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CONTENTS

No. 1—October 1988

Empirical Support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of International Conflict	<i>Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman</i>	1
The Distribution of Wars over Time	<i>Edward D. Mansfield</i>	21
Authoritarian States, Capital-Owning Classes, and the Politics of Newly Industrializing Countries: The Case of Indonesia	<i>Richard Robison</i>	52
Social Choice and System Structure in World Politics	<i>James D. Morrow</i>	75
REVIEW ARTICLES		
“The Spirit of the Sierra Maestra”: Five Observations on Writing about Cuban Foreign Policy	<i>Tony Smith</i>	98
Dilemmas of Change in Mexican Politics	<i>Kevin Middlebrook</i>	120

No. 2—January 1989

THE RATIONAL DETERRENCE DEBATE: A SYMPOSIUM

Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies	<i>Christopher H. Achen and Duncan Snidal</i>	143
Deterrence and Foreign Policy	<i>Alexander L. George and Richard Smoke</i>	170
Rational Deterrence: Theory and Evidence	<i>Robert Jervis</i>	183
Rational Deterrence Theory: I Think, Therefore I Deter	<i>Richard Ned Lebow and Janice Gross Stein</i>	208
The Rational Deterrence Debate	<i>George W. Downs</i>	225
...		
Power, Capabilities, and Paradoxical Conflict Outcomes	<i>Zeev Maoz</i>	239
REVIEW ARTICLE		
Reforming a Socialist State: Ideology and Public Finance in Yugoslavia	<i>Susan L. Woodward</i>	267

No. 3—April 1989

- Rational Hegemons, Excludable Goods,
and Small Groups: An Epitaph for
Hegemonic Stability Theory? *Joanne Gowa* 307
- The Politics of Backwardness in Continental
Europe, 1780-1945 *Andrew C. Janos* 325
- Peasant-State Relations and the Social Base
of Self-help in Kenya *Joel D. Barkan*
and *Frank Holmquist* 359

REVIEW ARTICLES

- The Political Economy of American Strategy *Aaron L. Friedberg* 381
- Beyond the State: Civil Society and
Associational Life in Africa *Michael Bratton* 407

No.4—July 1989

- An Evaluation of "Does Economic
Inequality Breed Political
Conflict?" Studies *Mark Irving Lichbach* 431
- Democratizing the Quasi-Leninist
Regime in Taiwan *Tun-jen Cheng* 471
- Political Institutions and Tax Policy
in the United States, Sweden,
and Britain *Sven Steinmo* 500

REVIEW ARTICLES

- Setting Conventional Force Requirements:
Roughly Right or
Precisely Wrong? *Charles A. Kupchan* 536
- State and Society in Contemporary
China *Elizabeth J. Perry* 579

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No. 1

CONTENTS

Empirical Support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of International Conflict	<i>Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman</i>	I
The Distribution of Wars over Time	<i>Edward D. Mansfield</i>	21
Authoritarian States, Capital-Owning Classes, and the Politics of Newly Industrializing Countries: The Case of Indonesia	<i>Richard Robison</i>	52
Social Choice and System Structure in World Politics	<i>James D. Morrow</i>	75
REVIEW ARTICLES		
“The Spirit of the Sierra Maestra”: Five Observations on Writing about Cuban Foreign Policy	<i>Tony Smith</i>	98
Dilemmas of Change in Mexican Politics	<i>Kevin Middlebrook</i>	120
The Contributors		ii
Abstracts		iii

THE CONTRIBUTORS

BRUCE BUENO DE MESQUITA is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. The author of *The War Trap* (1981) and (together with David Newman and Alvin Rabushka) *Forecasting Political Events: Hong Kong's Future* (1985), he is currently working with David Lalman on a book-length study tentatively entitled *War and Reason*, which focuses on war and its causes.

DAVID LALMAN is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Maryland. His joint paper with Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, "Arms Races and the Opportunity for Peace" (*Synthese*, 1988) is a precursor to *War and Reason*, their book in progress.

RICHARD D. MANSFIELD is a Ph.D. candidate in the Political Science Department at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently writing a dissertation on the timing and determinants of war.

RICHARD ROBISON is Associate Professor in Politics and Dean of the School of Humanities at Murdoch University, Western Australia. He is the author of *Indonesia: The Rise of Capital* (1986) and co-editor of *Southeast Asia: Essays in the Political Economy of Structural Change* (1985) and *Southeast Asia in the 1980s: The Politics of Economic Crisis* (1987). His current research focuses on industrial policy in Indonesia and Australia.

JAMES D. MORROW is Assistant Professor of Political Science and Faculty Associate of the Center for Political Studies at The University of Michigan. He is currently working on a project examining the effects of American domestic politics on arms control bargaining.

TONY SMITH is Professor of Political Science at Tufts University. His most recent book is *Thinking Like a Communist: State and Legitimacy in the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba* (1987). At present, he is working on a book entitled *America and the Struggle for Democracy Worldwide since 1945*.

