
Editor's Corner

Political science is a discipline preoccupied with understanding and explaining the dynamics of social change. Whether it be the content of public programs, voter preferences, or party organization and rules, political scientists seek to uncover the preconditions, process and prospects for change. Is it any wonder then that we are fascinated by Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet Union? The Soviet Union appears to be a society preoccupied with change. This issue's symposium examines the three faces of change in the USSR: *glasnost* (openness), *perestroika* (restructuring), and *novoye myshleniye* (new thinking). As symposium author Peter Zwick states in his article examining foreign policy under Gorbachev, the three dimensions of change are interconnected: "new thinking in foreign policy contributes to the restructuring of the Soviet economy, and domestic economic and political openness influence the implementation and direction of Soviet foreign policy."

William E. Odom lays out the three puzzles reformists have had to contend with historically: agriculture, nationality, and military security. Odom cautions against too readily accepting the reality or eventuality of change in the USSR. Economic development, ethnic and cultural diversity, and security remain as formidable obstacles to successful change for Gorbachev as they were for Lenin, and Peter the Great before him.

Ellen Mickiewicz explains *glasnost* in the media. Indeed, she points out that the media has become the instrument through which reform is promoted, a countervailing instrument to the intransigence of party conservatives and the traditional bureaucracy. The power of the media is echoed in Rasma Karklins' essay on the nationality question in the USSR. The recipient of the 1987 Ralph J. Bunche

Award for her book *Ethnic Relations in the USSR: The Perspective from Below*, Karklins describes how the forces of *glasnost* confronted the Soviet Union's ethnic and cultural pluralism. Gorbachev's policies show the precarious balance being maintained between promoting openness and preventing political disintegration.

Peter Zwick and Roger Kanet portray the impact of "new thinking" in Soviet foreign policy. Pointing to Gorbachev's arms reduction proposals, the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the scaling back of commitments in Eastern Europe and the Third World, Zwick observes that the new directions in foreign policy are real, but that the success of meaningful policy change will depend on the prospects for economic and social change. Kanet goes one step further and declares the end of the postwar era characterized by the global competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Soviet policy, argues Kanet, is reflecting this new reality.

Finally, Valerie Bunce extends the discussion of reform to Eastern Europe. The stresses of political, economic, and social reform are acutely felt in such countries as Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia, perhaps even more so than in the Soviet Union. As Bunce suggests, the Eastern European countries appear to be less able to resist reform altogether, as well as less able to control its course and direction.

The theme of political change is carried on in the "Features" section in Jorge Heine's description of the October 1988 Chilean plebiscite. Of 7.4 million registered voters, 7.1 million took part in the plebiscite, and 55% voted against the continued rule of General Pinochet. From his position as a poll-watcher for one of the winning opposition parties, Heine gives a very personal accounting of the October 5 plebiscite as well as the days leading up to it.

The Profession

Few topics generate as much interest as the question of departmental rankings. To the disappointment of the many who have asked, the Association does *not* rank undergraduate or graduate departments. *PS* authors do, however, and that has always been a source of lively debate. Hans-Dieter Klingemann, Bernard Grofman, and Janet Campagna return to the subject of departmental rankings. The authors identify four ways to rank departments: (1) reputation, (2) publication record, (3) citations, and (4) reputation of student graduates. They rank individuals in five-year cohorts and identify the "Political Science 400." Klingemann, Grofman, and Campagna go still further and rank the departments the "400" graduated from. Departments are thus ranked by the Ph.D.s they produce rather than by the reputations of the faculty they hire. The piece is sure to stimulate debate, and I invite responses for future issues of *PS*.

Future Symposium

Future *PS* symposia will deal with (1) Latin American Debt, and (2) European Integration in 1992. I invite authors to submit papers or paper proposals addressing one of these two themes.

Corrections

In the Fall issue of *PS*, there was a misspelling on page 928 in the story on the Pool papers: the CONTENT NETS heading should have read CONTACT NETS. Under that heading there is an update: Small World Study. Due to the death of Manfred Kochin, January 1989, data will now be available in MIT Archives.

In the March 1989 issue of *PS*, some lines were transposed in Robert Erikson's article, "Why the Democrats Lose Presidential Elections: Toward a Theory of Optimal Loss." On page 34, first column, the sentence beginning in line four should read: "An inadvertent tumble into the 'victory' zone would reduce the equilibrium Democratic vote to barely above 50 percent." In the last paragraph of that column, the sentence beginning on line five should read: "For example, spatial models of party competition generally show both parties converging toward the center, and sometimes show the two parties not converging. But they never show one party converging while the other does not. The model here demonstrates that parties should try to lose the presidency."⁴

We regret any misunderstanding this mixup has caused our readers and apologize to Professor Erikson for the error.

PS Deadlines

The deadlines for *PS*, published quarterly; are as follows:

Issue	Submission Deadline
March	December 1
June	March 1
September	June 1
December	September 1

Please indicate in which section submitted material should be placed. Also, items for *PS* should be submitted in *PS* format, whenever possible.