

From the editors

Evolution, public goods, and the state

We are pleased to introduce this special issue of *Politics and the Life Sciences*. A series of essays focus on evolution, public goods, and the state. One essay (by Peter Corning of the Institute for the Study of Complex Systems) will appear in the next issue of this journal. As David Goetze notes in his introductory essay, this is a subject ripe for analysis (page 2 in this issue):

The articles in this issue attempt to extend the mini-revolutions into yet another field, the field of evolutionary biology, by demonstrating (1) the crucial role that public goods may have played in the evolution of sharing behavior and collective identity, not exclusively, but primarily of the human sort and (2) how public goods contribute to the explanation of evolved social

behaviors, in particular, those behaviors that are precursors of the formation of the state.

Somewhat to our surprise, we have enjoyed our role as editors of this collection of essays. The authors have been most responsive to the suggestions of the referees and we thank them for smoothing the review process. And, of course, we would be truly ungrateful if we did not also thank the referees who, playing a critical role in making this issue possible, gave generously of their time and expertise.

Albert Somit
Steven A. Peterson
Special Issue Co-Editors, September 2007

doi: 10.2990/26_2_1