

## In the *COMMONWEALTH*

Gerard J. Fitzpatrick, Editor

It seems fitting that four of the five articles in this volume of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association's professional journal concern politics in Pennsylvania. Moreover, these Pennsylvania focused pieces speak to a variety of political science subfields, including political economy, presidential elections, voting behavior, and state government. Providing some topical balance while further extending the fields of interest addressed in this issue of *COMMONWEALTH*, the one non-Pennsylvania essay involves international relations and political theory. In short, ours may be a small journal but it consistently covers much academic territory.

In our lead article, Dr. Gordon P. Henderson underscores the connections between political philosophy and international politics by exploring the thought of Immanuel Kant with regard to the place of morality in foreign affairs. He not only illuminates the theoretical tension between the moral and the political on the world stage, but he also brings these abstract ideas to bear on the contemporary debate between "realists" and "idealists" in foreign affairs. Kant's teachings, Dr. Henderson concludes, support a cautious optimism with regard to the prospects for peace among nations.

Among the most contentious topics in recent years has been the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Dr. Paul G. Kengor and R. C. Phinney examine the impact of NAFTA on Pennsylvania. They find that despite the claim of critics that the treaty would harm the state's economy by causing an exodus of manufacturing jobs to foreign nations, NAFTA has in fact helped Pennsylvania by significantly increasing its overseas exports. While their findings do not resolve the debate over job losses or other controversial aspects of NAFTA, they indicate that there is more to the free trade debate than meets the eye.

One of the most significant developments in presidential electoral politics has been the recent trend toward "frontloading," the process whereby states schedule their presidential primaries increasingly early in hope of having more influence in determining the party nominees. Through a comparison of Pennsylvania and Ohio in the presidential nominating process, Dr. James E. Vike explains why our state has eschewed the frontloading trend, even though scheduling presidential primaries earlier would likely increase candidate competitiveness, campaign activity, voter choice, and voter turnout.

Berwood Yost explains why Republicans control most statewide offices in Pennsylvania, as well as both houses of the state legislature, even though Democrats have a decided edge in voter registration. Using a random survey of Pennsylvania voters to probe the difference between party orientation and party registration, he finds that more Democrats in Pennsylvania identify with the Republican Party than vice versa, indicating that party identification is a better predictor of voting behavior than is party registration. He also identifies some intriguing geographic patterns in the distribution of these "misaligned voters."

This issue of COMMONWEALTH closes with a special feature: the address of former Pennsylvania House Speaker Herbert Fineman to the 2003 meeting of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association, with commentary by Michael Cassidy. Few people know our state legislature as well as Mr. Cassidy does, for he has worked there for a quarter of a century as a member, staff assistant, and scholar. In his commentary, he traces the crucial role Speaker Fineman played in bringing about institutional reform in Pennsylvania, and he places reform developments in the state within the context of the larger legislative modernization movement.

As always, this issue of COMMONWEALTH would not have been possible without quality submissions and quality reviews. I therefore extend my deepest thanks to the authors and anonymous referees with whom I have worked during the past year. By contributing their time and talent, they have helped to make ours an ever better professional journal. Unfortunately, we continue to receive only a small number of manuscripts, most of which are rejected. If issues of COMMONWEALTH as strong as this one are to be produced in a timely manner, readers must submit their work for consideration and urge their colleagues to do so too.