

International Political Science Review

<http://ips.sagepub.com/>

In This Issue

Yvonne Galligan

International Political Science Review 2010 31: 3

DOI: 10.1177/0192512109354406

The online version of this article can be found at:

<http://ips.sagepub.com/content/31/1/3.citation>

Published by:



<http://www.sagepublications.com>

On behalf of:



International Political Science Association (IPSA)

Additional services and information for *International Political Science Review* can be found at:

Email Alerts: <http://ips.sagepub.com/cgi/alerts>

Subscriptions: <http://ips.sagepub.com/subscriptions>

Reprints: <http://www.sagepub.com/journalsReprints.nav>

Permissions: <http://www.sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav>

>> [Version of Record](#) - Mar 5, 2010

[What is This?](#)



In This Issue

International Political Science Review
31(1) 3–4

© The Author(s) 2010

Reprints and permission: <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermission.nav>

DOI: 10.1177/0192512109354406

<http://ips.sagepub.com>



This issue presents five articles typifying the vigor of political science scholarship in a number of fields. The issue leads with Farida Jalalzai and Mona Lena Krook's study "Beyond Hillary and Benazir: Women's Political Leadership Worldwide." In this article, they seek to disentangle the many factors that support or inhibit women's access to parliamentary and executive office around the world. They undertake an extensive review of what women have achieved high political office, where this has occurred, and under what conditions. In doing so, they present a comprehensive picture of women's presence in parliaments and executives across the globe. They recognize that women's place in politics is not assured and draw on examples to remind us that the gains made thus far are not a predictor of progress in the future.

The focus shifts to international relations for the second article, and to a topic that continues to engage IPSR readers – the US-led war on terror. Oded Löwenheim and Brent J. Steele offer a fresh look at this important theme through their elaboration of a Great Power thesis in their article "Institutions of Violence, Great Power Authority, and the War on Terror." In elaborating the theoretical framework of Great Power authority, they explore the motivations for Great Powers responding in the way they do to challenges to their international authority. They apply this analysis to a study of the US response to 9/11 and argue that, in "adapting" the concept of preemptive war, "the US, intentionally or not, strained a constitutive principle of international order." They conclude that Great Power authority rests on the acceptance by other world actors of a country's legitimized authority in the international arena as much as it does on military or economic might.

Electoral reform is considered by Matthew Flinders, who compares and contrasts the reform processes of the Labor government in the UK since 1997 with those of the Liberal government in British Columbia since 2001. Using a process tracing methodology, he places a strong emphasis on the role that ideational change and political agency play in facilitating electoral reform. Drawing on the consultative process pursued in British Columbia through a Citizens' Assembly and contrasting this deliberative process with Labor's marginalization of the issue, he reveals the factors that can explain elite support, opposition, and capacity to enable reform to take place. He attributes the failure of reform to the absence of two necessary conditions: key individuals with institutional authority driving the proposed reform, combined with recognition among political elites that the existing electoral structures are inadequate.

Reform of national corporate governance practices in an international environment is addressed by Xiaoke Zhang in his article "Global Forces and Corporate Reforms in South Korea." He identifies four international factors driving corporate reform in an open economy: overseas reform and competition, global market constraints, transnational norms, and internalization of external pressures. In taking an internationalist perspective on a national political economy issue, Zhang seeks

to counter the emphasis on domestically based analyses to explain deep and sustained corporate reform. Yet, he observes that while international influences can drive reform, the practices they bring about do not always supplant the domestic patterns of governance. He highlights the need for further research on the impact of global forces on national configurations of economic interests and corporate practices.

The final article returns to the arena of international relations, as Yagil Levy explores a conundrum confronting governments in liberal democracies with an active interest in global politics – how to legitimize military interventions to the domestic public. His article, “The Gap of Legitimacies Syndrome: A Conceptual Framework,” highlights the high level of political legitimacy for using force and the coexisting low level of social legitimacy for sacrifice through force. He discusses the implications of this gap on decisions to go to war taken by liberal democratic governments, and argues that it contributes to the inability of governments to wage long, costly wars. He suggests that some countries address this problem by limiting their use of force, but for countries that regularly mobilize their armed forces, such as the US and Israel, the gap of legitimacies is a recurring political issue.

Finally, on behalf of all our contributors, we thank Kay Lawson for her devoted service to IPSR. Kay is stepping down as editor to pursue other exciting interests, and her position is being filled by Mark Kesselman, who has been co-editing with us for the last six months. We are deeply grateful to Kay for guiding our many contributing authors to publication and for securing the journal as a premier outlet for innovative and world-class political science research. We extend a warm welcome to Mark Kesselman and look forward to seeing his unique contribution unfold in the coming months and years.

Yvonne Galligan
Editor