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Instructions to Contributors. Manuscripts should conform to the *APSA STYLE MANUAL*, should not exceed 40 pages in length, and should be accompanied by an abstract. Send four copies of the manuscript, three of which have all identifying references deleted, to Editor, *Midsouth Political Science Journal*, Dept. of Political Science, University of Central Arkansas, Conway AR 72035. Research manuscripts and review essays pertinent to all field of political science are welcome.

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Editor's Note

The papers in this issue and the last were presented at the Conference on *Building Democracy in One-Party Systems* held at the University of Central Arkansas, April 14-16, 1991. Co-sponsored by MPSJ, the UCA Honors College, the UCA Foundation, and UCA International Programs, the conference was held to explore ways in which the Southern experience of democracy in the absence of partisan competition might provide lessons valuable to builders of democracy in Eastern Europe and emergent nations, and ways in which our own brand of democracy might benefit from the fresher perspectives of those builders. The Conference was organized around four theme panels: (1) "Building Democracy in Theory," (2) "The Southern Experience of Democracy," (3) "Building Democracy in Place of Communism," and (4) "Building Democracy in LDCs."

In the last issue, papers from the first two panels were presented. Those from the first panel covered topics ranging from the critical, *postdemocratic* views of Havel to the mainstream, liberal democratic thought of Dahl, Sartori, and others. The institutional/procedural requisites of democracy received much attention, and the case was made that competitive nominations (as in the Southern Democratic primary and run-off) can contribute to democratic accountability even in polities where party-system development cannot yet support interparty competition. Papers from the second panel focused on the growth of the Republican Party in the Southern United States, in the hope of drawing inferences from that experience for those currently trying to build democratic opposition in environments where none previously was permitted.

In this issue, papers from the latter two panels assay the current status and prospects for democracy in Eastern Europe, China, Taiwan, Central America, and Africa. Coverage of democratization in the Third World and the former "Second World" together is indeed appropriate in 1992: not only are countries from each abandoning (1) planned economies for the market and (2) authoritarian rule for pluralism, but there has occurred a convergence of condition as many post-communist economies have descended to near-Third World standards of living. Can democratization take root and flourish amidst economic need? Will civic cultures unused to democratic ways practice sufficient forbearance?

The role of economic development in democratization, which in the last issue was found not to have contributed very much if at all to two-party democracy in the South, is examined at length here. Remington warns that too-rapid marketization in Eastern Europe could result in dislocation and may tempt many already accustomed to statism to embrace authoritarianism. Copper and M. Kelley counter that market economies abet, not threaten, democratization, and that the hardships of transition are worth enduring. There is agreement, however, on the necessity of a comprehensive, coordinated package of Western assistance to post-communist and less-developed economies alike.

Attention also is paid to the specific authoritarian form that is most likely to threaten democratization: military rule. Remington's Serb and Croat strongmen, Nyang'oro's discussion of militarization in Africa, and Scranton's study of Panama identify co-optation as well as coercion as roots of authoritarianism. Ryan examines various scripts for the external stimulation of political liberalization within such systems and shows that external influence is the captive of security-related supply and demand.

Among the pitfalls that await democratization are the difficulty of consolidating democracy when it is precipitated or even imposed from without, as in Central America (Scranton, Ryan); the similar difficulty of consolidating revolutions from within -- whether popular or imposed from above -- when the pace of such revolutions is too rapid, as in the USSR and Eastern Europe (Remington, D. Kelley); and the difficulty of legitimizing democratic forms when economic inequalities are too great and/or too sudden, as in China (Copper/Remington). Each such condition catches the new, as yet immature political elites unprepared for the rigors of democratic pressure from the bottom up.

Finally, it is worth mention that all of the essays herein are current, as of January, 1992.