

Editorial Forward

This second issue of The New England Journal of Political Science offers an eclectic sample of the literature of this discipline. That characteristic is intended to be typical of this journal, not only within political science but beyond that particular discipline. Political science has an especially attractive advantage of being a social science discipline that embraces (or, at least, potentially embraces) all other academic and scholarly disciplines and endeavors. Just as politics touches upon all areas of human existence so, too, should its critical study be approached in a self-consciously expansive manner.

This issue is a particularly interdisciplinary one. Its scholarly articles, as well as its commentaries on the politics of the New England states, examine a wide array of subjects that include disciplines that extend beyond political science and, even, beyond the social sciences. Christopher Newman's article examines an important, but little appreciated, incident in American history. The story of the "Knight Riders" – a group that opposed, through direct action, a trust established among certain tobacco interests that paralleled the anti-monopolistic economic policies of the presidential administration of Theodore Roosevelt. That article is followed by one by Laurel Elder and Stefanie Chambers that focuses upon the status, culture, and socio-economic condition of Native Americans and the effect of American federalism upon that group. That article is followed by an extremely detailed study by Roger D. Masters on the interplay of science and public policy, providing an interdisciplinary appreciation of the influence that each field has upon the other one and the potential undermining of public health that potentially can result. Then, Robert

Chisholm provides an interpretation of political and economic development that is grounded upon a sophisticated inquiry into a sophisticated philosophical concept with ancient roots and distinctly modern implications.

Additionally, there are two separate reports on events in New England state politics. A report on Maine's conflict regarding a proposal to introduce casino gambling into the state provides an interesting insight into conflicting trends of the state's political culture. Another report analyzed the controversies that led to the initiation of impeachment proceedings against Connecticut Governor John Rowland (regarding various claims of widespread misconduct) that prompted his resignation. Rather than simply reporting the event, this essay uses it as a means for a further critical evaluation of the legal and constitutional implications of impeachment within this state and as a case study in federal and state approaches to this important institutional phenomenon.

This issue rises to the highest aspirations of the original mission of this journal. These excellent articles and reports celebrate the diversity of this discipline and the scholarly community that has produced it. All of them also offer extremely pertinent public policy proposals and implications that reveal the practical importance of the academy within the "real world" of politics. Readers will not be disappointed in the depth of these analyses and the thought provoking consequences of reviewing all of them.