

WORLD POLITICS  
*A Quarterly Journal of International Relations*  
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## Editorial Policies and Procedures

### GENERAL STATEMENT

*World Politics* is an academic quarterly founded in 1948. It is currently produced under the auspices of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), Princeton University, and published since 2008 by Cambridge University Press. Publication of the journal is financed by subscriptions, sale of individual issues, and fees from permissions and advertisements. Since 2007, the journal has accepted submissions only through ScholarOne Manuscripts, a Web-based service, at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wp>.

*World Politics* publishes scholarly research articles and review articles. The journal seeks to represent all of the disciplines, methods, and viewpoints that are relevant to the central problems of international relations and comparative politics. It does not publish opinion pieces or narratives of a journalistic nature. The journal also does not publish communications to the editor or rejoinders to specific articles; scholars who believe they have been challenged are encouraged to submit an article that will advance the scholarly debate. Statements of fact and opinion appearing in *World Politics* are made on the responsibility of the author alone and do not imply the endorsement of the editors and publisher.

*World Politics* has a firm and long-standing policy of not considering material that has already been published (including in a foreign language), has been concurrently submitted elsewhere, or is already slated for publication even in a somewhat different form, such as a chapter of a book. This policy applies to both print and online formats. For these purposes, an online format that would preclude consideration by *World Politics* refers to a refereed presentation and/or a copyrighted working paper. Examples of pre-published materials that may be considered for publication by *World Politics* are print working papers and online papers on an author's own homepage or Web site. Certain material already scheduled for publication, such as a chapter of a book, may be considered by *World Politics* if it is to appear no earlier than nine months after the likely date of publication in *World Politics*. Dual submission and dual publication are not permitted while a piece is under consideration at *World Politics*. These restrictions apply to all copyrighted publications (including book chapters, journal articles, and/or working papers).

Manuscripts should be submitted with an abstract to ScholarOne Manuscripts at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wp>. Manuscripts should be double spaced, and set in a 12-point, sans-serif font (Arial or Calibri, for example). Submissions should be no more than 12,500 words in length, including notes and references. In all cases, the final version accepted for publication may be longer if responding to reviews requires it. Tables, figures, and appendixes are not included in the word count. Abstracts should be no more than 150 words in length. Appendixes of supplementary materials will be published online at the journal's Cambridge Web site, [cambridge.org/wpo](http://cambridge.org/wpo). *World Politics* edits its journal articles only; it does not edit supplementary materials. Appendixes should be used judiciously, only including materials that are central to the argument developed in the main text; appendixes should not exceed fifteen pages in length. Once an article is accepted for publication, authors are required to deposit quantitative data (including replication files, computer codes, and explanatory files) at the [World Politics' Dataverse site](#).

Procedures for reviewing manuscripts are triple-blind. Author names are not revealed to reviewers. Author names are not revealed to editors until *after* the final decision is made on the manuscript. Reviewer names are not revealed to authors. Reviewers may not review articles for *World Politics* that they have reviewed for other journals or if they know the author's identity. For more information about the review process, please see *World Politics'* reviewer guidelines.

Articles that are published in the journal have usually been reviewed by at least two non-Princeton reviewers and often, but not in all instances, one of the editors. While members of the editorial committee may not submit articles for consideration, Princeton scholars may do so (in which case they are usually reviewed by three non-Princeton reviewers before deliberation by the editorial committee).

#### EDITORIAL DECISIONS

All manuscripts are screened to determine whether they should be reviewed or withdrawn. Once reviewed, decisions on manuscripts—whether to accept, reject, or ask for a revision—are made at the editorial committee meetings. Committee members consider each submission on the basis of the readers' reviews and reach their decision by majority vote, although in most cases decisions are made by consensus.

- *Withdrawals.* All manuscripts are screened for suitability before being sent for review. These decisions are made by committee members and rendered shortly after a piece is submitted.

—The criteria for withdrawing a submission include general questions of quality, fit, and academic focus:

- Is it an academic piece?
- Does the quality of scholarship merit review?
- If it is a high-quality academic piece, is it a good fit for *World Politics*? In particular, is it theoretically engaged with social science debates? Is there an empirical discussion of political phenomena? Does it seek to make an innovative and important contribution?

If the answers to all of these questions are yes, the piece is circulated. If no, then the piece is withdrawn.

- *Accepting an article.* An article may be accepted as submitted, or with suggestions for revisions to be made at the author's discretion, or subject to the author doing some final revisions that will typically be reviewed by the editors (accept subject to/conditional accept). Manuscripts that are accepted for publication have typically been reviewed by at least three readers. Often, but not in all instances, one of the readers for an accepted article will be a member of the editorial committee, and two of the readers will be drawn from outside of Princeton University. When none of the committee members has the relevant expertise, however, a decision may be made on the basis of reviews by readers who are not on the editorial committee. When a manuscript is submitted by a Princeton author, the committee will seek three outside reviews.
- *Rejecting an article.* The editorial board will reject an article based on the reviews that have been received. They will automatically reject a submission on the basis of two negative reviews. Where reviews are split, the board will deliberate further and decide whether to solicit another review or to reject the manuscript at that time.

- *Asking for a revise and resubmit.* If the editors feel that a submission cannot be accepted in its current form but has the potential to be revised as a work of publishable quality, they may offer the author the opportunity to revise it on the basis of the critiques and suggestions provided by the reviewers. There is no commitment in advance to publish a revision, however. Revisions may be longer than the guidelines permit for an initial submission, if the manuscript has increased in length in response to suggestions made by the readers. The usual procedure is to have revisions reviewed by the original readers; in unusual circumstances, additional readers may be called in if the editors deem that to be necessary or if any of the original readers are unable to read the revision. In the case of a revision that is judged to be still in need of significant but doable work, an author may be asked to submit a second revision without a commitment to publish. If the revision does not satisfy the readers, the editors are likely to reject it. In rare cases, after reviewing the revised submission, the editors might extend an accept conditional on making additional changes.

In general, *World Politics* makes every effort to render decisions to authors within four months of the submission of an article. Authors of rejected manuscripts are provided with the readers' comments and/or are given reasons for the rejection; likewise, authors invited to revise their manuscripts are provided with comments to guide them in doing their revisions. Reviewers receive anonymized copies of all decision letters.

(updated May 2019)