Editorial

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Welcome to the third issue of volume nine of *British Politics*. Our contributions for this issue combine the themes of nationalism and policymaking under New Labour. The first of these, from Oliver Gruber and Tim Bale, provides a timely analysis of the electoral challenges posed to the Conservative Party by UKIP. Through a comparative analysis of the rise of the FPÖ in Austria, these authors argue that the Conservatives should treat UKIP not so much as a problem to be solved but as a situation to be managed. They argue that a tougher stance on immigration and asylum is unlikely to pay electoral dividends and risks damaging the Party's credibility and reputation. Our second contribution, from Emma Vines, continues the theme with an analysis of English nationalism. Arguing that this is largely defined by an opposition to European integration, the author claims that English nationalism is far from being a populist construct, but in fact signifies the continuation of a British political tradition characterised by the protection of elite power and a culture of limited democratic participation.

Our third main article, from Erica Consterdine and James Hampshire, examines New Labour's immigration policy in light of a puzzling shift from being one of Europe's most restrictive to one of its most liberal. The explanation for this is linked to a combination of structural influences; notably, the strength of the economy, an ideological commitment to globalisation and reforms that pluralised the machinery of policymaking. The fourth paper for this issue is by Kate Oakley, David Hesmondhalgh, David Lee and Melissa Nisbett. In this the authors examine New Labour's cultural (or 'creative economy') policy through an analysis of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, and explore the way in which this shifted from an emphasis on small cultural businesses to become a policy concerned primarily with the logic of economic growth. The final article for this issue, from Jim Buller, looks at New Labour's policy towards monetary union and maintains that participation in the Euro was rejected because of the constraints that this would have imposed upon New Labour's governing autonomy. We complete the issue with a paper for our Forward Thinking section from Adam Evans, examining the federalism of the Liberal Democrats and considering the

extent to which, in light of recent developments, this commitment is one that exists in name only.

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