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Editorial Foreword

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Editorial Foreword

This issue continues the pattern of this journal of including a diversity of insightful scholarship. Its articles include the fields of international relations, public policy, comparative politics, rational choice theory, and political thought. They explore a variety of controversial areas that are as timely as they are interesting. This issue also continues the pattern of promoting the critical study of the New England region, not just through the commentaries of the State Reports section but, also, in a lead article of excellent scholarship that specifically addresses the political legacy of this profoundly introspective part of the American political tradition.

Garrison Nelson's article, "Running from New England," offers a perspective that may not be surprising but is, nonetheless, very revealing. It places this region within a historical and cultural context, as well as affirming broad electoral patterns through sound empirical evidence and analysis. Matthew Tattar's article, "Inspiration versus Perspiration," challenges a widely accepted premise regarding military innovation. It reevaluates various assumptions, including institutional perspectives, in order to arrive at a new and original assessment of adaptation in this area and its influence upon government policies regarding the effective uses of the military.

Benedetta Berti explores the status of human rights since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 and analyzes the role of British courts in upholding those standards. Her analysis also includes an insightful treatment on the role of courts within that political system in curtailing the attempt (evident within other countries) to expand executive authority and diminish human rights considerations regarding anti-terror policies. Luke Perry challenges prevailing notions regarding the relationship between elections and democratic systems. Using comparative methods and applying norms derived from traditional political theory, he assesses the role that electoral systems

actually play in true democratic development and challenges the conventional wisdom that has influenced much of the policy in this area. Stephen Collins's critical study of economic sanctions as a tool of foreign policy tends to support prevailing government practices and assumptions in that area, despite the skepticism that has been held against that approach. However, he also concludes that the efficacy of those sanctions may diminish, from an American perspective, in relation to changing domestic and global conditions and the anticipated responses of other governments.

Some intriguing commentaries, from Howard Cody on Maine and Paul Petterson on the general region, offer insights into current New England politics. They emphasize the diverse relationship between politics and policy that typifies the scholarly articles of this issue. Once again with this issue, the journal aspires to fulfill its mission of celebrating the diversity of the discipline of political science and the scholarly community that has produced it. The articles address pertinent political issues and their implications within the context of the "real world" of the politics of New England and beyond. They should prove to be as revealing and useful as they are well-written, soundly researched, and critically presented.

James T. McHugh
Editor-in-Chief