

Acknowledgments

The idea for this book came in spring 1999, when we were finishing graduate school in the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University. Glen Krutz approached Jeff Peake with an idea to collaborate on a project about the politics of treaties, combining our mutual interests in the Congress (Krutz) and the presidency (Peake). Little comprehensive research existed on the topic, and we sought to fill this gap in the empirical literature on presidential-congressional relations. We soon discovered that, despite the paucity of empirical work, a strong conventional wisdom had emerged: modern presidents routinely evaded the Congress (and the requirements set forth in the Constitution) by using executive agreements instead of treaties. As a result, the domestic politics of treaties were not all that interesting, because presidents normally obtained what they wanted without consulting with or requiring the assent of the Congress.

This conclusion did not fit well with our understanding of the way American politics works. Certainly, as we document, the relationship is more interesting, and the politics are more complicated. Our training at Texas A&M prompted us to question the received wisdom on treaties and to explore the question from an empirical perspective. Aggieland proved to be an ideal environment in which to ponder questions about presidential-congressional relations and policy making. There we had the opportunity to study American politics with Jon Bond, George Edwards, and Patricia Hurley and public policy with Jim Anderson, Frank Baumgartner, Bryan Jones, and Dan Wood. Learning from such a fine group of senior scholars spawned a career's worth of ideas from both of us. From A&M, we each moved in 1999 to institutions where this project would take off—

Glen to Arizona State University and later to the University of Oklahoma and the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, Jeff to Bowling Green State University.

As we reported our research in the various conference papers that would form the core chapters of this book, several individuals provided helpful comments. We received constructive feedback at the 2003 History of Congress meeting in San Diego from Jeff Jenkins, Mathew McCubbins, Barbara Sinclair, and James Snyder. In 2007, as the book came together, a collection of University of Oklahoma faculty and graduate students gave very insightful feedback at a ninety-minute brown-bag session. Comments from Gary Copeland, Greg Russell, Jim Sheffield, and Justin Wert were much appreciated. Others providing helpful comments along the way include Rick Beth, Dion Farganis, Richard Fleisher, Victoria Farrar-Myers, Lyn Ragsdale, and Adam Warber. Several research assistants helped with data collection, including Michael Humphries, Karen Kuns, Jason Truett, and Walt Jatkowski.

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