

Editor's Corner

In *Felix Holt, The Radical* George Eliot reminds her readers that "there is no private life that has not been determined by a wider public life." While Eliot is undoubtedly correct, it is also true that the more distant events are from one's life, the harder it is to see the connection between the two.

This issue of *PS* looks at several of those more distant events and to some degree brings them home. Anthony King has written a lively piece on the British party system, which explains the rapid emergence of the new Social Democratic party. Yet, as King notes, the future of the new party is uncertain: it may transform the British party system or it may fade as quickly as it appeared. King recounts the factors which may prove determinative.

Although events in Poland have captured far broader world attention, like those in Britain they are far from self-explanatory. Using Cannes Film Festival's grand prize-winning entry, "The Man of Iron," as a wedge, Adam Przeworski pries loose an explanation of Polish officialdom's response to Solidarity. He makes sense of the events and, as he does so, enlarges one's understanding of power generally. Having read Przeworski's piece, one looks at the events in Poland and says, "Of course!"

Closer to home, Joseph Nye challenges the idea—increasingly voiced—that nuclear proliferation may be less harmful to U.S. interests than was once thought, and he educes a series of actions that the U.S. (and the Soviet Union) can take to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

As Nye demonstrates the stake the U.S. has in nonproliferation, Howard Wiarda makes clear what claims the Third World is making on the U.S., discusses the legitimacy of those claims, and, like Nye,

suggests what might be done. While the North-South debate may seem irrelevant to some Americans and ludicrous to others, Wiarda demonstrates that it is neither. The U.S. participation in the Cancún meeting was an acknowledgement of this reality, even though one might not have realized the particular significance of that gathering without Wiarda's guiding hand.

Political Science

Closest to home, *PS* Notebook features articles most immediate to the profession of political science. John Lane and Sheilah Mann look at employment. Mann's report is retrospective. Lane's view, considerably less sanguine, is prospective. Kenneth Shepsle reviews the pathbreaking scholarship of APSA President-elect William Riker. Finally, Stephen Elkin explains what the burgeoning Conference Group on the Political Economy of Advanced Industrial Societies is studying and why this separate group has formed. Equally valuable is his discussion of the intellectual differences within the group.

PS Format

The reaction of readers to the new *PS* format and to the new section of substantive articles has been extremely positive. The Reagan budget symposium in the last issue was apparently put to good use, especially in classrooms.

This issue brings another small change in *PS*. Two calendars have been added to the section on upcoming conferences. Anyone trying to remember when or where the Southern meeting, for example, will be held should refer to the calendar on key international, national and regional association meetings. This calen-

dar will be a recurring feature of *PS* along with a second calendar listing in chronological order the meetings described in that section.

One last change of particular note is the departure of William Livingston and Naomi Lynn, who are rotating off the editorial board of *PS*. I have appreciated their encouragement and support, as well as their fine suggestions. As editorial board chairman, Bill Livingston has con-

tributed much time and effort to *PS*, and the popularity of the journal during his tenure attests to his success.

Once again I urge you to write if you have technical or substantive suggestions for any of the sections of *PS*. Also, if you wish to respond to or reflect on the articles printed here, write me at the national office. Every effort will be made to make room in *PS* for well-articulated responses.

Catherine E. Rudder

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