Critical Comparisons in Politics and Culture

Leading anthropologists and political scientists are brought together in this volume to debate the problem of comparison, taking up a variety of topics from nationalist violence and labour strikes to ritual forms and religious practices. The contributors criticize conventional forms of comparative method, and introduce new comparative strategies, ranging from abstract model building to ethnographically based methods. They represent a wide variety of theoretical positions, from rational choice theory to interpretivism, and the issues are clarified in the cut and thrust of debate. This will be an excellent case book for courses on comparison across the social sciences.

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## Contents

| List of figures | page vii |
| List of contributors | viii |
| Acknowledgments | ix |

1. **Introduction: critical comparisons**  
   **JOHN R. BOWEN AND ROGER PETERSEN**  
   1

2. **National revivals and violence**  
   **DAVID D. LAITIN**  
   21

3. **Mechanisms and structures in comparisons**  
   **ROGER PETERSEN**  
   61

4. **Comparative methodologies in the analysis of anthropological data**  
   **FREDRIK BARTH**  
   78

5. **The role of comparison in the light of the theory of culture**  
   **GREG URBAN**  
   90

6. **Case studies of contemporary job loss**  
   **MIRIAM A. GOLDEN**  
   110

7. **Defining the contours of an Islamic reform movement: an essay in successive contrasts**  
   **JOHN R. BOWEN**  
   136

8. **Producing an analytic narrative**  
   **MARGARET LEVI**  
   152

9. **Political consciousness on Boa Ventura: 1967 and 1989 compared**  
   **ALLEN JOHNSON**  
   173
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Comparisons in the context of a game theoretic argument</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BARBARA GEDDES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The role of microhistories in comparative studies</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JOHN R. BOWEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**List of references** 241  
**Index of authors** 259  
**Subject index** 262
Figures

2.1 A tipping model game.  
3.1 Mechanism, process and structure.  
3.2 An example of the distribution of thresholds in a tipping game.  
5.1 The relationship of classificatory features to cultural objects.  
6.1 Number of disputes over dismissals as a proportion of all disputes in Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the United States (1942–1990).  
8.1 Models of compliance.  
8.2 Recruits in the British army by percentage of nationality.  
8.3 Percentage of male population in the British military by region of country.  
8.4 A comparison of volunteers in Quebec and Ontario, World War I and World War II.  
8.5 Large demand game 1.  
8.6 Large demand game 2.  
9.1 Proletarian and client consciousness compared.  
10.1 The effect of patronage on the probability of election.  
10.2 The effect of voting for reform on the probability of reelection.
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