

Cambridge University Press

0521843162 - Comparative Politics: Interests, Identities, and Institutions in a Changing Global Order - Second Edition

Edited by Jeffrey Kopstein and Mark Lichbach

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COMPARATIVE POLITICS

SECOND EDITION

Now in a completely updated second edition, this textbook has become a favorite for the introductory undergraduate course in comparative politics. It features ten theoretically and historically grounded country studies that show how the three major concepts of comparative analysis – interests, identities, and institutions – shape the politics of nations. Throughout the presentation, countries appear in the context of a changing global order that creates challenges to each country's path of development. These challenges frequently alter domestic interests and identities and force countries to find new institutional solutions to the problems of modern politics. Written in a style free of heavy-handed jargon and organized to address the concerns of contemporary comparativists, this textbook provides students with the conceptual tools and historical background they need to understand the politics of our complex world.

Jeffrey Kopstein is the author of *The Politics of Economic Decline in East Germany, 1945–1989* (1997). He has published more than 40 articles in scholarly journals and books. He is currently Director of the Institute of European Studies at the University of Toronto.

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**INTERESTS, IDENTITIES, AND INSTITUTIONS IN A
CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER**

SECOND EDITION

Edited by

JEFFREY KOPSTEIN

University of Toronto

MARK LICHBACH

University of Maryland, College Park



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To Max and Isaac Kopstein and to Sammi Jo and Yossi Lichbach

May they someday help repair our world.

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Preface to the Second Edition

This book originated during many hours of pleasant conversation about teaching comparative politics at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Out of these conversations emerged the idea of an introductory textbook that would convey to students the main currents in contemporary comparative politics. These currents are summed up here under three rubrics: interests, identities, and institutions. We decided to illustrate this framework through a series of country studies cast in world-historical perspective. At the same time, we wanted to avoid weighing down the country studies with a heavy-handed or outdated theoretical apparatus that inevitably discourages even the hardest of students. The result, we hope, has struck an acceptable balance between conceptual rigor and flexibility.

To the extent that we have accomplished this, most of the credit is due to our contributors, who have cheerfully taken on our framework without losing what is interesting and distinctive about their country's experience. We are also grateful to the staff of Cambridge University Press and especially Ed Parsons for his professionalism, enthusiasm, and common sense.

As in the first edition, editing this book has been a collaborative act. It represents the tangible result of a long friendship. The order of our names on the cover reflects only the order of the alphabet. Our efforts have been equal in every way. Although both of us have moved on to different universities, this book has allowed us to continue the conversation that started over coffee and ice cream fourteen years ago.

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