

## **Editorial Forward**

This journal represents the culmination of the collective efforts of many members of the New England Political Science Association. Although it serves the smallest geographical and demographic area of all of the regional American political science organizations, this association encompasses the most impressive collection of political scientists in the world. Its relatively small size has tended to obscure its impressive quality and its equally remarkable diversity. Its members represent institutions ranging from small, teaching-intensive public liberal arts colleges to large, research-intensive private Ivy League universities and all variants in between. It has included, and continues to include, some of the most impressive teachers, scholars, and intellectual leaders of this discipline. Despite these accomplishments, the New England Political Science Association has remained one of the best-kept secrets in academia.

This journal has been created to address that situation. It is a collective effort of the members of this association and their desire to advance their discipline. The impressive list of the members of its editorial board is a testament to the professional commitment and the standards that this journal has been established to advance. It is hoped that this commitment and quality will overcome the common prejudice and skepticism toward the electronic medium of the Internet as a means for delivering academic ideas. These goals will be maintained, especially through this journal's adherence to the same procedures of peer review and standards of excellent scholarship that are the foundation of the finest printed publications of academia.

*The New England Journal of Political Science* is not merely another peer reviewed scholarly publication. It is offered, primarily, as an online publication, increasing its availability and improving its dissemination. It serves as a scholarly vehicle for all political scientists, being open to submissions from all fields of the discipline and related disciplines. It offers a specific venue for members of the association that publishes it. It encourages a regional focus (especially through commentaries upon the politics of the New England states) that promotes a more critical understanding of one of the nation's, and the world's, most historically significant regions of political activity. Finally, its rigorous standards ensure the highest quality of scholarship of the social sciences, in general, and the discipline of political science, in particular.

This journal is a true collective effort. Again, it should be emphasized that the editors, members of the editorial board, executive council of the New England Political Science Association, and the active members of this association are primarily responsible for any, and all, success that it achieves. The scholars who read, and make use of, the articles and commentaries contained within it are, we hope, its beneficiaries.

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Editor-in-Chief