

Editorial Foreword

With this volume *CSSH* increases its size by 25 percent. The opportunity to do so at a time when the cost of publishing threatens the effectiveness of journals as a means of scholarly communication is a compliment earned by *CSSH*'s loyal readers and able authors. We welcome the chance to range more widely while sustaining familiar discourse.

LAW AND LEGISLATION. Comparative law has long enjoyed respectability even among the most skeptical critics of comparative study, who are perhaps disarmed as much by its modest claims as by its century-old pedigree. Looking at the special problems of new nations, Lawrence Rosen explores the socially derivative yet institutionally autonomous place of law. His essay thus incidentally provides a general framework for many earlier studies, including those of Galanter, Khare, and Morrison (14:1) and Hannigan (4:1). A similar concern emerges from James Dunn's very different research, for he too rejects the view that technical devices can have a wholly independent effect but rather considers—and this is the theme of Daniel Levine's study—that legislation does after all reflect the larger society. (Sidall (16:1) earlier treated the relation of transportation and environment; Stone (17:3) and Mishra (18:1) studied welfare in Latin America, Britain and the Soviet Union.)

DECOLONIZATION AND THE RESPONSE OF COLONIAL ELITES. Even as European empire spread, the comparison of British, French, and German rule offered an attractive avenue for further insight into those nations, and decolonization after the Second World War provided similar opportunities. Writing with the clarity of greater distance, Tony Smith revives both traditions along with more recent awareness of the importance of colonial elites, themselves a reflection both of local culture and adaptation to European dominance (issues last discussed here by Joseph and Ekeh, 17:1). Joel Kahn extends this latter perspective, probing the tension between perceived and real social structures as itself a form of adaptation. In doing so he speaks, as did Taussig (19:2), to general issues of underdevelopment and the significance of ideology. Kahn's study is also closely related to Rosen's, for both continue in different ways the analysis of law in Indonesia by Lev (7:2), Jaspán (7:3), and Sterling (8:1).

THE STUDY OF WOMEN'S ROLES. Susan Rogers' analytic review of the anthropological literature on the roles of women shows that current concerns have enriched social understanding but uncovers classic problems of ethnocentrism, overlapping cultural roles, and the uncertain meaning

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of subordination and dominance. The need she finds for new models is illustrated in Louise Tilly's review essay. Related discussions in *CSSH* include Mintz (13:3) and Papanek and Youssef (15:3) in addition to Scott and Tilly (17:1); the relationship of history and anthropology, raised again by Tilly, attracted Pitt-Rivers (5:3) and Bock (16:2). All the essays in this issue, while focussing on social structure, stress the importance of social attitudes. The wise avoidance of such an artificial dichotomy helps give these topics their life.