

Abstracts

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Leader und Follower – Outline of an Inter-personal Approach to the Analysis of Political Leadership

Over the past years, the concept of leadership has continuously drawn attention in the political science community and with decision-makers in Germany alike. However, scholarly debates regularly pinpoint to the over-complexity of the phenomenon and the difficulties for scholarly inquiry into the matter. We argue that the predominant reliance on actor-centric institutionalist approaches has greatly inhibited analytical progress by generating a vast variety of independent variables that overwhelm any comprehensive framework. Instead, we offer an inter-personal approach to the analysis of political leadership that introduces a variable so far neglected in the German discourse on leadership: follower. Drawing predominantly on insights of Anglo-American studies we conceptualize leadership as a social institution of two interdependent actors, i.e. leader and follower, and sketch out a framework to measure the performance of executive political leadership.

Martin Krzywdzinski

Interest Representation in Central Eastern European Transformation Countries: Labor and Social Policy in Poland

The article examines the labor code and the pension system reforms in Poland. Trade unions were the best organized interest group and were involved in all governing coalitions during the preparation of the reforms. However, their ability to transform the participation in government to actual influence was dependent on their ability to mobilize social protest, and on the actor constellation within the government. The ideological position of the government on the left-right axis was of low importance to the outcome of the reforms. Changes of the trade unions' mobilization capabilities and of the inner-governmental actor constellations led to alternating phases of labor inclusion and labor exclusion. The resulting policy represented a mix of different models of welfare and labor regulation.

Richard Saage

Tolerance and Democracy Reflections on the Beginning and Future of Modern Pluralism

An influential tradition in the history of political ideas considers religious tolerance and civil liberties the achievement of the strong state in early modern times. Another paradigm of establishing religious tolerance is rooted in the fight of the Netherlands for independence from Spanish absolutism in the sixteenth century and the conflict of the British Parliament with the King in 1642 to 1649. Both historical cases reveal that tolerance became a natural right which the state had to protect. To which degree were these historical foundations relevant for Ernst Fraenkel's concept of modern pluralism after World War II? His approach is considered as a much more successful model of pluralistic conflict than its authoritarian version. It can be considered as an adequate response to the challenge of postmodern relativism and religious fundamentalism.

Hans-Jörg Sigwart

Crisis of Modernity and Modern Democracy: Eric Voegelin's Neo-classical Interpretation of Western „Civil Government“

The perspective on Voegelin's work has remained rather narrow. Most interpreters of his political thinking focus on his critique of the totalitarian movements of the 20th century and characterize his perspective as a radical critique of modernity altogether. By raising the question of Voegelin's understanding of modern democracy I suggest a more differentiated reading of his work. His interpretation of the peculiarly Western form of „civil government“ emphasizes the constitutive role of the „articulated individual“ for the self-understanding of modern Western societies. He argues that this very core idea of democratic civil government, while being specifically modern, at the same time is connected by a complex, self-critical continuity with the classical political thinking of the Western tradition. Thus Voegelin's understanding of modern democracy suggests the idea of a „neo-classical“ political modernity.