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Editors' Introduction

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Serving as editors for *Res Publica XIX* has been a fantastic experience. We were thrilled not only with the high number of submissions this year but also the quality of them all. While we were unable to accept every submission, each writer impressed us with their breadth of knowledge on their chosen topic. Even more heartening were the submissions by undergrads. From gateway essays to senior seminar papers, we received a wide array of material for edition of *Res Publica*, and we encourage everyone returning for another year at Illinois Wesleyan University to submit again when the call for papers comes again.

This year's edition is centered on the origin and subsequent spread of ideas. How does newspaper coverage influence American attitudes on gun control? Are Confucianism and democracy more compatible than some scholars have suggested? Why are some right-wing parties more politically powerful than others? In what way is the Supreme Court still the "Dark Horse" of American politics? These are the questions that cut below the surface of our society and illuminate essential truths about how we construct the world around us.

As *Res Publica* approaches its second decade of publication, we look back on the publication's impressive history. One of the few undergraduate political science journals in the nation, *Res Publica* has offered the students of Illinois Wesleyan a place to exhibit their writing and research for nineteen years. Over the years, *Res Publica* has helped students refine their writing and display their abilities to the public, both of which represent invaluable opportunities.

We greatly appreciate the contributions of our associate editors, Lauren Burke and Patrick Cavanaugh, who took time out of their busy senior year schedules to provide assistance and feedback. Without their hard work, this year's edition of *Res Publica* would not be in your hands. We extend a similar sense of gratitude to the Department of Political Science faculty, who have pushed us to improve our analytical, writing, and research skills. It has been a privilege learning from and working with such inspiring individuals. Last, we would like to thank Karl Winter for his outstanding cover artwork, which ties together the themes of this year's articles and the overarching power of ideas.

Thank you for reading; we hope you enjoy this year's edition of *Res Publica*!
Nick Desideri and Ryan Winter