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Edited by Susan C. Stokes
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Public Support for Market Reforms in New Democracies

Do people in new democracies that are undergoing market reforms turn against these reforms when the economic adjustment is painful? The conventional wisdom is that they do. According to economic voting models, citizens punish elected governments for bad economic performance. The contributors to this collection, in contrast, begin with the insight that citizens in new democracies may have good reasons to depart from the predictions of economic voting. If they believe the prediction that, with the transition to a market economy, economic conditions must deteriorate before they improve, they may interpret short-term deterioration as a signal that the transition is on course and things will improve in the future. If they perceive that not the government but forces from the past are responsible for economic deterioration, they may exonerate the government. With similar datasets from three new democracies in Europe (Spain, the former East Germany, and Poland) and three in Latin America (Mexico, Peru, and Argentina), the authors probe citizens' calculus of support for governments and economic reforms under changing economic conditions.

Susan C. Stokes is Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Director of the Chicago Center on Democracy. Professor Stokes is the author of *Cultures in Conflict: Social Movements and the State in Peru* and *Mandates and Democracy: Neoliberalism by Surprise in Latin America* (2001, Cambridge University Press) and coeditor of *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation* (1999, Cambridge University Press). She has published articles in scholarly journals in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

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SUSAN C. STOKES

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