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THE CONTRIBUTORS

LARS-ERIK CEDERMAN is a professor of international conflict research at ETH Zürich. He is the author of *Emergent Actors in World Politics: How States and Nations Develop and Dissolve* (1997), the editor of *Constructing Europe's Identity: The External Dimension* (2001), and the coeditor (with Mathias Albert and Alexander Went) of *Systems Theories of World Politics* (forthcoming). He can be reached at lcederman@ethz.ch.

LUC GIRARDIN is a senior researcher at the International Conflict Research group of ETH Zürich. His current work focuses on bridging the gap between real-world cases and theoretical computational models of the emergence of conflicts. He can be reached at girardin@icr.gess.ethz.ch.

KRISTIAN SKREDE GLEDITSCH is a professor in the department of government, University of Essex, and a research associate at the Centre for the Study of Civil War, PRIO. He is the author *All International Politics Is Local: The Diffusion of Conflict, Integration, and Democratization* (2002) and coauthor (with Michael D. Ward) of *Spatial Regression Models* (2008). He can be reached at ksg@essex.ac.uk.

TORBEN IVERSEN is a professor of political economy at Harvard. He is the author of *Capitalism, Democracy, and Welfare* (2005) and *Contested Economic Institutions* (1999), coauthor (with Frances Rosenbluth) of *Patriarchy Explained: The Rise and Fall of Gender Inequality* (forthcoming), and coeditor (with Jonas Pontusson and David Soskice) of *Unions, Employers and Central Bankers* (2000). He is currently working on a book-length project with David Soskice on the political representation of economic interests in historical perspective. He can be reached at iversen@fas.harvard.edu.

DAVID SOSKICE is a research professor of comparative political economy at Oxford University, a senior research fellow of Nuffield College, and a research professor in the Political Science Department at Duke. He is the author with Robert Flanagan and Lloyd Ulman of *Unionization, Economic Stabilization and Incomes Policies* (1983), with Wendy Carlin of *Macroeconomics and the Wage Bargain* (1992), and *Macroeconomics: Imperfections, Institutions and Policies* (2006), and coeditor with Peter Hall of *Varieties of Capitalism* (2001). He is currently working with Torben Iversen on a book-length project on the political representation of economic interests in historical perspective; with Nicloa Lacey on the comparative political economy of crime and punishment; and with Wendy Carlin on the political economy of macroeconomics and the financial crisis. He can be reached at david.soskice@politics.ox.ac.uk.

MATTHEW M. TAYLOR is an assistant professor of political science at the University of São Paulo. His research interests include judicial politics, corruption, and the political economy of development. He is the author of *Judging Policy: Courts and Policy Reform in Democratic Brazil* (2008). He can be reached at taylor@usp.br.

VIVIEN A. SCHMIDT is a professor of European integration and director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University. Her publications in comparative politics and political economy include *Democracy in Europe* (2006), *The Futures of European Capitalism* (2002), and (coedited with Fritz W. Scharpf) *Welfare and Work in the Open Economy* (2 vols., 2000). She is currently finishing a book on European political economy and an article on the relationship of discursive institutionalism and historical institutionalism. She can be reached at vschmidt@bu.edu.

DESMOND KING is a professor of American government at the University of Oxford and is a fellow of Nuffield College. His publications in American political development and comparative political economy include *The Liberty of Strangers* (2005) and *Separate and Unequal: African Americans and the U.S. Federal Government* (2nd ed., 2007). Forthcoming publications from his

Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship project on the American state include (coedited with Lawrence Jacobs) *The Unsustainable American State* (2009). He can be reached at desmond.king@nuffield.ox.ac.uk.

ROBERT C. LIEBERMAN is a professor of political science and public affairs at Columbia University. His publications include *Shifting the Color Line: Race and the American Welfare State* (1998) and *Shaping Race Policy: The United States in Comparative Perspective* (2005), as well as numerous articles on American political development, race and politics, and the welfare state. He is currently working on a history of affirmative action in the United States. He can be reached at rc115@columbia.edu.

