

Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions

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The Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions (HCPI) is designed to serve as a comprehensive reference guide to our accumulated knowledge and the cutting edge of scholarship about political institutions in the comparative context. It differs from existing handbooks in that it focuses squarely on institutions but also discusses how they intersect with the study of mass behaviour and explain important outcomes, drawing on the perspective of comparative politics. The Handbook is organized into three sections:

- The first section, consisting of six chapters, is organized around broad theoretical and empirical challenges affecting the study of institutions. It highlights the major issues that emerge among scholars defining, measuring, and analyzing institutions.
- The second section includes fifteen chapters, each of which handles a different substantive institution of importance in comparative politics. This section covers traditional topics, such as electoral rules and federalism, as well as less conventional but equally important areas, including authoritarian institutions, labor market institutions, and the military. Each chapter not only provides a summary of our current state of knowledge on the topic, but also advances claims that emphasise the research frontier on the topic and that should encourage greater investigation.
- The final section, encompassing seven chapters, examines the relationship between institutions and a variety of important outcomes, such as political violence, economic performance, and voting behavior. The idea is to consider what features of the political, sociological, and economic world we understand better because of the scholarly attention to institutions.

Featuring contributions from leading researchers in the field from the US, UK, Europe and elsewhere, this Handbook will be of great interest to all students and scholars of political institutions, political behaviour and comparative politics.

Jennifer Gandhi is Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Emory

University.

Rubén Ruiz-Rufino is Lecturer in International Politics, Department of Political Economy, King’s College London.

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Editorial Review

Review

With a stellar line-up of brilliant authors and a wide range of chapter topics, the Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions should be indispensable to all scholars of comparative politics and political institutions.

Anna Gryzmala-Busse, University of Michigan

From the birth of modern political science in the early 20th century to contemporary rational choice institutionalism, political institutions have been a defining subject of our discipline. This Handbook covers the full terrain of analytical ideas and empirical regularities discovered by this great tradition and also points the way forward for future scholarship. This is a "must have" for any serious political science collection.

Simon Hix, London School of Economics

Gandhi and Ruiz-Rufino have brought together an outstanding set of scholars to provide a comprehensive treatment of political institutions and their impact. This volume will be essential reading for those interested in exploring the variety of ways in which the formal (and sometimes informal) rules of the game affect political, economic and social outcomes. A major contribution.

Daniel Posner, University of California – Los Angeles

This handbook is exceptionally clear, fresh, empirically rich, and analytically tight. It should be read widely because it is designed to serve as a comprehensive reference guide to accumulated knowledge of political institutions. It challenges some conventional thinking about how formal and informal political institutions operate under various types of government systems. What distinguishes this volume from existing literature is its focus on political institutions and ways they intersect with the study of mass behavior.

K. M. Zaarour, Shaw University, CHOICE recommended

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