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## In This Issue

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## In This Issue

This issue of the *International Political Science Review* features four articles that span politics in both the developed and developing worlds. The themes that are explored go to the heart of contemporary politics including the reasons for state collapse, the sources of legitimacy, and the dynamics of voter decision-making.

Neil Englehart's "Governments Against States: The Logic of Self-Destructive Despotism" focuses on the conditions that lead to state breakdown in the modern world. Taking up case studies of Afghanistan and Somalia he suggests that the actions that despotic governments take to crush opposition (such as civil service purges and the formation of private militias) can so weaken the state that further miscalculations can result in its virtual collapse.

In "The Three Sources of Legitimacy for European Fiscal Policy," Stefan Collignon examines the way in which fiscal policy is legitimized within the European Union, focusing on three models: "the problem-solving EU," "the communitarian model," and "the European Republic."

In "Moderators of Priming Effects: A Theory and Preliminary Evidence from an Experiment on Swiss European Policy" Lionel Marquis examines the way in which media coverage of issues may groom voters, influencing the standards by which they subsequently judge candidates for political office.

Finally "Dilemmas of Electoral Clientelism: Taiwan, 1993," by Chin-Shou Wang and Charles Kurzman, presents a case study of an election where clients failed to behave as their patrons intended, and it explores the conditions that may give rise to non-compliance.

We hope that our readers will find these four contributions interesting and provocative.

James Meadowcroft  
Co-editor, IPSR

