

Editor's Forward

We are pleased to present Volume VIII, Number 2 (Fall 2015) of the *New England Journal of Political Science*. This issue contains three interesting articles for your reading and thinking pleasure. Leading off is a piece by Kyle Kopko et al. examining the politics behind the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Many of you likely saw this piece featured in a story in the *New York Times*. Next up is an innovative piece from Jeremy Hansen on the 2014 general election in Vermont. Our final article in this issue has Sergei Bielashko digging into the origins of the political turmoil in contemporary Ukraine. This issue also features a Connecticut state report from Stefanie Chambers and a Maine state report from Jim Melcher. This issue has the second round of our newly added book review section with reviews from Robert Klotz and Charles Hankla. We once again ask you to direct your publishers to send us your new book publications for review.

As always I have had a good deal of assistance in getting this volume ready for publication. Tess Marchant-Shapiro of Southern Connecticut State University performed her usual outstanding job of copyediting even as she took on new administrative responsibilities. Paul Petterson of Central Connecticut State University once again directed our State Reports section with great efficiency. This issue also formally welcomes Peter Lindsay of Georgia State University as our Book Review Editor. Technical Advisor Odeh Halaseh of Kent State University put the finishing touches on this issue. As always, a big debt is owed to our anonymous reviewers. Their work is crucial in the scholarly endeavor, and I very much appreciate their time and effort. Those who reviewed for Volume VIII are listed at the end of this issue.

As always, I close by asking you to consider us as an outlet for your work, and to encourage your colleagues and graduate students to do so as well. We have seen somewhat of an uptick since my last plea, but we would gratefully accept more submissions. Also, anyone interested in perhaps contributing to our State (and hopefully Province) Reports section should contact Paul Petterson at Central Connecticut State University (pettersomp@ccsu.edu). We hope you enjoy this issue of the *New England Journal of Political Science*.

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Editor-in-Chief