The social sciences have, over the last forty years, been characterized by a commitment to the improvement of decision-making in public policy. More recently, however, doubts have arisen about the possibility and even desirability of a policy-oriented social science. In this book leading specialists in the field analyse the complex and problematic nature of the relationship between the worlds of academic social science and public policy implementation.

In contrast to other writings on the subject, *Social sciences and modern states* takes a distinctive historical and comparative approach. By looking at earlier periods, the contributors demonstrate how policy orientation has been central to the emergence and evolution of the social sciences as a form of professional activity. To compare and contrast different policy contexts, this study goes beyond the experience of the United States and a few advanced democracies in West Europe to include case studies of rarely examined societies such as Poland, Brazil, and Japan. Through their cross national approach, the contributors are able to demonstrate how intellectual developments have been shaped by the societal contexts in which they emerge. This includes the history of a nation state and its policy 'legacies'; the institutional structures that have authority to take action for the state, the nature of the human beings it recruits and the traditions and cultures that animate them; and the configuration of contemporary problems that face the state and set its political agenda.

*Social sciences and modern states* offers a unique and original comparative contribution to our understanding of the relationship between the social sciences and public policy. It brings together an enormous amount of material, much of which has hitherto been unavailable in English. It will be of interest to students and specialists of politics, social sciences, policy studies and economics as well as to practitioners of public policy.
From the Series Editor

Advances in Political Science: An International Series reflects the aims and intellectual traditions of the International Political Science Association: the generation and dissemination of rigorous political inquiry free of any subdisciplinary or other orthodoxy. Along with its quarterly companion publication, the International Political Science Review, the series seeks to present the best work being done today (1) on the central and critical controversial themes of politics and/or (2) in new areas of inquiry where political scientists, along or in conjunction with other scholars, are shaping innovative concepts and methodologies of political analysis.

Political science as an intellectual discipline has burgeoned in recent decades. With the enormous growth in the number of publications and papers and their increasing sophistication, however, has also come a tendency toward parochialism along national, subdisciplinary, and other lines. It was to counteract these tendencies that political scientists from a handful of countries created IPSA in 1949. Through its triennial world congresses (the next of which takes place in July 1991 in Buenos Aires, Argentina), roundtables organized by its research committees and study groups, and through its organizational work, IPSA has sought to encourage the creation of both an international-minded science of politics and a body of scholars from many nations (now from more than 40 regional associations), who approach their research and interactions with other scholars from an international perspective.

Social Science and Modern States: National Experiences and Theoretical Crossroads, edited by Peter Wagner, Carol H. Weiss, Bjorn Wittrock, and Hellmut Wollmann, is the ninth volume in Advances in Political Science: An International Series. Like its predecessors, it comprises original papers which focus on an integrated manner on a single important topic – in this case the role of social science in society and politics. How does the interventionist welfare state utilize the knowledge at its disposal, and go about improving the quality of that knowledge? How do scientists and policy makers confront the dilemma of interactive obligations and the need for independence? The papers in the volume were originally presented at sessions organized by the IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Studies of Local Government and Politics at the 13th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, held in Paris, France in July 1985.

Richard L. Merritt, editor, Advances in Political Science
Advances in Political Science

Social Sciences and Modern States
Other books also published in this series

Comparative Political Finance in the 1980s
edited by Herbert E. Alexander

This book, the first from Cambridge in the series Advances in Political Science, concerns the financing of politics, political parties, candidates, and elections in eleven countries. It contains case studies of individual countries, various country-by-country comparisons, and a conceptual framework enabling the reader to understand the context of financial sources and implications of funding sources. All the chapters demonstrate the problems common to democracies seeking to regulate uses and abuses of money in politics in pluralistic societies in which there are numerous openings for political disbursements; many present themes emphasizing forms of public funding (alternatively called state aid in some countries) in which governments assist parties or candidates to subsist and compete. Professor Alexander has assembled a distinguished international team of contributors to present this first major appraisal of such a vital aspect of democratic practice for nearly twenty years.

Legislatures in the Policy Process
The Dilemmas of Economic Policy
edited by David M. Olson and Michael L. Mezey

In Legislatures in the Policy Process leading specialists in comparative government reassess the conventional view that legislatures are either marginal to the policy-making process or becoming increasingly so.

In the opening chapter, David Olson and Michael Mezey identify three categories of variables—external influences, internal influences, and policy attributes—which can affect the policy-making role of legislatures. They specify sixteen hypotheses that describe the relationship between these variables and the policy participation of legislatures. In subsequent chapters these hypotheses are examined through a series of individual and comparative country studies which focus upon the role of the legislatures in various aspects of economic policy making. These include the influence of the French, German, British, and US legislatures on monetary policy; the role of the Brazilian Congress and Indian Parliament in computer and electronics policy, and the part played by the Polish Sejm in labour policy.
Social Sciences and Modern States
National Experiences and Theoretical Crossroads

EDITED BY
PETER WAGNER, CAROL HIRSCHON WEISS, BJÖRN WITTROCK, AND HELLMUT WOLLMANN

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This book has two origins. Some contributions were related to a research project and a series of seminars on the development of policy-oriented social science, organized and held at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB) in cooperation with the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences (SCASSS) and the Freie Universität Berlin (FU). Others were first presented in the session on ‘Governmental Institutional Change and the Impact of Social Scientists’ at the XIIIth World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). The editors would like to thank the WZB and its then President Meinolf Dierkes as well as SCASSS and FU for continued institutional support and the IPSA and Jean Laponce for providing the opportunity to publish the results of those discussions in this series.

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