

Volume 10 Part 4 October–December 1990

Journal of Public Policy

<https://doi.org/10.1017/psp.43814300006036> Published online by Cambridge University Press

Cambridge University Press

Journal of Public Policy

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To understand public policy it is necessary to relate ideas to concrete problems of government. This *Journal* therefore publishes articles that use concepts derived from any of the social sciences to analyse a significant problem facing contemporary governments.

Good ideas, like the problems of the contemporary world, admit no boundaries. Articles that make explicit comparisons across nations are particularly welcome. Every article is intended to be relevant across national boundaries, dealing with problems common in many societies.

The problems of the contemporary world unite what academic disciplines and national political systems tend to keep apart. Substantive concerns come first. Methodology and concepts should be instrumental in achieving analytic purposes and concepts and theories should be grounded in an awareness of government *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Journal of Public Policy (ISSN 0143-814X) is published quarterly. The subscription price (which includes postage) of volume 10, 1990, is £56.00 UK, £61 elsewhere (US \$99.00 in USA and Canada) for institutions, £29.00 (US \$50.00 in USA and Canada) for individuals ordering direct from the Press and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. Single parts cost

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