ABSTRACTS

ETHNONATIONALIST TRIADS

ASSESSING THE INFLUENCE OF KIN GROUPS ON CIVIL WARS

By LARS-ERIK CEDERMAN, LUC GIRARDIN, and KRISTIAN SKREDE GLEDITSCH

Although the case-based literature suggests that kin groups are prominent in ethnonationalist conflicts, quantitative studies of civil war onset have both overaggregated and underaggregated the role of ethnicity, by looking at civil war at the country level instead of among specific groups and by treating individual countries as closed units, ignoring groups' transnational links. In this article the authors integrate transnational links into a dyadic perspective on conflict between marginalized ethnic groups and governments. They argue that transnational links can increase the risk of conflict as transnational kin support can facilitate insurgencies and are difficult for governments to target or deter. The empirical analysis, using new geocoded data on ethnic groups on a transnational basis, indicates that the risk of conflict is high when large, excluded ethnic groups have transnational kin in neighboring countries, and it provides strong support for the authors' propositions on the importance of transnational ties in ethnonationalist conflict.

DISTRIBUTION AND REDISTRIBUTION

THE SHADOW OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

By TORBEN IVERSEN and DAVID SOSKICE

The authors present an alternative to power resource theory as an approach to the study of distribution and redistribution. While they agree that partisanship and union power are important, they argue that both are endogenous to more fundamental differences in the organization of capitalist democracies. Specifically, center-left governments result from PR consensus political systems (as opposed to majoritarian systems), while strong unions have their origins in coordinated (as opposed to liberal) capitalism. These differences in political representation and in the organization of production developed jointly in the early twentieth century and explain the cross-national pattern of distribution and redistribution. The clusters have their origins in two distinct political economic conditions in the second half of the nineteenth century: one in which locally coordinated economies were coupled with strong guild traditions and heavy investment in cospecific assets and one in which market-based economies were coupled with liberal states and more mobile assets.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH POLICY-MAKING

A CASE STUDY OF THE BRAZILIAN CENTRAL BANK

By MATTHEW M. TAYLOR

A number of contemporary studies rightly emphasize the notion that policy outcomes result from institutional determinants. But as a growing literature on institutional development notes, these institutions are themselves impermanent. Sometimes, in crisis moments, institutions are replaced wholesale. More frequently, institutions evolve gradually over time. Using the Brazilian Central Bank as a case study, this article illustrates that the policy-making process itself can be a central driver of gradual institutional development, with institutions evolving through the accumulation of policy choices made over many years and under different policymakers in response to contemporaneous events and unforeseeable economic and political challenges.

PUTTING THE POLITICAL BACK INTO POLITICAL ECONOMY BY BRINGING THE STATE BACK IN YET AGAIN

By VIVIEN A. SCHMIDT

Dominant theoretical approaches in political economy today, whether they posit convergence to neoliberal capitalism, binary divergence of capitalisms, or tripartite differentiation of financial

governance, downplay the importance of state action. Their methodological approaches, rational choice and historical institutionalism, tend to reinforce their substantive theories either by disaggregating the state into its historical institutional components or by focusing on the strategic actions of its rational actors. This article argues that by not taking state action seriously, they are unable to explain the differences in degree and kind of countries' neoliberal reforms. For this, it is necessary to bring the state back in and to put the *political* back into political economy not just in terms of political economic institutions but also in terms of policies, polity, and politics. To explore the political in all its variety, however, the article demonstrates that at least one more methodological approach, discursive institutionalism, is also needed. This approach, by taking the role of ideas and discourse seriously, brings political actors as sentient beings back in. This in turn also enables the author to explain the dynamics of neoliberal reform in political economy.

IRONIES OF STATE BUILDING

A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE ON THE AMERICAN STATE

By DESMOND KING and ROBERT C. LIEBERMAN

This review of new directions in the American and comparative literatures on the state reveals important intellectual trends that parallel each other quite closely. Both comparativists and Americanists address similar questions about the sources of state authority, and both propose similar answers. Collectively, these scholars and others are retheorizing the state—developing a suppler, multidimensional picture of the state's origins, structure, and consequences—to shed light on the reasons for the state's stubborn refusal to cede the stage. The emerging understanding of the state that the authors describe provides a framework not only for revisiting the state in the international realm but also, in dialogue with recent Americanist studies, for revising and deepening the understanding of the state's paradoxical role in American political development and finally setting aside the assumption of the United States as stateless. In this emerging view, American state building, strength, and institutional capacity form through links with society, not necessarily through autonomy from society. But such distinctive patterns provide insights for comparative studies, too, for instance, in respect to the relationship between the state and welfare policy across nations.