

## SUMMARIES

### **Not Many Votes, but a Lot of Influence. Nationalisms and Nationalist Parties in Europe**

by Pietro Grilli di Cortona

Recent democratizations and state- and nation-building processes in post-communist Europe have promoted the new wave of salience of the nationalist cleavage in Europe with renewed agitation by minority groups and nationalist movements. This article deals in comparative perspective with nationalist parties, a specific type of party which has until now attracted little scholarly attention.

After a brief explanation of the origins of the European nationalist and ethnoregionalist cleavages, the author analyses the different connotations euronationalisms and nationalist parties have taken through space and over time. He also attempts to explain why these minority and sometimes electorally irrelevant parties have on many occasions achieved impressive success with their policies: for example, the creation of a federal state in Belgium during the 1990s, the introduction of the devolution bills in the United Kingdom, the «velvet divorce» between Czechs and Slovaks.

Another purpose of the article is to propose some criteria for a typology of nationalist parties. The main difference the author stresses is between a traditional ethnocentric nationalism and the «new nationalism» of local and territorial entities and regions that feel more capable than distant bureaucracies in managing their affairs. The recent behaviour of minorities and their renewed political mobilization are probably symptomatic of broad changes in attitudes towards the territory and towards the existing States.

## **The Horizon of Cooperation. The Debate on Relative Gains in International Relations Theory**

by Filippo Andreatta e Mathias Koenig-Archibugi

This article critically examines the dispute between realists and institutionalists on the conditions facilitating or hindering international cooperation and suggests a new solution. Realists base their scepticism about the possibility of cooperation in the international arena on the desire of the states to prevent a decrease of their relative power vis-à-vis other states, assuming that they are willing to forgo substantial absolute gains in order to avoid this outcome. In this article, the authors use two-person non-cooperative game theory to show that the «problem of relative gains» is ultimately an instance of the general problem of agreement instability. The problem can be solved if and when the conditions specified by institutionalist theory are present. A better understanding of «the logic of absolute gains» is also necessary because it helps to understand why cooperation can be difficult or absent even in those situations when, according to «the logic of relative gains», it is necessary, i.e. when two or more states face a common threat to their security.

## **Thirty years, 253 authors, 14422 pages of political science**

by Giacomo Sani and Guido Legnante

The article presents an analysis of the writings published in this journal from 1971 to 2000, a total of 460 contributions. The results provide an overview of three decades of Italian political science through the pages of its most long-standing specialized periodical. The authors have classified the materials from several points of view: number and nationality of the authors, topics, research approaches, type of data, data analysis techniques, and style of presentation. It is shown that most articles have been written by Italian political scientist authors but with significant contributions by many of the key international figures in the discipline. Wide variety of interests, theoretical concerns, attention to conceptual formulations and empirical research appear to have been constant characteristics of the writings published over the last three decades.

## **Herbert Simon's Legacy in Political Science**

by Donatella Campus

This article analyzes the contribution made by Herbert Simon to political science. The author argues that the cornerstone of Simon's thought, the notion of bounded rationality, exerted a remarkable influence on several subfields of political science, especially on the theory of public administration and on the studies of electoral behavior. Two bodies of research that are now much influential in political science, new-institutionalism and political cognition, have both originated from Simon's reflections on how human beings go about solving problems and making decisions. Simon's notion of bounded rationality should be considered as one of the most radical challenge advanced against the imperialism of rational choice theory in the social sciences. It actually consists of an alternative paradigm focussing on people's cognitive processes and stressing the importance of detailed empirical research. Without understanding how people think and how they arrive at the decisions they make, Simon taught us, we cannot explain any economic, political, and social phenomenon. All things considered, this is Simon's major legacy.

## **Theories of the transition and the analysis of the political system: the Italian case**

by Gianfranco Pasquino

Reviewing the book devoted by Sergio Fabbrini to the Italian transition, the author makes three major criticisms. The first is that the book does not provide a precise formulation of what a transition really is and, therefore, does not satisfactorily identify the beginning of the Italian transition. The second criticism is that there is no attempt to utilize some of the existing theories to explain the Italian case. The reviewer strongly suggests that Easton's systems analysis might be a useful starting point. In fact, in the Italian as well as in several other transitions, the three major components of the political system: the political community, the regime, and the authorities, are significantly affected. Fabbrini does not refer to Easton's systems analysis and makes little use of the theory of the veto players as articulated by Tsebelis. The third criticism refers to the very episodic comparison between the Italian transition and the French transition that led to the Fifth Republic. On the one hand, the reviewer points to the fact that the Fourth French Republic was the most similar case to the First Italian Republic and, on the other hand, strongly suggests, contrary to Fabbrini's conclusion, that the French semipresidential solu-

tion might satisfactorily work in Italy as well. In the end, this review article underlines the need for the cumulation of knowledge, for the reliance on existing theories, and for the comparison of whole political systems in order to obtain a better understanding of the transitions to democracy.