INSTITUTIONS, PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

This volume showcases the impact of the work of Douglass C. North, winner of the Nobel Prize and father of the field of New Institutional Economics. Leading scholars contribute to a substantive discussion that best illustrates the broad reach and depth of Professor North’s work. The volume speaks concisely about his legacy across multiple social sciences, specifically on scholarship pertaining to the understanding of property rights, the institutions that support the system of property rights, and economic growth.


Itai Sened is Professor of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis and Professor of Public Policy at Tel Aviv University. He has authored or co-authored several books, including The Political Institution of Private Property (Cambridge University Press, 1997); Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process (with Gideon Doron, 2001); and Multiparty Democracy (with Norman Schofield, Cambridge University Press, 2006). He has also published numerous articles in leading journals, including The American Political Science Review, The American Journal of Political Science, The Journal of Politics, The British Journal of Political Science, European Journal for Political Research, and Journal of Theoretical Politics. He received his PhD from the University of Rochester.
Institutions, Property Rights, and Economic Growth

The Legacy of Douglass North

Edited by

SEBASTIAN GALIANI
University of Maryland

ITAI SENED
Washington University in St. Louis
&
Tel Aviv University
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Contributors

Robert Bates, Department of Government, Harvard University
Pedro Dal Bó, Department of Economics, Brown University
Sebastian Galiani, University of Maryland
Scott Gehlbach, University of Wisconsin–Madison
Gillian K. Hadfield, Law School and Economics Department, University of Southern California
Pamela Jakiela, University of Maryland
Edmund J. Malesky, Duke University
Claude Ménard, Centre d’Economie de la Sorbonne at the University of Paris
Joel Mokyr, Departments of Economics and History, Northwestern University; Eitan Berglas School of Economics, Tel Aviv University
Elinor Ostrom (1933–2012), Formerly of Indiana University, Bloomington, and Arizona State University, Tempe
Steven C. A. Pincus, Department of History, Yale University
James A. Robinson, Department of Government and IQSS, Harvard University
Ernesto Schargrodsky, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella
Kenneth A. Shepsle, Harvard University
Mary M. Shirley, Ronald Coase Institute
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John Joseph Wallis, University of Maryland, National Bureau of Economic Research

Barry R. Weingast, Hoover Institution and Department of Political Science, Stanford University
Preface

In the winter of 2010, we realized that Professor Douglass C. North, our mentor, intellectual leader, and friend, was getting close to celebrating his 90th birthday in less than a year. We thought the time was ripe for a big birthday party. We took it upon ourselves to put together the intellectual program, through the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences (CNISS), raise the necessary funds, and, with the help of our remarkable assistant, Alana Bame, produce the event.

Many have gathered around the project. To begin, the leadership of Washington University gave us the blessing and some seed money. Then came the remarkable endorsement of the leading scholars in the field who volunteered to come to St. Louis, present papers, and contribute to this edited volume. The friends of CNISS, board members and many others, have followed with financial support and encouragement.

In a rather chilly weekend, the first weekend of November 2011, more than 300 Friends of Doug came from all over the world to celebrate his 90th birthday. And at the heart of the celebration, this volume, came to be. Two years later, after many versions and revisions, we have come to send the volume to print.

Many have made this rather unique volume come to life. We would need many pages to thank them all. We acknowledge a “short list” chosen by an intuitive but certainly not inclusive rule of thumb. Those not mentioned are not forgotten or overlooked.

We thank Alan Bame without whom none of this would have ever happened. We thank the Chancellor of Washington University, Professor Mark Wrighton, and the Provost, Professor Ed Macias, for their initial and wholehearted support and endorsement of the project.

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We want to use this opportunity to recognize the hard work put in by our student assistant Daniel Guenther, Washington University graduate in Political Science of 2013, for his assistance editing, writing, and researching connected with the volume.

Last but not least, we are indebted to Scott Parris of Cambridge University Press for his initial endorsement of the project and his tireless work in assisting with the compilation of the volume; and to Elizabeth Case for her support in keeping us on track with the production of the volume.

Sebastian Galiani and Itai Sened
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