

Social, economic, and technological transformations of the last several decades (such as the weakening of socioeconomic cleavages as a result of the growth of welfare states and the rise of new mass communication channels such as television and the Internet) brought profound changes to party politics. Most notable of those changes have been the twin processes of the gradual weakening of collective/institutional actors and the strengthening of various personalized forms of contestation and representation in politics. This dynamic has been debated widely in diverse literature focusing on discussions of party decline and using concepts such as personalization, mediatization, populism, and presidentialization. Although some scholars preferred to highlight the rising role of individuals and leaders, and of 'personalization of politics' in general, some political scientists, including Poguntke and Webb (2005) and Samuels and Shugart (2010), have focused on the political-institutional and organizational dimensions of this broader transformation through the concept of 'presidentialization.' *The Presidentialization of Political Parties*, edited by Gianluca Passarelli, follows this latter approach and aims to complement it by focusing on the importance of the interaction among regime types and party organizations in the process of the 'presidentialization of parties.'

At the beginning of the book, presidentialization is defined as the 'centralization of political power in executive hands' at the expense of 'mid-level political actors and institutions, such as party cadres and parliaments' (p. 1). In his introductory chapter to the volume, Passarelli defines presidentialization of parties 'as the situation in which they [parties] have given greater autonomy to their leader, with great independence on crucial political topics (e.g., electoral campaign, ministerial appointments, public policies): in that situation s/he (the leader) is unaccountable to the party' (p. 8). In the preface, the main research question of the book is formulated as follows: 'To what extent does party presidentialization vary as a function of party features?' (p. xi). Relying on previous literature, Passarelli underlines the primary role of the institutional and constitutional factors in the presidentialization of political parties while also arguing that 'genetic features' of parties, in other words their organizational origins and developments, also have an important effect on the process. In order to understand the role of this interaction among regime types (institutional and constitutional constraints) and party organizations in the presidentialization of political parties, the volume focuses on cases from presidential (United States, Brazil, Chile), semi-presidential (France, Poland, Ukraine) and parliamentary (Germany, UK, Australia, Japan, Italy) contexts. The volume aims to illustrate that a centralized leadership in a party that has a founding leader in a dominant role and a solid national organizational network may contribute to the further presidentialization of that party in addition to the effects of constitutional framework. In contrast, a factionalized party structure, with effective subnational units and powerful actors challenging the authority of the leader, may resist this tendency toward presidentialization (p. 20).

Throughout its chapters, each written by a country expert, the book focuses on the constitutional context, genetic features, level of centralization of power, and, finally, the degree of presidentialization of parties in the examined countries. After the introduction by Passarelli, the volume opens with an evaluation of Chile by Peter M Siavelis and Bonnie N Field. In this chapter, the authors illustrate that relatively strong party organizations and a multiparty system, in combination with the presidential regime, contributed to the further presidentialization of political parties in Chile (p. 48). In contrast, in Brazil,