

John Paul Stevens Reviews Sandy Levinson's Book

Posted on [5 October 2012](#)

John Paul Stevens has published a review of [Sandy Levinson's](#) latest book, "[Framed: America's 51 Constitutions and the Crisis of Governance.](#)"

[Read the review.](#)

[Read the UT Law Online interview](#) with Levinson about the book.

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Weyland Publishes New Article in Comparative Politics

Posted on [1 October 2012](#)

Kurt Weyland's article, "Diffusion Waves in European Democratization: The Impact of Organizational Development," has been published in the October issue of *Comparative Politics*.

Abstract: Surprisingly, waves of political regime contention in Europe have slowed down through history, but have achieved more success in triggering advances toward democracy, as a comparison of the revolutions of 1848 and 1917/19 shows. To account for these inverse trends, I emphasize major organizational developments. Before political mass organizations had arisen, ordinary people decided whether to emulate foreign challenges to established autocrats. Short on information, citizens relied heavily on inferential shortcuts and acted rashly – with little success. After the rise of mass organizations, common people took cues from their representative leaders, who had more information and greater processing capacity. Before emulating an external precedent and challenging their ruler, leaders waited for propitious circumstances. Therefore, 20th century regime contention diffused more slowly yet with greater success.

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