

THE  
ELECTIONS  

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OF  

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2000

*Politics, Culture, and Economics  
in North America*

EDITED BY  
MARY K. KIRTZ,  
MARK J. KASOFF,  
RICK FARMER, AND  
JOHN C. GREEN



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## Preface

THE ESSAYS IN THIS COLLECTION are the product of a conversation among scholars, spanning national borders and disciplinary boundaries, about the increasing integration of Canada, Mexico, and the United States and the development of a “continental perspective.” This conversation has been underway for some time, reflecting the causes, challenges, and consequences of economic, cultural, and political integration in North America. The conjunction of national elections in all three of the great North American democracies in 2000 offered us the opportunity to deepen this conversation and engage in scholarly discourse from a “continental perspective.”

A teleconference entitled “*The Political, Economic, and Cultural Impacts of the Recent Elections in Canada, Mexico, and the United States: Perspectives from Three Nations*,” held April 12, 2002, embodied this new approach. The event was coordinated at the University of Akron, in the United States, with teleconference links to University of Windsor, Canada, and Universidad de las Americas-Puebla, Mexico. The video transcript of this unusual conference is available on CD-ROM from the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. Earlier drafts of some of the chapters in this collection were delivered at the teleconference, but other materials appear only in the transcript or in this book. Thus, these two sources are separate and complementary products of our conversation.

This project was co-sponsored by the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron and the Ohio Canadian Studies Roundtable, a joint project of the Canadian Studies Programs at the University of Akron and Bowling Green State University, Ohio. At the University of Akron, Kim Haverkamp, Tom Kemp, and Michelle Daley made important contributions. The Ohio Canadian Studies Roundtable provided invaluable assistance with the able efforts of Sonia Dial. We also owe a special thanks to our colleagues at the University of Windsor, Stephen Brooks, and at the Universidad de las Americas–Puebla, José García Aguilar.

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Janet Bolois of the Bliss Institute and Waubgeshig Rice, a Canadian intern, who came to the University of Akron through the auspices of the International Council of Canadian Studies, deserve recognition for their work on the manuscript, and we are deeply appreciative of the efforts of Michael J. Carley and his colleagues at the University of Akron Press.

We were privileged to participate in this conversation, and we hope our modest efforts will encourage its extension and deepening in the future.

Mary K. Kirtz  
Mark J. Kasoff  
Rick Farmer  
John C. Green

## About the Contributors

**Carol L. Beran** is professor of English at Saint Mary's College of California. She has published essays on works by many Canadian writers, including Margaret Atwood, Robert Kroetsch, Hugh MacLennan, Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, and Aritha Van Herk. Her book *Living over the Abyss* is about Atwood's *Life before Man*.

**Stephen Brooks** is professor in the department of political science at the University of Windsor and visiting professor in the department of political science at the University of Michigan. His most recent books include *Canadian Democracy* (4th ed.) and *As Others See Us: The Causes and Consequences of Global Perceptions of America*.

**Anthony DePalma** was bureau chief and correspondent for the *New York Times* in Mexico City and Toronto. He continues to cover the three nations of North America as international business correspondent for the *Times*.

**Rick Farmer** is director of committee staff at the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He has written and taught about campaigns and elections, political parties, and term limits.

**José Luis Garcia-Aguilar** is associate professor of international relations in the department of international relations, Universidad de las Americas-Puebla, where he is currently chair. Professor Garcia teaches courses on Canada, American foreign policy, and theories of international relations. He also often comments on several networks about international issues.

**John C. Green** is the director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, as well as a professor of political science. He has done and written extensive research on American religion and politics, political parties, and campaign finance.

**Mark J. Kasoff** is director of Canadian studies and professor of economics at Bowling Green State University. His research interests include Canadian direct investment in the United States, Canada-U.S. trade flows and NAFTA, and comparative business costs between Canada and the United States.

**Mary K. Kirtz** is professor emerita of English and director of Canadian studies at the University of Akron. She has served on the executive council of the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States and as president of the Midwest Association of Canadian Studies. She is an associate editor of the *American Review of Canadian Studies*, has published widely on contemporary Canadian literature and culture, and received the Rufus Z. Smith Prize for an article on Marion Engels. Her most recent work appears in the essay collection, Margaret Atwood's *Textual Assassinations*.

**Lydia Miljan** is assistant professor of political science at the University of Windsor and director of the National Media Archive at the Fraser Institute. Her analysis of issues ranges from free trade to privatization, from health care to women's issues, and from elections to referendum campaigns.

**Isidro Morales** is dean of the School of Social Sciences at the Universidad de las Americas-Puebla, in Mexico. He has co-authored two books and published several articles dealing mainly with integration and trade-related topics.

**Alejandro Moreno** is professor of political science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, ITAM, and head of the department of survey research at *La Reforma*, both in Mexico City. He is the author of *Political Cleavages: Issues, Parties, and the Consolidation of Democracy* (1999), and co-author of *Human Values and Beliefs: A Cross-Cultural Source-Book* (1998).

**Manuel Orozco** is senior researcher at the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

**A. Brian Tanguay** is an associate professor in the department of political science at Wilfrid Laurier University. His main areas of interest are Quebec politics, Ontario politics, political parties, and interest groups and social movements. He is the co-editor of two books, *Canadian Parties in Transition* and *Democracy with Justice*.