

Preface

We are proud to present the third issue of the first year's Volume of Politics, Culture and Socialization.

With articles by scholars from Belgium, The Netherlands, China, and the USA this issue of the journal again, is a truly international issue in the way we prefer it. All articles detail actual phenomena of major importance that nevertheless, until now, hardly have been investigated.

The opening article by Hilde Van Liefferinge, Carl Devos & Kristof Steyvers, deals with the widespread phenomenon of political nepotism ('In the name of the father? The role of family politicization in the political socialization process of Belgian federal election candidates'). All over the world, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, widows, nieces and nephews of (former) politicians seem to roll into politics more easily than candidates from non-political families. This trend is particularly striking in the case of women, who, even in countries where feminism had still to be invented occupied heavy political mandates and became prime-ministers or even presidents and rulers of their country. Some of the most wellknown examples are Indira Ghandi, Eva Peron, Hillary Clinton, and Benazir Bhutto. The small country of Belgium that over the last decade was overwhelmed by male and female candidates who were sons and daughters of successful politicians forms an interesting case for investigating the common phenomenon of political nepotism.

Yet another, but more problematic, actual subject is Islamophobia. Jolanda van der Noll and Henk Dekker, in their article ('Islamophobia; In Search for an Explanation of Negative Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims, Testing Political Socialization Theory') make use of various new and traditional insights from the political socialization domain. The case study is The Netherlands but their aim is to clarify the reason for the fact that this very undesirable trend is increasingly influential in modern Western society. The third article in this issue takes us with it to China and its educational system. Moral values are omnipresent but, these values according to the author Ye Wang Bei from the People's Republic of China especially serve to secure the position of the ruling classes ('China's emphasis on political socialization function in moral education: A power perspective'). How citizens look at immigration is the topic dealt with by Daniel B. German and Dragan Stefanovic ('Immigration Trends and Implications in the United States and Western Europe

Compared: Public Opinion Explored'). In the closing article, Amy Loewenhaar-Blauweiss from the USA describes the Jewish identity and its formation in the time preceding the Holocaust ('Post-Emancipation Jewry and the Betrayal of Bildung).

This third issue of Politics, Culture and Socialization presents, again, a lot of interesting reading materials which I hope everybody will enjoy. Please do not overlook the book review section...

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