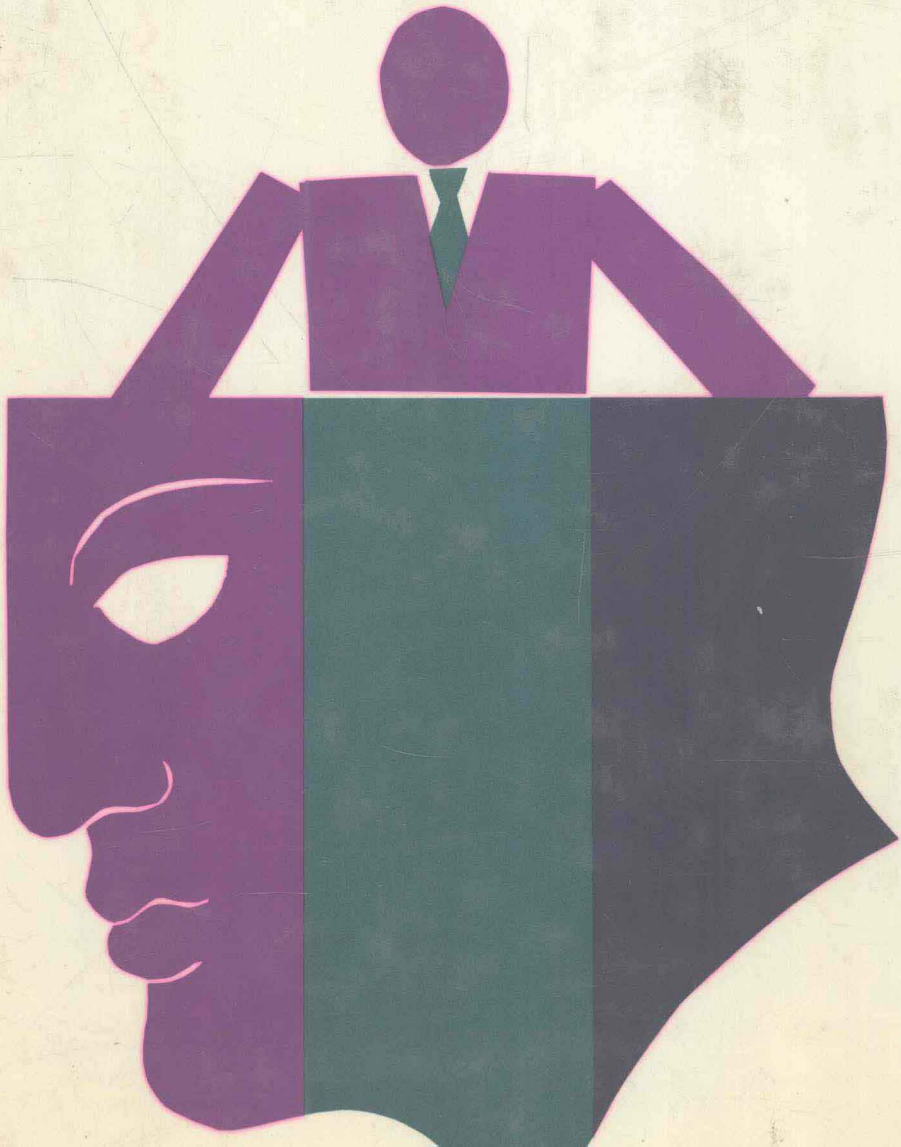


POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Margaret G. Hermann
General Editor





Political Psychology



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POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY
CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS AND ISSUES
Margaret G. Hermann, *General Editor*

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Political Psychology

*Contemporary Problems
and Issues*



Margaret G. Hermann

General Editor



The Jossey-Bass
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Preface

Since the 1973 publication of the *Handbook of Political Psychology*, edited by Jeanne Knutson, the field of political psychology has attracted both attention and people. An international network of scholars and practitioners has begun to coalesce around the many issues and topics described in the *Handbook* as interest has grown in understanding how psychological and political phenomena interrelate. Information has accumulated rapidly. To help those just becoming acquainted with political psychology gain some perspective on what is currently occurring in the field, to consolidate the knowledge of those already working on a particular topic, and to suggest to all how the field has expanded, there has been a recurring call for an update to the *Handbook*. This volume represents that update indicating the growth in our knowledge and the present shape of the field. It brings together in one place discussions of the topics that are the focus of most theory and research in political psychology at this point in time. And it explores the problems that confront political psychologists as they work to expand their understanding of the psychological roots and effects of political behavior.

