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This bumper issue of IPSR contains seven articles that span many of the current concerns in the discipline. Carl Henrik Knutsen begins the issue with “Measuring Effective Democracy,” a contribution to the ongoing debate on how to measure democracy and democratic performance. He offers a careful critique of Inglehart and Welzel’s measure of substantive democracy, the “effective democracy index” (EDI), arguing that it favors rich, Western nations at the expense of others. He proposes a solution to this problem that offers a more accurate and intuitively satisfying result than the current EDI allows. Dana Baker’s article that follows examines how the American press views Canadian governance. In “An Elephant’s Eye View of the Mouse: American Impressions of Canadian Governance,” the perceptions of the powerful contiguous neighbor of Canadian public administration as being flawed is explored through discourse on terrorism and SARS. She finds that the view from the United States is mixed: on the one hand, media discourse presents Canada as a valued member of an international team (invariably led by America); on the other hand, Canadian governance was portrayed as being slow to respond to the emerging risks of terrorism and SARS. Baker suggests that the negative messages have an element of strategic issue definition so as to encourage the favoring of some US-based policy options over others. In other words, American views of Canadian governance serve a domestic policy function as much as anything else.

The third article brings the focus to Australia and investigates the relationship between immigrants from authoritarian regimes and their new country. In “Adaptation to Democracy among Immigrants in Australia,” Antoine Bilodeau, Ian McAllister and Mebs Kanji ask two questions: do immigrants from authoritarian regimes successfully adapt to democracy, and does the socialization effect of living under authoritarian rule influence immigrants’ democratic transition. These large questions are explored in an Australian context, and the findings have interesting theoretical and policy implications. This study reveals that immigrants participate in electoral activities to the same degree as the rest of the population. It also finds that their attachment to democracy is less pronounced than that of their non-immigrant peers, suggesting that prior socialization has an effect on immigrant political attitudes. In Mariya Omelicheva’s article that follows, the issue of prior socialization forms a backdrop to investigating to what extent ethnic minorities in Central Asia are open to supporting radical Islamic groups. “Ethnic Dimension of Religious Extremism and Terrorism in Central Asia” brings a fresh perspective to knowledge of the Islamicization of this geo-politically important region. She argues that the legacy of Soviet rule has made it difficult to develop democracy in these countries, and the resurgence of Islam as a political and cultural force has been used by the authorities in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to legitimize their rule. In contrast, the ethnic Kyrgyz Muslims have been less open to adopting an Islamic identity. Identity

competition, based on perceptions of degrees of religiosity, continue to shape inter-ethnic tensions in the region.

The regime stability of Switzerland, within which Patrick Emmenegger explores the regulation of job security, acts as a counterpoint to the discussion of instability in the previous article. In “Market Economies: The Development of Job Security Regulations in Switzerland,” Emmenegger examines the extent of federal power in this area of governance from an historical perspective. He argues that a public policy containing few restrictions on employing and dismissing workers has come about as a result of federal state weakness in the face of a coalition of liberal-conservative political forces and employer interests. This weakness, he suggests, can be traced back to 19th-century tensions over the centralization of public policy, and later to the development of local autonomy and the practice of direct democracy.

Constructing a theoretical bridge between the two most important strands of inter-national relations theory is the ambitious task undertaken by Filippo Andreatta and Mathias Koenig-Archibugi in “Which Synthesis? Strategies of Theoretical Integration and the Neorealist–Neoliberal Debate.” In working towards this end, they employ two criteria – theoretical parsimony and empirical fit – to construct an analytically robust framework for studies in international relations. This calls for subsuming neorealism under neoliberalism. They apply this model to cooperation initiatives between Austria and Prussia in the second half of the 18th century, as a way of explaining the varied success of these initiatives. The final piece in this issue is written by Victoria Reyes-García and colleagues, and seeks to identify the obstacles to political participation in circumstances where decentralization laws have given more power to regional government. In “The Uneven Reach of Decentralization: A Case Study among Indigenous Peoples in the Bolivian Amazon,” the lack of awareness of decentralization of political power and the opportunities it presents for greater civic engagement at local level is considered. This is attributed to the relative isolation of the Tsimane’ people, the variable impact of the state and state institutions across Bolivia, in addition to geographic distance and socio-economic variables experienced by this group. The study makes the more general point that decentralization alone will not empower citizens to participate: structural factors also need to be addressed.

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