy it is necessary to relate ideas to concrete problems of government. This *Journal* therefore publishes articles that use concepts derived from any of the social sciences to analyse a significant problem facing contemporary governments.

Good ideas, like the problems of the contemporary world, admit no boundaries. Articles that make explicit comparisons across nations are particularly welcome. Every article is intended to be relevant across national boundaries, dealing with problems common in many societies.

The problems of the contemporary world unite what academic disciplines and national political systems tend to keep apart. Substantive concerns come first. Methodology and concepts should be instrumental in achieving analytic purposes and concepts and theories should be grounded in an awareness of government *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist*.

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