

Political Parties and Democracy

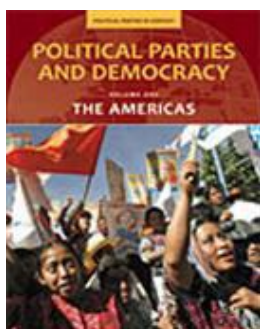
Kay Lawson, General Editor

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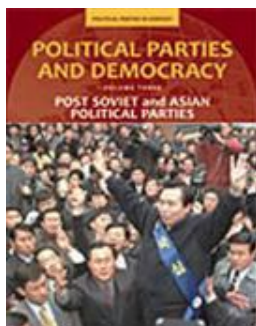
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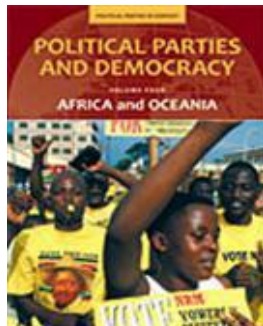
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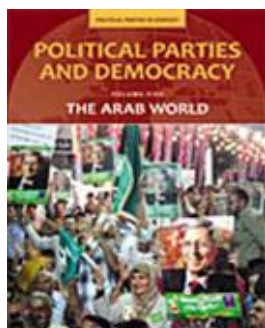
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Kay Lawson, General Editor; Saad Eddin Ibrahim and Kay Lawson, Volume Editors

ISBN: 0-275-97082-5 • ISBN-13: 978-0-275-97082-6 • 260 pages • List Price: \$44.95 (UK £31.95)

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Endorsements for Political Parties and Democracy

"Many of the party systems included in this monumental work are studied here for the first time in a systematic way with unprecedented levels of knowledge and competence by authors who are native to the respective countries. The chapters are not limited to summary descriptions of the systems they study, but present extremely interesting and original insights. Saying that with this work Kay Lawson has set new standards for editorship in the field of political science would be an obvious understatement. *Political Parties and Democracy* is the result of an impressive project that will greatly benefit the scientific community and the volumes it has produced will become fundamental references for political party studies. It will take a very prominent place in every party expert's library."

Luciano Bardi, University of Pisa

"To discover contemporary relationships between political parties and democracy means looking beyond the experience of established systems in the liberal west to the experience of the wider world. This is precisely what Kay Lawson and her team of colleagues do in this five-volume, 46 chapter study. Individual contributions build on the knowledge and wisdom of scholars well grounded in the politics of

their own communities to open new understandings of the multidimensional character of modern party politics. This definitive series lays the groundwork for sweeping cross-notational analyses and will quickly become one of the discipline's essential reference works."

R. Kenneth Carty, University of British Columbia

"An extraordinary achievement! The relationship of political parties to democratic sustainability and viability is the single most important concern in the study of political parties. To see it explored in such depth and within such an international setting is the most welcome of contributions. A consistently strong group of analysts in a work that both breaks down barriers as to what can and should be the subject of scholarly investigation on a comparative basis and an addition to our understanding that has no parallels. Kay Lawson as General Editor richly deserves our thanks."

William Crotty, Northeastern University

"*Political Parties and Democracy* is Kay Lawson's masterwork. It assembles an impressive list of leading scholars to discuss and compare the role of political parties on a global scale. Its five volumes covering 46 nations provide an unprecedented wealth of theoretical and descriptive material on political parties in five continents. With refreshing frankness, the authors discuss both the contributions of political parties to the democratic process and their limitations. It is sure to become a standard reference source for future research on the state of political parties around the world."

Russell J. Dalton, University of California, Irvine

"The Asian party has been largely neglected in comparative politics, but it has a number of interesting characteristics, from the propensity for dynastically based parties in India, to the geopolitically specialized party system in South Korea, to the rise of competitive multiparty systems in countries previously comfortable with one-party dominant systems, such as Malaysia and Japan. Even the Chinese Communist Party has begun some modest internal democratization. This fine collection provides a fascinating overview of party politics in Asia, with a special focus on the prospects for further democratization."

Lowell Dittmer, Political Science and [Asian Survey](#), U. C. Berkeley

"Once again Kay Lawson has amassed an impressive team of leading country-based specialists to provide up-to-date and definitive assessments of the state of parties in their countries of expertise. *Political Parties and Democracy: Europe* is a must-read volume in this important new five-part series."

David Farrell, University College, Dublin, and [Party Politics](#)

"This volume of a world-wide study of parties and party systems focuses on nations in Africa and Oceania. The authors of the chapters are all leading scholars in the field in their respective nations, and their contributions are of the top quality of analysis. The product sets both a benchmark for future research in the field, and an excellent basis for comparative studies. It will be the standard reference work for future scholars."

Dean Jaensch, Flinders University, South Australia

"To learn about the state of party politics across the world, consult Kay Lawson's sweeping five-volume publication, *Political Parties and Democracy*, a monumental, up-to-date survey of party systems in 45 countries. The set of books should be acquired by all research libraries and should sit on the shelves of all scholars doing comparative research on political parties. It provides a combination of breadth and depth, of comparative and particular analysis. While the strength of this multi-volume set lies in its rich and convenient trove of information

about party politics in regions and countries, it also makes important conceptual contributions upon which party scholars may draw."