This book is premised on a bidirectional approach to political psychology. Thus, chapters examine how psychological factors affect political behavior as well as how political factors affect psychological functioning and performance. Part One of the book, "Humans as Political Animals," examines the first half of this equation, suggesting how an individual's biological makeup, needs, values, beliefs, life experiences, and psychodynamics help shape his political views of the world and his political activity. Part Three, "The Political Environment," explores the reverse question, namely the effects of the political environment on what people believe and value and how they act. This section considers what is involved in political socialization; what the effects of cultural beliefs and values are; and what constraints in the political environment lead people to form and join protest movements and to engage in terrorism. Part Two, "Political Decision Making," focuses on the interaction between individuals' characteristics and the political environment with respect to specific types of political activity—voting, political leadership, foreign policy making, and conflict resolution.

The authors of the individual chapters were selected because of their expertise on a particular topic and their interest in synthesizing a body of knowledge.

Contributors were asked to review the literature in their areas of expertise and to propose a fresh way of organizing the information that would advance our understanding of each topic. More specifically, each author was asked to indicate the underlying themes and concepts that guide theory and research in his or her area, what some of the puzzles are that people face who are interested in learning more about the topic, and where the gaps in our knowledge are. The contributors to the volume represent several disciplines—psychology, political science, history, and sociology—and thus bring different points of view to the topics under discussion. An effort was made to seek chapter authors who are actively interested in learning how those in other disciplines perceive and deal with their topics.

To ensure that the volume captures the international flavor of political psychology, the last section of the book, Part Four, is devoted to exploring the state of the field worldwide. The chapters in this section suggest the exciting work in political psychology that is going on in Latin America, Western Europe, and Asia. The authors of these chapters provide insights into such questions as how different cultural contexts have shaped what are considered relevant topics to study in political psychology, the kinds of theories that are needed to explain political behavior cross-culturally, and the extent to which generalization is possible across cultural contexts.

Enclosing the individual chapters are a prologue and an epilogue. The purpose of the prologue is to set the stage for what follows by suggesting some of the assumptions that undergird work in political psychology and some of the issues that arouse continuing debate and dialogue among political psychologists. The chapters fall within the basic tenets that are outlined in the prologue but they present different ways of dealing with the issues. The epilogue explores four themes that recur across the chapters and indicates how the chapters have begun to elaborate and shape the themes. These cross-cutting themes provide a basis by which individuals working on the different topics that comprise political psychology can communicate and build on each other's work. They suggest several paradigms of importance to political psychologists.

Monies to support the editorial tasks required in putting this volume together were generously provided by the Mershon Center of Ohio State University and are gratefully acknowledged. Vigorous debates with members of the International Society of Political Psychology on what constitutes political psychology played an important role in the development of the material in the prologue and epilogue. Too numerous to mention by name, their help is greatly appreciated.

A debt of thanks is also owed Jeanne Knutson, to whom the contributors would like to dedicate this book. Jeanne Knutson served as a catalyst for the field of political psychology. With the publication of the *Handbook* and the founding of the International Society of Political Psychology, she helped give legitimacy to political psychology as a field of inquiry. She was a mentor, patron, colleague, salesman, and friend to political psychologists worldwide as she worked to forge an international community—inside and outside academia—interested in how psychological and political phenomena interrelate. Before her untimely death in December 1981, Jeanne had begun plans for this update to the *Handbook*. The

contributors hope that this book will follow in the footsteps of its predecessor and lay the groundwork for the continued growth and development in our knowledge about human nature in politics that Jeanne worked so hard to foster.

Columbus, Ohio
February 1986

Margaret G. Hermann



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PROLOGUE



What Is Political Psychology?

Margaret G. Hermann

Political psychology is coming of age. In 1973, in the preface to the *Handbook of Political Psychology*, Jeanne Knutson urged that the collaborative efforts evidenced in that book be but a beginning to further theoretical and empirical study of the interaction of psychological and political phenomena. During the ensuing years, the International Society of Political Psychology has been established; the journal *Political Psychology* has been started; and those interested in political psychology have become more identifiable to one another. Some basic tenets of the field have also become more obvious during this period, as have certain issues that continue to arouse debate and discussion. Since both the tenets and the issues help to define the field of political psychology as it has evolved to date, a discussion of them sets the stage for the chapters that follow.

Five Apparent Tenets of Political Psychology

1. *Focus Is on the Interaction of Political and Psychological Phenomena.* There is a growing consensus that the focus of political psychology is on what happens when political and psychological phenomena interact (see, for example, Forum sections of *Political Psychology*, 1979-1985; "Political Dimensions of Psychology," 1983; Merelman, 1979; Schaffner and Alker, 1981-82). How do psycho-

Note: I wish to acknowledge the help of Charles Snare in the preparation of this prologue. His curiosity about just what political psychology is sparked many lively discussions. The remarks made by Morton Deutsch, Hilde Himmelweit, Robert Lane, and Helmut Moser during a roundtable entitled "What Is Political Psychology" at the International Society of Political Psychology meeting at Oxford University in 1983 and the animated audience debate that followed have also contributed to shaping the contents of this prologue.