
Letters

On COMMONWEALTH

I have received several phone calls in response to a letter which appeared in the Fall 1987 issue concerning *COMMONWEALTH: A Journal of Political Science*. These inquiries prompt me to expand on a few points in that letter. *COMMONWEALTH* is a general journal, annually publishing important scholarly research and writing from among the many sub-fields and perspectives in the discipline as well as those of an interdisciplinary nature which deal with issues of concern to political scientists; this is reflected in our distinguished Editorial Review Board, which includes scholars of international renown, and in our panel of reviewers. Open to a variety of approaches and methodologies, we seek studies which are based on theoretical perspectives (empirical and/or normative) as well as those which advance knowledge by using historical approaches. *COMMONWEALTH* would particularly encourage scholars studying Pennsylvania state and regional politics and public policy to submit articles for consideration by our referees.

Submissions are still being accepted for Volume 3, and we are particularly interested at this time in manuscripts dealing with American, Comparative and International politics. The preferred length is 15-25 typewritten pages, the number of copies to be submitted is four, and the citation style generally follows APSR (in-text) for references.

A style sheet is available on request, as is information on ordering a copy of Volume 1. I will be pleased to respond to inquiries from prospective contributors who may contact me at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

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Homelessness and Rent Control

The article in the Spring, 1988 issue neglected one very important factor that should be considered when constructing policy concerning the homeless. As Robert Tucker showed in the Sept. 25, 1987 *National Review*, the amount of homeless in a city is related strongest to the presence of rent control. Cities with rent control laws have the highest per capita homeless. The logic is not hard to follow: where rent control is present, landlords are discouraged from renovating and up-keeping buildings, eventually causing their decay and unusability, and developers are reluctant to build or renovate.

Rather than commit more funds to a losing proposition, the abolition of rent control might solve many problems connected with homelessness and give policy-makers a better idea where to allocate assistance.

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