

plus, l'architecture du livre peut rendre la lecture malaisée. En effet, la multiplication des chapitres à l'intérieur d'une partie et le développement de plusieurs problématiques qui semblent être traitées indépendamment du sujet originel peuvent troubler le lecteur. Cela dit, cet ouvrage mérite le détour, notamment pour sa couverture fort intéressante de la période d'âge d'or et des tentatives de rapprochement franco-allemand qui illustrent à merveille le propos de Birebent, pour qui la marche vers le chaos n'était pas inéluctable.

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### **Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Reform Worldwide**

Mona Lena Krook

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In this book, Mona Lena Krook makes a substantive contribution to the field of gender and comparative politics. Contributing to a rapidly expanding body of research on gender quotas, it marks the first comprehensive cross-national investigation into the origins, adoption and implementation of quotas. While quotas for women in politics have not figured prominently on the public agenda in North America, leading to a lack of knowledge about these measures among political scientists in Canada and the United States, quotas have been hotly debated in virtually all other regions of the world, and some form of quota now exists in over 100 countries. Most of the countries that currently rank in the global top ten in terms of women's political representation employ quotas in some form, whether reserved seats (Rwanda), party quotas (South Africa) or legislative quotas (Belgium). Yet, despite the rapid spread of gender quotas around the world, and the corresponding growth of studies on their impact, numerous questions remain unanswered. Krook's book tackles these questions through a methodologically sophisticated analysis of the reasons for quota adoption and effectiveness in six countries across three of the world's major regions.

Krook begins with a wide range of puzzles and questions that have emerged in the literature on quotas: Why are similar policies adopted in such diverse contexts? Which actors are most likely to be involved in quota campaigns? How is it that quotas produce spectacular increases in women's representation in some countries and virtually no gains elsewhere? How do quotas interact with other features of the political environment to shape women's access to politics? To answer these questions, Krook employs an innovative research strategy involving a series of paired comparisons of contrasting case studies of three different types of quota policy: reserved seats (Pakistan and India); party quotas (Sweden and the United Kingdom); and legislative quotas (Argentina and France). These different types of quota policy target distinct aspects of the electoral process. Reserved seats set aside a specified number of *seats* for women in an elected body, while both party and legislative quotas mandate that a minimum number of *candidacies* be awarded to women. But, while legislative quotas are obligatory for all political parties in the country, party quotas are voluntary measures adopted by particular parties. Due to variations in legal obligation and which stage of the electoral process they target, quotas have produced different degrees of success. But because Krook's comparative framework pairs cases of effective versus less effective quota reform, we see clearly that the impact of quotas does not flow automatically from quota type, but rather, leads to a series of more complex political, institutional and normative configurations that unfold and combine over time in each case.

Locating her analysis in the growing body of institutionalist scholarship, Krook argues that the differences among quota policies matter because they involve changes to distinct types of institutions. Reserved seats target *systemic* institutions by changing key aspects of the electoral system. Party quotas target *practical* institutions because they demand that parties change their practices of political recruitment. Finally, legislative quotas involve changes to *normative* institutions because they “revise definitions of equality and representation” by requiring all parties to consider sex a relevant criteria for elected office (48). Importantly, however, changes across all three types of institution interact to shape both the adoption of quotas and their overall impact. This point is nicely demonstrated through case studies that analyze the origins, adoption and implementation of quotas over longer periods of time than is common in existing accounts. This strategy produces new knowledge but also compels us to reconsider some settled assumptions within the gender and politics literature.

Based on extensive consideration of both primary and secondary sources for all six case studies, Krook finds that quotas are more effective when pursued via harmonizing rather than disjointed sequences of reform. Harmonizing sequences are revealed in Pakistan, Sweden and Argentina, and involve actions “that lead the three categories of institutions to fit together increasingly over time” (52). Reforms in India, the United Kingdom and France were more disjointed, causing clashes among systemic, practical and normative institutions in ways that undermined the extension of quotas from the local to the national level in India, the inconsistent adoption of quotas across parties and level of government in the United Kingdom and less effective legislative quotas in France. The case studies further reveal the critical roles often played by international organizations and transnational networks, but also by domestic actors, including not just women’s movements, political parties, and leaders, but also courts, which in some cases struck down early quota policies (the United Kingdom and France), while in other cases handed down rulings that ensured widespread compliance with quota legislation (Argentina).

Mona Lena Krook’s wide-ranging yet in-depth analysis of quotas will surely be essential reading for scholars seeking to understand how this new and rapidly diffusing policy reform will affect women’s access to politics. But it also contains vital lessons for those engaged in political debates about quotas because it explores the central role of norms about equality, fair access, and the meaning of political representation.

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### **À feu et à sang. De la guerre civile européenne 1914–1945**

Enzo Traverso

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À cinquante ans, Enzo Traverso publie une synthèse qui a l’ambition théorique de fonder une riposte à Ernst Nolte. C’est un universitaire polyglotte qui s’appuie sur ce qu’il appelle une bibliographie sélective. C’est aussi un auteur, spécialiste des totalitarismes dans l’histoire des idées, avec son angle d’attaque et ses qualités. Son approche thématique donne lieu à d’intéressants développements sur la notion de guerre civile ou la Grande Guerre. Cette césure historique transforme le paysage mental des sociétés. Les représentations culturelles illustrent l’angoisse de l’inconscient collectif. L’exaltation des jeunes générations et le mythe de l’homme nouveau dévalorisent les vertus féminines.

Chemin faisant, Traverso reformule son propre modèle d’interprétation tout en atténuant les aspects les plus fragiles. Il fustige «vingt ans de régression histo-