KEVIN J. MIDDLEBROOK is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is co-editor of *The United States and Latin America in the 1980s: Contending Perspectives on a Decade of Crisis* (1986), and is currently completing a book on the political economy of Mexican organized labor.

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ABSTRACTS

EMPIRICAL SUPPORT FOR SYSTEMIC AND DYADIC EXPLANATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

By B. BUENO DE MESQUITA AND D. LALMAN

Systemic theorists emphasize the interplay of the distribution of power, the number of poles, and their tightness in predicting the occurrence of major-power war. The authors link individual-level incentives to these systemic constraints as factors that might affect the likelihood of war. They believe that their model specification is more comprehensive than any prior effort to evaluate the impact of structural attributes on the risk of major-power war. Empirical results from the individual-level perspective are encouraging when one examines European crises from 1816 to 1965, but there is no evidence that decision makers were significantly constrained by variations in the structural attributes. Neither the distribution of power nor the number or tightness of poles appears to influence the risk of war.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF WARS OVER TIME

By E. D. MANSFIELD

Much of the empirical research on war has been conducted using only one of a number of data sets that have been compiled by leading scholars of international politics. In view of the low correlation among the data sets, however, one must be cautious in choosing between them for whatever task is at hand. The preliminary findings indicate that, regardless of which data set is used, many of the central tests of important hypotheses concerning Kondratieff waves, international trade, and hegemony and war yield much the same results.

AUTHORITARIAN STATES, CAPITAL-OWNING CLASSES, AND THE POLITICS OF NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING COUNTRIES:

THE CASE OF INDONESIA

By R. ROBISON

In the past three decades, the Suharto regime has presided over the rapid industrialization of Indonesia and the development of its capital-owning classes. A complex relationship between state and capital has emerged, based upon structural factors (the need to maintain investment, economic growth, and a revenue base) as well as instrumental factors (the involvement of officials in business as state managers of capital and private investors). Recently, however, significant tensions have emerged between the interests of the regime and its officials on the one hand, and the interests of various elements of the capital-owning classes on the other, in response to broader structural pressures for economic change.

These tensions and pressures are a challenge to the pact of domination between state officials and their corporate allies, the system monopolies and protection from which corporate capital emerged, and the nature of political domination exerted by officials over the state apparatus. Although the growing social and economic power of the capital-owning classes is not being converted into formal instrumental control over the state apparatus, economic strategies and political and economic alliances are being restructured, resulting in important shifts in the nature of Indonesian authoritarianism.

SOCIAL CHOICE AND SYSTEM STRUCTURE IN WORLD POLITICS

By J. D. MORROW

This paper analyzes the implications of social choice theory for the study of world politics. A view of the world system as a social choice mechanism leads to the observation that the outcomes of world politics are determined neither by structure nor by preferences alone, but rather by their interaction. Structural change occurs only when the actors cannot achieve their preferences through the current system. Three particular social choice mechanisms are

analyzed to determine which conditions of Arrow's theorem they violate. The argument is illustrated by examining two salient theoretical works, Waltz's *Theory of International Politics* and Gilpin's *War and Change in World Politics*. The critique of Waltz illustrates that structure alone cannot determine outcome; the critique of Gilpin examines how structural change occurs in world politics and underlines the importance of preferences in such changes.

“THE SPIRIT OF THE SIERRA MAESTRA”:

FIVE OBSERVATIONS ON WRITING ABOUT CUBAN FOREIGN POLICY

By T. SMITH

For a variety of reasons, explanations of Cuban foreign policy lack in persuasiveness. Some authors adopt a kitchen-sink approach in which any number of factors are adduced to explain Cuban behavior, but they do not pay adequate attention to how these various pieces fit together into a coherent whole. Other writers concentrate on a single factor to explain Cuba's globalism, but in the process load more explanatory power than it can bear onto a sole variable. Still others have a penchant for prescribing proper foreign policy for the United States, with the result that the study of Cuban policy in its own terms is often shortchanged. Only by studying the character, world view, and charismatic influence of Fidel Castro can a center of gravity be found for the study of Cuban foreign policy.

DILEMMAS OF CHANGE IN MEXICAN POLITICS

By K. MIDDLEBROOK

Despite the past resilience of Mexico's authoritarian regime, the severity of the country's post-1982 economic crisis raises major questions concerning the future direction of Mexican politics. This review examines recent developments affecting two key members of the governing revolutionary coalition, the political elite and organized labor. The political elite's unity is potentially threatened by shifts in education and recruitment patterns, and widespread uncertainty regarding Mexico's economic future has produced the most serious intra-elite division since the early 1950s. Prolonged economic crisis has also placed severe strains on state-labor relations, and the government's implementation of a new development strategy may lead to a substantial redefinition of organized labor's overall position in the Mexican regime. These changes pose significant challenges to the political elite's ability to preserve a broad-based governing coalition and political openness while managing the economic crisis and conflicting development priorities.

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