Editorial

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Welcome to the third volume of *British Politics*, which, we are pleased to announce, will now be published on a quarterly basis. To mark this, we are introducing a new section, entitled ‘British Politics: Beyond the Mainstream’, which will run throughout our next two volumes. The purpose of this section is to highlight areas of research that are not often commonly featured in the mainstream British politics literature, but that are nonetheless interesting and deserving of attention. Our aim here is to try to provide a balanced corrective to the dominance of more traditional themes such as elections, parties and governmental institutions. In doing so we hope to highlight the eclecticism of the field, and the diversity of themes and debates involving the study of politics in the UK.

Opening in a more conventional manner, however, this issue begins with a speculative analysis of the future of Gordon Brown’s premiership from David Coates. Based on a thorough and critical deconstruction of Brown’s record as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Coates details some of the key challenges and policy conundrums that New Labour is likely to face as it moves into the post-Blair era. Our second article, from Peter Dorey, provides an assessment of ‘stage two’ of Labour’s proposed reforms of the House of Lords. As Dorey demonstrates, a key obstacle to this process remains the internal divisions within the Labour party itself over the precise direction of reform, combined with the leadership’s tacit acceptance of the norms and values of the Westminster Model. In our third main article, Brian Jamison provides an engaging examination of the potential security implications posed by the possibility of Scottish independence. At the centre of this is the question of Scotland’s relationship to NATO, and the broader impact that independence would have on the British military establishment. Finally, in the fourth of our main featured articles, Tim Heppell and Michael Hill revisit the Conservative leadership election of 1997. Providing a thorough analysis of the motivations behind Conservative MPs’ selection of William Hague, an inexperienced Thatcherite Eurosceptic, as party leader, Heppell and Hill contend that this can be explained through a combination of ideological factors and assessments of the political characteristics of the two main candidates.

In addition to our selection of main articles, volume 3 of *British Politics* will also include a series of papers on environmental politics in the UK. In the first of these, Alexandra Plows examines the issue of green protests in Britain, and argues that the current popularity of discourses on ‘sustainable citizenship’

within mainstream politics can be attributed to the success of direct action campaigns across a number of years. Following this, our new 'Beyond the Mainstream' section features contributions from Robert Garner and Peter Fussey. The first of these discusses the state of contemporary animal rights politics in Britain; the latter considers the rhetoric surrounding the use of CCTV surveillance and its impact on crime and security.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that our 'Best Article' prize for volume 2 has been awarded to Jim Tomlinson for his paper, published in issue 2(1), entitled: 'Mrs Thatcher's Macroeconomic Adventurism, 1979–1981, and its Political Consequences'. Congratulations to Jim, and, as ever, many thanks to all the contributors and reviewers who helped to make volume 2 of *British Politics* possible.

Steven Kettell and Peter Kerr