In This Issue

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International Political Science Review 2009 30: 115
DOI: 10.1177/0192512109102442

International Political Science Review (2009), Vol. 30, No. 2, 115–116

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Analyses of democratic processes in foreign and domestic arenas unite the contributions in this volume. Beginning with Jeffrey Cason and Timothy Power's study of Brazilian foreign policy, and ending with Ganga B. Thapa and Jan Sharma's discussion of Nepal's road to democracy, the articles discuss specific instances of democratic practices and policies in the global North and South.

In their discussion of foreign policymaking in Brazil from 1995 to the present, Jeffrey Cason and Timothy Power argue that two relatively recent trends – an increase in the number of actors influencing foreign policymaking and an increase in presidential diplomacy – have led to important changes in the determination of Brazilian foreign policy. Of the two trends, they suggest that the assertive role of the president in foreign policymaking has been the more influential to date. Personal relations between Brazilian presidents and their foreign counterparts have contributed to Latin American integration. They have also brought about a change in foreign policymaking, with the discreet professional diplomacy of the Brazilian foreign ministry diluted by presidential agendas and deadlines. Looking to the future, the authors suggest that the influence of export industry representatives is likely to grow, especially in making foreign trade policy, and that Brazilian foreign policymaking will continue to be influenced by both presidentialization and pluralization.

Jose Aleman examines the role of organized labor in contributing to dialogue with government on social and economic policies in new democracies. He provides new and important systematic data on labor agreements in 78 new democracies, and illustrates that new democracies have taken to the practice of tripartite wage pacts negotiated between governments, unions, and employers. Using Boolean analysis, he finds that the presence of a left-leaning government and labor unions is not a sufficient combination for a social pact to emerge. Instead, his findings reveal that wage and employment regulation are the main determinants of a tripartite agreement, with some agreements being negotiated by right-of-center governments.

Rita Dhamoon and Yasmeen Abu-Laban return the focus to domestic decision making in their study of the construction of "foreignness," using Canada as a case study. Through an examination of three contrasting instances of racialization, they trace how, when, and why certain groups become constructed as "foreign," and how that relates to public views on the security of the nation-state. They construct a theoretical framework to explain why these shifts in public perception

DOI: 10.1177/0192512109102442
Sage Publications (Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC)

occur and draw our attention to the importance of historical context in the construction of the internal dangerous foreigner: the "Othering" that reduces the claim to citizenship of the group perceived as foreign. Although all of the examples employed are historical, this article speaks directly to the domestic processes of "Othering" taking place in the context of threats to nation-states in the post-September 11 period.

Party politics and democratic choice are discussed by Lisa Rakner, Sabiti Makara, and Lars Svåsand, who trace the reintroduction of a multiparty system in Uganda. In this reflective article, they illustrate that although the party system moved from one to multiple parties, other constitutional changes reinforced the hold on power of the incumbents. They also illustrate that the impetus for democratic political change came from internal tensions within the ruling elite and not from international donors, as is often suggested. Their study also highlights assumptions in the literature on party organizations, which, given their European focus, are often inappropriate for an African context. Thus, the common assumption in this literature that political institutions are able to restrain executive will is shown to be erroneous in the Uganda case. Instead, President Museveni's ambition to stay in power was closely linked to the National Resistance Movement's decision to reintroduce multiparty politics. Thus, as the authors note, while democratic institutions and practices in the form of multiparty politics and electoral democracy appear to be in place, the result is far from being a genuine liberal democracy. Nonetheless, the authors are hopeful that the reintroduction of multiparty politics in Uganda will in time lead to a deeper democratization.

The problems of developing democratic structures and practices are also discussed by Ganga B. Thapa and Jan Sharma in their study of Nepal. After presenting the historical context of autocratic rule, they explain how, in the aftermath of a popular revolt and a violent internal struggle for power, liberal parties joined with the communist insurgents to provide Nepal with a framework for democratic politics and decision making. As in the case of Uganda in the previous article, the authors point out that while the outward manifestations of democratic decision making may be present, the extent of their effectiveness is questionable. One anti-democratic tendency is the struggle for power among Nepali political elites. In discussing this point, Thapa and Sharma observe that political transition and democratic consolidation are two distinct, and not necessarily interdependent, processes.

The articles above, then, address important concerns of democratic practice and decision making. In illuminating country-based studies, allied with the comparative construction of social dialogue, these articles shed new light on democratic processes in many different contexts today.

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