THE MIDSOUTH POLITICAL SCIENCE JOURNAL (ISSN 1051-5054)

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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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Editors' Note

The papers in this issue and the next 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 LDCs," and (4) "Building Democracy in Place of Communism."

In this issue, papers from the first two panels are presented. Those from the first panel cover topics that range from the fresh, critical postdemocratic views of Havel (James Lea & Edward Wheat) to the mainstream, liberal democratic thought of Dahl, Sartori, and others (Donald Whistler). The institutional or procedural requisites of democracy receive much attention (Whistler; Ralph Goldman), and the case is made that competitive nominations procedures (such as the Southern Democratic primary and run-off) can contribute to democratic accountability even in polities where party-system development cannot yet support interparty competition (Goldman; Hal Bass).

Yet, it is also evident that the prospects for interparty competition are at an all-time high in traditional one-party settings such as the South, Eastern Europe, and the party-states of Africa (Bass). Papers from the second panel focus on evidence and different scenarios of the growth of the Republican Party in the Southern United States, in the hope of drawing inferences from that experience for those currently puzzling through the task of how to build democratic opposition in environments where none previously was permitted. Contrary to expectations, industrial development does not seem related to the growth of interparty competition (Eric Mackey); however, the apparent spread of Republican support from the top of the ticket down in recent Georgia elections (Charles Bullock III) may hold out some hope that interparty competition will follow in similar fashion from the efforts of attractive opposition leaders (such as Presidents Walesa, Havel, and Yeltsin themselves once were) who emerge to challenge the post-totalitarian regimes.

In the next issue, papers from the latter two panels assay the current status and prospects for democracy in Central America (Margaret Scranton), Sub-Saharan Africa (Julius Nyang'oro and Michael Kelley), Eastern Europe (Robin Remington, Goldie Shabad, and Donald Kelley), and in China and the Pacific Rim (John Copper). Comparison of the different democratization experiences of China and Taiwan, and of post-Franco Spain and Eastern Europe, underline the critical distinction between democratic transition from authoritarianism, on the one hand, and democratic transition from totalitarianism, on the other. These comparisons, together with those drawn between Africa and the "Four Tigers" of the Pacific Rim, also illustrate the critical interaction of economic development and of political culture with democratic development. Of further interest is that the essays that deal with the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Eastern Europe are current, as of January, 1992.