Kenneth Janda, Northwestern University

"Kay Lawson has edited a multivolume project that will be the gold standard on political parties and democracy for years to come. There are many strengths of this superb collection. The country chapters are written by distinguished specialists from the country they analyze. The chapters provide textured descriptions and report cutting-edge research on parties in countries throughout the world. Chapters are united by a common problematic involving the relationship between parties and democracy, which facilitates crossnational comparisons. Yet the framework is sufficiently flexible to permit authors of country chapters (and readers) to analyze the particular features of the country's parties and party systems. Thanks to Lawson's incisive introductory essays and the framework she developed, the whole of this ambitious project is greater than the sum of its many parts. In brief, a real tour de force!"

Mark Kesselman, Columbia University

"A pathbreaking collection of top-quality writings on party politics by leading scholars around the world, *Political Parties and Democracy* opens a genuinely new frontier of knowledge, expanding the scope of analysis to the entire globe, combining theory with history, and raising a series of new research questions."

Byung-Kook Kim, Korea University

"Kay Lawson's *Political Parties and Democracy* is a tremendous success in giving readers the most recent information and insights about political parties around the globe. The set includes not only excellent contributions on the party systems that exemplify strong democratic regimes like the United States and the United Kingdom, but careful insights on volatile party systems in newer democracies such as Poland, and on systems still transitioning to democratic rule in places as diverse as Kenya and Morocco. The universal challenges to parties as linkage mechanisms in the early 20th century are everywhere apparent."

Robin Kolodny, Temple University

"With six coeditors for different world regions, Kay Lawson has assembled an international team of 54 authors analyzing political parties in their 46 countries, more than half from the under-researched Global South. In this volume many of the governments impede the proper functioning and even the establishment of political parties, yet parties are nonetheless alive in the Arab states of Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, and thriving in neighboring Turkey and Israel. Does this mean political parties are a prerequisite for democracy or are they sometimes rather part of dedemocratization? Obviously the answer depends on the case studied. But Lawson's tomes allow us to watch the whole political mechanism live in all five volumes. This package of concepts and information is a data-bank in its own right. The theory of political parties is finally becoming universal, and their analysis cannot be the same again."

Bahgat Korany, American University of Cairo

"These five volumes represent a huge achievement, and Kay Lawson and Praeger are to be congratulated on having seen the project through to such an impressive conclusion. This is the first time that we have seen such a systematic and comparable treatment of political parties in so many regions of the world. Gathering together the analyses and insights of expert scholars in almost 50 countries around the globe, these volumes offer a remarkably wide-ranging understanding of the relations between political parties, leadership, and democracy in the contemporary world, as well as a set of valuable insights into

the role of parties in processes of democratization and even dedemocratization. This will be a standard work of reference for many years to come."

Peter Mair, European University Institute, Florence

"The five volumes edited by Kay Lawson provide a comprehensive approach to the entire spectrum of parties cutting across all the major arenas of the world, with a general explanation that is as easily applicable to party consolidation as to party failure. The combination of general theory and finely grained empirical studies, by specialists who combine an indigenous insight into 'their' societies with questions of a comparative nature, make the five volumes a comprehensive and concise guide to the increasingly important field of comparative party politics. This important scholarly cross-national analysis of party systems brings political parties under the domain of comparative analysis without excluding political experience that defies the narrow confines of liberalism as a political ideology. A masterly achievement!"

Subrata K. Mitra, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University

"Editing an excellent five-volume set of studies on parties in 46 systematically chosen countries seems an impossible mission. Yet, Kay Lawson attests to the contrary. Teachers on democratic polities, students of comparative politics, and researchers on political parties can find in these volumes a treasure of recent data, analysis, and comprehension.. Country chapters address a similar set of questions, and not fewer than 54 country authors answer them with a wise combination of local expertise and sensibility to more general issues of democratic theory. Lawson has been extremely successful in putting forward a common framework—examining the relationship between parties and democracy—that is able to integrate the study of regions as different as the Americas, Europe, Russia, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and the Arab world. At the end, the five volumes restate once again the utmost relevance of parties within an amazing diversity of political contexts, processes, and institutions. If sometimes there are occasions in which a book is a must for its decisive contribution to our knowledge on political parties, this is certainly one of them."

José Ramón Montero, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

This volume [Africa and Oceania] captures in a unique and highly imaginative way the century old triumphs and trials of political parties and democracy in Africa. The narratives are exceptionally rigorous, historically informed and highly analytical. This volume will undoubtedly occupy a special place in African and comparative studies."

Rwekaza Mukandala, University of Dar es Salaam and Past President, African Association of Political Science

"Parties are an essential, almost universal tool of governing. It is a great achievement by Kay Lawson to take a universal perspective and include countries from around the globe when investigating the multifaceted and varied linkage between parties and democracy. Arguably, the linkage between parties and democracy in Europe is strongest in this part of the world, yet there is at the same time a fascinating diversity of parties and party systems. All general trends need to be analyzed through the prism of national specificities, and that is exactly what this volume does."

