

# Letters

## Dye and Ziegler: A Correction

I must apologize to you and your readers for an error which appeared in an article in *PS*, Winter, 1988.

I do not know if you print corrections, or if this correction merits publication, but I would like this correction to be on record, either in your files or in print.

**CORRECTION:** Table 1 in Dye and Ziegler, "Socialism and Equality in Cross-National Perspective," *PS* (Winter, 1988), should report Ward's Inequality Index for the German Democratic Republic—101 (not 53) and for Cuba—11 (27). The mean for Socialist Inclusive states should be -40 (not -23). These corrections do not significantly affect the coefficients reported or the findings or the conclusions.

Thank you for your patience.

Thomas R. Dye  
*McKenzie Professor of Government*  
*Director, Policy Sciences*

## Quotations Sought

I would be grateful if you could print the following query in your publication:

For the *Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations*, which I am compiling for Oxford University Press, I would welcome contributions of quotations about American law, or by Americans about law in general. Quotations are sought from literary works, philosophical, historical or political writings, humor, folklore, cinema or popular music as well as from strictly legal sources. Fred R. Shapiro, Yale Law School Library, Box 401A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

Fred R. Shapiro

## Journals Available

Planning for retirement, I would like to offer for sale the following collection of journals:

*American Journal of Political Science*, 1967–  
*American Political Science Review*, 1957–  
*American Politics Quarterly*, 1976–  
*Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, 1962–  
*Journal of Politics*, 1957–  
*Political Science Quarterly*, 1955–  
*Social Science Quarterly*, 1967–  
*Western Political Quarterly*, 1962-70.

There are about one dozen missing issues in all and a list of those missing issues can be provided.

Gordon G. Henderson  
220 South 19th Street  
Richmond, IN 47374

## Understanding Change in the USSR

After a detailed empirical study of German social and political conditions, Joseph Schumpeter, one of the century's leading social scientists, concluded, "Only one result of our survey need be emphasized: the very great and perhaps even increasing stability of our social relations. For the foreseeable future there is an overwhelming majority available against any extremist course from whatever side it comes. . . . In no sense, in no area, in no direction is there likely to be a decisive change, rapid movement, or catastrophe."<sup>1</sup> The year was 1929.

I was reminded of this remark as I read your symposium (June, 1989) on recent changes in the USSR. Rather than still more Op-Ed columns on Glasnost and Perestroika, it would have been more appropriate for this particular publication if the Sovietologists had been asked to address why virtually no one in our profession foresaw such developments beforehand. What does this massive failure say about the

methods and theories used in these earlier analyses? What new approaches might put us more in touch with the possibility of rapid transformation in other situations, including our own, that seem equally blocked at the moment? Or do we just stumble ahead, perhaps adding an epicycle or two to our current game plan, until the next social explosion shows us once again just how far we are from really understanding what we are paid to explain?

Bertell Ollman  
*New York University*

1. "Das Soziale Anlitz des Deutschen Reiches," *Aufsätze zur Soziologie* (Tübingen, 1953), p. 225.

## Ranking Political Science Departments: A Response

In the June issue of *PS*, you invite readers' response to the articles by Klingemann, Grofman and Campagna ranking political science departments on the basis of measured citations in *Social Science Citations Index*.

At first I felt too shy to respond to your invitation. After all, I was an unknown. Despite 25 years of professional publications, nobody seemed to cite them. And, of course, Klingemann, Grofman and Campagna claim the authority of "a more objective indicator of standing" than mere reputation. But I was emboldened when a footnote caught my eye. "There is a problem with multiple authorship, since *SSCI* only lists the first author." I remembered that I had co-authored some two dozen articles with those who outrank me alphabetically. I co-authored a widely-used book with my friend Robert Keohane, a distinguished and recognized political scientist who had the good sense to belong to the 11th rather than the 14th place in alphabet. The authors graciously admitted that particular individuals might be slighted by their "objective" methodology, but they did not examine

whether arbitrary exclusions might affect their "objective" ranking of departments. It occurred to me that something might be wrong with an article which fails to examine the potential effect of such arbitrary factors when small numbers are involved. For a moment, I thought

it might be a plot to discredit an insecure profession, but that seemed too devious.

If the editors of *PS* continue to publish such articles, what advice can we give to our students? If you want distinction in this profession, avoid collaboration with those who are

above you in the alphabet? Over time, this would have an interesting effect. Better advice to students (and editors) is to be wary of spurious objectivity in rankings.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr.  
*Harvard University*

## How many political scientists can dance on the head of a pin?

If you are looking for one source listing 9,500 political scientists, their dates of birth, education, honors, employment history, principal publications, and fields of specialization, you will need the *1988 APSA Biographical Directory*. Current addresses and phone numbers are included.

An appendix contains lists of women members, Black and Hispanic members, a geographical index, and a listing of members by each of 21 fields of interest.

APSA members can order a copy of the *Biographical Directory* at a discount price of \$25. The cost for nonmembers is \$35. All orders should add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each copy.

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