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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Editors' Introduction

The 26th edition of Res Publica brings yet another series of students' best and engaging works within political science. We commend Illinois Wesleyan's students for consistently producing quality works despite enduring the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year. The selection process was difficult given the number of impressive papers that were submitted. However, we are pleased with the papers we have chosen for this year's journal edition.

This year's papers share an overarching theme that centers around challenges to democracy. David Werner seeks to explain a decline in public trust in government. Will Harris investigates the decline in citizens' political knowledge and looks at how it relates to their use of social media as the primary source of political news. Anna Eager looks at political polarization and perceived polarization, and uses game theory to explain politicians' contribution to this issue. Samira Kassem answers the question of how the Muslim Brotherhood gained political influence, and determines whether or not they had a positive effect on democracy in the Middle East. Rachel Williams gives a historical analysis on democratization in Germany after World War II. Oscar Romero gives a brief and insightful critique on the use of game theory in political science research. His work serves as a nice interlude in this journal.

We want to thank the authors for their wonderful submissions and their cooperation during the editing process. We also want to thank Samira Kassem for designing a cover that perfectly fits the theme of this year's edition. Lastly, we want to thank the professors in the Political Science Department for guiding and helping us through the entire process.

Thank you for reading, and we hope you enjoy this year's edition of Res Publica.

Madison N. Garofalo and Dareana Roy