Thomas Poguntke, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

"This volume [Post-Soviet and Asian Political Parties] is an invaluable addition to the literature. A number of leading experts in their respective fields have provided up-to-date analyses of developments in party politics in leading post-Soviet countries. Each chapter is firmly embedded in the relevant comparative literature while providing unique insights into the specific features of the case in hand, based on detailed historical understanding. The chapters represent a fine mix of empirical analysis and

theoretical discussion. This is an exemplary collection that will no doubt become an important reference point and indispensable source for future studies."

Richard Sakwa, Russian and European Politics, University of Kent

"This welcome and remarkable collection of original essays covers assessments of political parties in an unusually broad range of countries. Taking into account the critical importance of parties for the operation of democracy, juxtaposed with their weaknesses both as democratic organizations and as agents of state democracy, results in clear and honest assessments of the state of parties today. Bickerton on Canada and Dwyre on the U.S. represent this well-reasoned approach with the confidence that comes from a thorough understanding of their own country's situation."

Mildred A. Schwartz, University of Illinois and New York University

"These five volumes, bringing together the work of 54 authors from 46 nations, provide an exceedingly good source for the comprehensive analysis of the relationship between political parties and diverse political regimes. Lawson's unifying analytical framework and her authors' analyses of so many cases remind us that democratization is an open-ended process, subject to drawbacks, subversion, and long-term stand-offs. The political dynamics of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay cannot be reduced to simplistic accusations of populism. Nor do all traditional democracies - and the parties within them - conform to the democratic ideal. The truth is much more complex."

Lourdes Sola, University of Sao Paulo, and former President of the International Political Science Association

"These volumes provide a valuable in-depth and up-to-date analysis of the state of political parties across five continents, written by country experts, and will be an important source for scholars interested in the comparative study of political parties."

Lars Svåsand, University of Bergen, Norway

"Kay Lawson's multivolume work on the relationship between parties and democracy fills an important gap in our knowledge. It will surprise many that, in the case of the European countries, there should have been such a gap at all, yet in fact relatively little attention has been paid previously to the role of parties in the construction and sustenance of democracy on that continent. Well informed and illuminating, the essays benefit from the common framework imposed on the contributors, making the collection far more than the sum of its parts. There is a good balance between the different regions within the continent. This will surely be a much consulted work."

Alan Ware, Oxford University

Choice Review April 2011

Political parties and democracy: v.1: The Americas; v.2: Europe; v.3: Post-Soviet and Asian political parties; v.4: Africa and Oceania; v.5: The Arab world, general editor Kay Lawson. Praeger, 2010. 5v bibl index afp; \$214.00. ISBN 9780275987060, Reviewed in 2011 apr CHOICE.

Lawson (San Francisco State) has decades of expertise as an international scholar of political parties. In this masterwork, done with coeditors from various regions of the world, Lawson assembles a broad range of indigenous country scholars to assess the linkages among political parties and democracy, given that "Parties are expected to provide the key building blocs of democracy by forming a strong link between citizens and the state." The five volumes can all

stand alone, although some more than others. Volume 1 is on the Americas, both North America (Canada and the US) and Latin America. Volume 2 covers Europe, divided into Western Europe, Scandinavia, and Eastern (East-Central) Europe. Volume 3 looks at post-Soviet and Asian political parties, with a separate regional introduction for each. Volume 4 likewise has two separate foci, one on Africa and one on Oceania. Volume 5 assesses political parties in the Arab world but also includes the neighboring states of Israel and Turkey. Overall no less than 46 countries are included, each of which is placed in a clear national context.

The individual chapters are all thoroughly done with useful references, and combine up-to-date empirical analysis with general theoretical discussion. Common themes include the extent of political competition; the effects of political institutions such as electoral systems; the funding of political parties; the (declining) level of party membership; and the multilevel distinction among parties as organizations (including candidate selection), parties in the electorate, and parties in parliament and government. In some cases the chapters deal with political parties in new democracies; in others, countries where democracy has broken down (or never gotten off the ground). Consequently, in volume 5 there is a specific focus on the structural weaknesses of Arab political parties. Meanwhile in mature democracies, much is expected of political parties, at least in the ideal world: facilitating and mobilizing mass citizen participation in politics and in policy deliberation, aggregating and structuring the vote, recruiting political leaders, and providing party government and accountability to voters (ensuring that government officials and public policies are responsive to the wishes of ordinary voters). In some but certainly not all longstanding democracies these features did occur back in the "golden age" of parties. In any case, though, the chapters in this collection show how political parties now play much less of a role in these various areas, and have often been hollowed out to become largely marketing-based electoral organizations. This change is part of the broader phenomenon Lawson calls "dedemocratization," a phenomenon certainly well advanced in the US as the chapter by Diana Dwyre shows. Lawson emphasizes this democratic deterioration in its various forms in her brief overall conclusions at the end of volume 5.

This sweeping and comprehensive series should be found in all research libraries, as it is necessary for students of democracy, party politics, and comparative politics. It will provide the country information for much future comparative and theoretical analysis. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- A. Siaroff, University of Lethbridge