What Should We Mean by “Pattern of Political Violence”? Repertoire, Targeting, Frequency, and Technique

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Cover Art: Muerte Solidaria de un Raspachín (Solitary Death of a Coca Leaf Picker) was painted in 2008 by Iris, a former rebel combatant in Colombia’s civil war. About 80 former rank-and-file members of paramilitary and rebel organizations, as well as government soldiers, painted 420 paintings in workshops organized by Colombian artist Juan Manuel Echavarría over a two-year period. The purpose of this historical memory project was to bring “The War We Have Not Seen,” as the exhibition of paintings was called, to the Colombian public. It particularly sought to document the experience of the rural youth—many recruited as child fighters—who largely fought the war. Painted on detachable panels to ensure their portability, the paintings were exhibited in major cities of Colombia, including Medellín, Cali, and Bogotá, and in Miami, USA; Bordeaux, France; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. For more information see the essay by exhibition curator Ana Tiscornia at http://www.laguerraquenohemosvisto.com/english/ensayo_tiscornia.html.
Review Essays

116 Political Liberalism: Political, not Philosophical
Bernard Yack

122 Civic Innovation: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Carmen Sirianni

129 The Politics of Overseas Military Bases
Andrew I. Yeo

137 An Ignorant and Easily Duped Electorate?
David O. Sears

142 Behind and Beyond the Return of Religion
Meirav Jones

Review Symposium

148 Elections and Responsive Government
A Discussion of Christopher H. Achen and Larry M. Bartels’
*Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*
Antje Schwennicke
Elizabeth F. Cohen
Neil Roberts
Andrew Sabl
Isabela Mares
Gerald C. Wright

163 Grading States and Global Governance
A Discussion of Alexander Cooley and Jack Snyder’s *Ranking the World: Grading States as a Tool for Global Governance*
Milja Kurki
Pippa Norris
Bo Rothstein
Philippe C. Schmitter

Critical Dialogues

170 Reviews and Responses
Steven Johnston
*American Dionysia: Violence, Tragedy, and Democratic Politics*

Ben Agger and Timothy W. Luke
*Gun Violence and Public Life*

176 Reviews and Responses
John Medearis
*Why Democracy Is Oppositional*

Emily Beaulieu
*Electoral Protest and Democracy in the Developing World*
182 Reviews and Responses
Daniel Schlozman
When Movements Anchor Parties: Electoral Alignments in American History
Michael T. Heaney and Fabio Rojas
Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11

186 Reviews and Responses
Deva R. Woody
The Politics of Common Sense: How Social Movements Use Public Discourse to Change Politics and Win Acceptance
Charles T. Lee
Ingenious Citizenship: Recrafting Democracy for Social Change

193 Reviews and Responses
Diana C. Mutz
In-Your-Face Politics: The Consequences of Uncivil Media
Kyle Mattes and David P. Redlawsk
The Positive Case for Negative Campaigning

199 Reviews and Responses
Sven-Oliver Proksch and Jonathan B. Slapin
The Politics of Parliamentary Debate: Parties, Rebels and Representation
Kathryn Pearson
Party Discipline in the U.S. House of Representatives

Book Reviews

POLITICAL THEORY
204 Fritz Allhoff, Adam Henschke, and Bradley Jay Strawser, Binary Bullets: The Ethics of Cyberwarfare. Review by Robert J. Domanski
209 Robert J. Domanski, Who Governs the Internet? A Political Architecture. Review by Heather M. Roff
212 Gerald Gaus, The Tyranny of the Ideal: Justice in a Diverse Society. Review by Christopher Cochrane
213 Robert E. Goodin and James S. Fishkin, Political Theory Without Borders. Review by Bettina Scholz
215 Norman Levine, Marx’s Rebellion Against Lenin. Review by Terrel Carver
222 Jon A. Shields and Joshua M. Dunn, Passing on the Right: Conservative Professors in the Progressive University. Review by Donald A. Downs

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March 2017 | Vol. 15/No. 1
Review by Sandipto Dasgupta
Review by James Martel
Review by Susan P. Liebell
Review by Jonathan Peter Schwartz
232  Rafi Youatt, *Counting Species: Biodiversity in Global Environmental Politics.*
Review by Peter F. Cannavo

**AMERICAN POLITICS**

Review by Brian Frederick
235  Daniel Carpenter and David A. Moss, *Preventing Regulatory Capture: Special Interest Influence and How to Limit It.*
Review by Paul J. Quirk
Review by Douglas L. Kriner
Review by Susan P. Liebell
Review by Shannon Gleeson
241  Jill S. Greenlee, *The Political Consequences of Motherhood.*
Review by Michelle D. Deardorff
Review by Philippa Strum
Review by Julie Sze
245  Michael G. Miller, *Subsidizing Democracy.*
Review by Jonathan Mendilow
247  Helen V. Milner and Dustin Tingley, *Sailing the Water’s Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy.*
Review by Linda Fowler
Review by Gregory A. Huber
Review by Joseph E. Uscinski
Review by James M. Glass
252  Alice Sardell, *Insuring Children’s Health: Contentious Politics and Public Policy.*
Review by Ted Marmor
Review by Michael Franz
Review by Steven E. Schier
Review by Helen J. Knowles
Review by Mark Fenster
258  Donald A. Zinman, *The Heir Apparent Presidency.*
Review by Joel K. Goldstein

**COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

Review by Jennifer M. Piscopo
261  Stephanie M. Burchard, *Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
Review by Nicholas Rush Smith
263 William A. Callahan, China Dreams: 20 Visions of the Future. 
Review by Bruce J. Dickson

264 Neslihan Çevik, Muslimism in Turkey and Beyond: Religion in the Modern World. 
Review by Robert Mason

265 Jamie S. Davidson, Indonesia’s Changing Political Economy: Governing the Roads. 
Review by Alex Grainger

267 Agustina Giraudy, Democrats and Autocrats: Pathways of Subnational Undemocratic Regime Continuity within Democratic Countries. 
Review by Jennifer Gandhi

Anders Hellström, Trust Us: Reproducing the Nation and the Scandinavian Nationalist Populist Parties. 
Review by Takis S. Pappas

Review by Graham Wilson

272 Richardo Soares de Oliveira, Magnificent and Beggar Land: Angola since the Civil War. 
Review by Inge Amundsen

Review by Ahmed Khatami

275 Tianna S. Paschel, Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil. 
Review by Bernd Reiter

276 Hiroki Takeuchi, Tax Reform in Rural China: Revenue, Resistance, and Authoritarian Rule. 
Review by Jie Lu

278 Aili Mari Tripp, Women and Power in Postconflict Africa. 
Review by Sarah Shair-Rosenfield

279 İliter Turan, Turkey’s Difficult Journey to Democracy: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back. 
Review by Michael Wuthrich

280 Anke Weber, Wesley Hiers, and Anaïd Flesken, Politicized Ethnicity: A Comparative Perspective. 
Review by Nicole Stokes-DuPass

Review by Daniela Braun

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

283 Aaron Franklin Brantly, The Decision to Attack: Military and Intelligence Cyber Decision-Making. 
Review by Gueź Salinas

284 Robert L. Brown, Nuclear Authority: The IAEA and the Absolute Weapon. 
Review by Miles A. Pomper

Amy E. Eckert, Outsourcing War: The Just War Tradition in the Age of Military Privatization. 
Review by Deborah Avant

Review by Elena V. McLean

Review by Kristi Heather Kenyon

Jonathan Kirshner, American Power after the Financial Crisis. 
Review by Herman Mark Schwartz

Review by Evan Braden Montgomery

Review by Manfred Elsig

Review by Thomas Hale

296 Patrick Mello, Democratic Participation in Armed Conflict: Military Involvement in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. 
Review by Anja Jetschke

298 Kurt Mills and David Jason Karp, Human Rights Protection in Global Politics: Responsibilities of States and Non-State Actors. 
Review by Patrice C. McMahon

299 Alex Mintz and Carly Wayne, The Polytank Syndrome: U.S. Foreign Policy Decisions on 9/11, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and ISIS. 
Review by Aaron F. Brantly

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592716004072 Published online by Cambridge University Press
Review by Luca Ratti

Thomas Nail, *The Figure of the Migrant.*
Review by James A. Chamberlain

Review by John S. Odell

Review by Kelly-Kate S. Pease

Andrew A. G. Ross, *Mixed Emotions: Beyond Fear and Hatred in International Conflict.*
Review by Jelena Subotic

Ole Jacob Sending, *The Politics of Expertise: Competing for Authority in Global Governance.*
Review by Peter M. Haas

Review by Alastair Smith

Peter Wallensteen, *Quality Peace: Peacebuilding, Victory, and World Order.*
Review by Steve McDonald

Review Index
Timely APSA Report Explores Inequalities in the Americas

The Double Bind: The Politics of Racial and Class Inequalities in the Americas

The 2016 task force report “The Double Bind” investigates how race and class interact to produce political, social, and material inequalities in the nations of the Americas. Political science has begun to pay greater attention to the causes and consequences of inequality, but the recent literature on inequality in political science has focused on how rising income inequality affects political representation. The task force delves further.

The authors grapple with both the problem of rising socioeconomic inequality as well as the multifaceted racial gaps that exist throughout the Americas. They examine how race and class inequalities are epiphenomena of politics. They organized their inquiries around the role of institutions, social movements, party politics, and the mobilizing power of group memberships. They found that low socioeconomic status and the incentives of the party system hinder ethnorracial minorities from translating their demographic potential and civic participation into meaningful socioeconomic gains. This disparity persists even in countries where minorities represent a large percentage of the population and participate actively in elections.

Read “The Double Bind” at http://www.apsanet.org/inequalities. This timely report is a free digital publication written to expand public knowledge and inform policy. Feel free to download share it with colleagues.

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