COVER ILLUSTRATION: The focus of this issue is the diverse political history of Maine, stretching from the mid-nineteenth century through the twentieth century. After becoming part of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1652, Maine quickly emerged as a battleground of political and military contention between the French, Wabanaki, and English. In 1820, Maine voted to secede from Massachusetts and become the twenty-third state. Smith focuses on the political role of Maine's media during the mid-nineteenth century, arguing that "The Daily Argus," a Portland newspaper, reveals an expansionist fervor that permeated the Democratic Party and determined the 1844 presidential election. Bailey complicates the image of Civil War hero Joshua Chamberlain by highlighting his oft-ignored career as governor, where his pro-growth industrialization strategy laid the groundwork for economic inequality in the state. Keating's focus on medical professionalism shows how physicians utilized the political power of their cultural institutions to influence legislation in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Hall argues that Senator Edmund Muskie's silence regarding the political crisis of the Maine Indian Land Claims in the 1970s allowed anti-Indian politicians to shape the rhetoric regarding this controversy, creating lasting consequences for Maine. Front cover image: This detailed 1880 engraving of the Maine State House in Augusta was featured in "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper," a weekly literary and news magazine. It shows legislators gathered on the lawn of the capitol building with interested bystanders peering through the gate to get a glimpse of politics in action. Collections of the Maine Historical Society.
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