

The New England Journal of Political Science

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Editorial Forward

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Editor-in-Chief

It is with pleasure that this issue of *The New England Journal of Political Science* is presented. There had been a relatively slight yet, still, annoying hiatus in the publication of this issue. That annoyance must have been felt, particularly keenly, by the authors of its articles. Nonetheless, it has arrived and, I hope, the readers will conclude that it has been worth the wait.

Scholarly journals often, sadly but unavoidably, experience delays in publication. There are, of course, the inevitable editorial delays involved in actual production, especially from a technical perspective. In many ways, it is easier for a scholarly journal that is entirely presented in an online format to overcome those obstacles. Nonetheless, they can be intrinsic to this sort of endeavor and persistent in their repetition.

Fortunately, this journal has acquired additional assistance in terms of technical support; Mark Griffin, who has been retained as a technical assistant to the journal (through the efforts of Dr. Christopher Bosso, Past-President of the New England Political Science Association) has been particularly helpful in that respect. Indeed, the assistance of everyone who is associated with this journal, including the editorial staff and its distinguished Editorial Board, has made it possible to overcome these infrastructural challenges and produce a high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly effort.

Ultimately, that is the goal of this project. Moreover, it is a goal that supports an additional and broader goal of advancing the cause of academic

cooperation and scholarship throughout this region and beyond. As part of its mission, it encourages scholarship that addresses the politics of the New England states. That politics addresses every field of the discipline, including the political philosophy that emerged from, and has related to, this region of the country. But its general mission is, more simply, to provide an official venue for the scholarship of the academic community of New England and the scholarly association, the New England Political Science Association, which serves it. Therefore, it targets articles that have had their genesis as papers presented at the annual conference of that association.

The articles offered within this issue reflect those origins and that diversity. David Schmitt's essay on Northern Ireland is representative of the comparative politics scholarship that relates to the very theme of regional identity. Jacob Segal's essay on Hannah Arendt reflects the deep tradition of political philosophy that often has been associated with New England as a region that was a birthplace of American political thought. Leslie DeNardis and A. E. Rodriguez offer a more conventional, and very insightful, analysis of local government in Connecticut which provides, again, a greater understanding of an evolution of municipal politics that is uniquely associated with this venerable American region. Of course, the State Reports section (ably edited, as always, by Paul Petterson) offers its own insightful commentary by David Plazek regarding political identity in Vermont—a theme that explores the diversity that underpins the superficially-apparent homogeneity of all of rural New England.

We are confident that future issues of this journal will be appearing in a much more timely fashion. Furthermore, we also are confident that the “look” and accessibility of this venue for New England scholarship will continue to improve. I wish to thank my fellow editors, the support staff, the peer reviewers, the Editorial Board, and, of course, the contributors to this issue. Its strength and success is due to them and they will continue to be responsible for the ongoing mission of this journal and the regional association of scholars that it supports.