

Editorial Foreword

FRONTIERS. In the first volume of *CSSH* (1:3) Dietrich Gerhard analyzed the effect of frontiers on culture, and the Hungarian and Burmese frontiers were studied in detail by den Hollander and Leech (3:1). Now the topic returns, but Martin Katzman's concern is to explain the differing forms of settlement on Brazilian frontiers, and his answers look to the sort of world capitalist system hypothesized by Immanuel Wallerstein (16:4).

POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL ALLOCATION. Despite his many reservations, Gabriel Ben-Dor sees promise for future political theory in Samuel Huntington's ideas of institutionalization much as Shiner, in the last issue, found something to salvage in the concept of modernization itself. Theories of institutions can provide the bridge between micro and macro analysis, Ben-Dor argues, if they attend to the values that institutions incorporate—as Eisenstadt (1:1), de Vere Allen (12:2), and Armstrong (14:1) have done for bureaucracies.

One function of political institutions—social allocation—is receiving increased attention, and Stone in this issue underscores the constraints of the economic system much as Katzman does. Instead of looking at attitudes toward charity (as Tierny did, 1:4), the policies and organization of social security (as Rimlinger did, 4:1), or even at cost-benefit analysis (in the manner of Perlman, 8:4), his quantitative study puts major social allocations in the context of the government's role in the total economy. For Latin America, at least, the results suggest how limited the choices of liberal governments are.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY. Patrick Harrigan and Walter Connor analyze how educational systems serve in practice to sustain the established status of social groups while spurring limited mobility. Both find that social aspirations tend to outrun opportunity and that traditional curricula retain higher prestige than those teaching new and needed skills, findings consonant with the thoughtful essays of Marius Jansen and Lawrence Stone (9:3) and Robert Palmer (13:1).

CEREMONIAL SPACE. Peacock, Nash (both in 10:3) and Crumrine (12:4) have pointed out the rich significance of ritual in public drama, but Mona Ozouf with this article opens a new rubric in *CSSH*; and the editors hope others will follow with further studies of the ceremonial use of space, an exciting topic that can draw from many disciplines to cast light on political mobilization, urbanization, and the self-conscious ritual employed by new institutions.