

that are not receptive to women candidates? What are the perceptible cultural differences of women-friendly and women-unfriendly districts? Will rural southern districts ever be women friendly?

Overall, however, this is an excellent treatment of where we stand in the slow march toward gender parity for the U.S. Congress. It will be an invaluable resource in the gender politics subfield.

***Women, Quotas, and Politics.*** Edited by Drude Dahlerup.  
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Over the past 15 years, gender quota debates have emerged in national politics all over the world. More than 40 countries have reformed their constitutions or passed new electoral laws requiring that women comprise certain percentages of aspirants, candidates, or legislative seats, while in many other countries, political parties have adopted quotas on their own. This phenomenon raises both normative and empirical questions, ranging from whether gender quotas are appropriate to why countries adopt them and how effective they have been. Drude Dahlerup's edited book addresses these concerns with the first worldwide compilation of gender quota studies. The editor brings together a diverse group of authors who examine quotas in seven regions of the world, and she brackets their contributions with theoretical chapters on quota adoption and implementation. The result is the most comprehensive resource on gender quotas to date.

Dahlerup's introduction provides a necessary framework for the authors to follow, outlining common terminology to describe different types of gender quotas and identifying major questions for the chapters to answer. Existing studies use a wide array of terms to describe any given type of gender quota, yielding no common language with which to discuss quotas. Dahlerup presents a typology of quotas from which clear terminology for describing quotas emerges. She emphasizes that the book's focus is on electoral quotas (quotas specific to the electoral process), and she defines different types of electoral quotas based on how they relate to the recruitment process and who mandates the quota.

Thus, electoral quotas can be aspirant quotas, where parties place women on “short lists” before actually nominating candidates; candidate quotas, which require that women comprise a certain proportion of a party’s ballot; or reserved-seat quotas that set aside a percentage of legislative seats for women. These quotas can be either legal quotas, whereby constitutions and national laws prescribe that all political parties implement the quota, or party quotas, where individual political parties voluntarily adopt their own aspirant, candidate, or reserved-seat quotas.

Although the introduction is a bit unwieldy, offering a dizzying discussion of plans for the study, Dahlerup presents an unambiguous set of questions on which the regional chapters and case studies focus: Why do countries adopt quotas? What were the debates (i.e., discourse) surrounding quota adoption? What types of quotas did countries adopt and how do they correspond to electoral rules? How have countries implemented quotas? And how effective have quotas been at increasing representation of women?

The contributing authors consistently use Dahlerup’s quota terminology in their chapters, which facilitates comparisons across countries and regions, and they comply with the substantive framework, which provides important coherence across very diverse chapters. The book covers seven regions including the Nordic countries, Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, the Balkans, Arab states, “the West,” and South Asia, and the chapters reveal extensive diversity in quota types adopted, discourses, implementation, and success across regions. For example, the Nordic states and the West have followed an “incremental-track” toward women’s representation, trying to increase women’s numbers gradually, which has meant that countries adopted party quotas rather than legal quotas. Latin American countries, on the other hand, are on the “fast-track,” which rejects the notion that improving women’s access to political resources will be sufficient to increase their representation, and instead emphasizes legal quotas to solve the problem of women’s underrepresentation quickly. Most of the remaining regions are also on the fast-track, but they have adopted reserved-seat quotas instead of candidate quotas as the mechanism to increase the election of women.

The book also includes three case studies that focus on quotas in postconflict states (East Timor, Afghanistan, and Iraq), in Indonesia, and at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The first case study tackles a particularly salient topic — quotas in cases of nation building — and stresses the unique problem of needing both international and domestic actors to agree on quota adoption. In contrast, the Indonesia and IPU

chapters seem out of place. Other than Dahlerup's pointing out that they are "cases of special interest" (p. 23), it is not clear why she selected them for the book or why she singles out Indonesia for a country study in a book stressing regional comparisons. The IPU chapter is particularly incongruous in a book otherwise focused on the use of quotas in countries.

Fittingly, the book concludes with two chapters that generalize across the diverse experiences with adopting and implementing quotas. Richard Matland evaluates the frequency with which different types of quotas occur in countries according to levels of democracy and electoral rules, and suggests conditions under which quotas can be most effective. Dahlerup highlights similarities in the discourse surrounding quota adoption and evaluates how the concerns of opponents and hopes of advocates have played out across countries. These efforts at drawing similarities across regions are welcome after many chapters that stress differences. Yet absent from the conclusion is the development of a much-needed theoretical framework to study quotas comparatively. Existing literature lacks a comparative framework that sets out testable hypotheses about why countries adopt quotas and what affects quota success. The chapters in this study provide solid groundwork to develop one, and while the introductory and concluding chapters move in this direction, a clear and comprehensive comparative framework does not emerge from the book.

*Women, Quotas, and Politics* provides a wealth of information on gender quotas. This is important because as the study of gender quotas has developed in recent years, a lot of inaccurate information about quota laws and their implementation has emerged in a literature characterized by disparate country studies. Comparing one case study to another often reveals unexplained discrepancies in a country's quota laws. This book provides detailed and accurate information on quotas in a fresh comparative context. In doing so, it sets itself apart from the existing literature and distinguishes itself as *the* authoritative source on gender quotas.