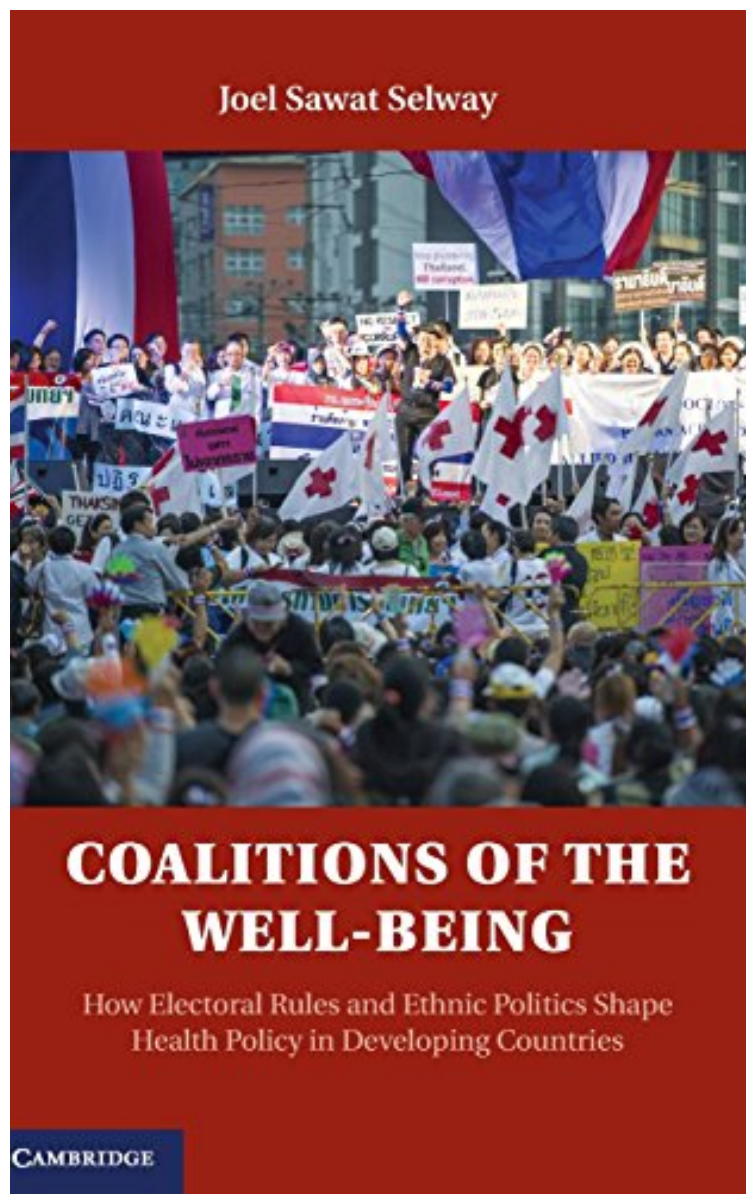


(Ebook free) Coalitions of the Well-being: How Electoral Rules and Ethnic Politics Shape Health Policy in Developing Countries

# Coalitions of the Well-being: How Electoral Rules and Ethnic Politics Shape Health Policy in Developing Countries

Joel Sawat Selway

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Why do some developing countries have more efficient health systems and better health outcomes? Contrary to existing theory that posits the superiority of proportional representation (PR) rules on public-goods provision, this book argues that electoral rules function differently given the underlying ethnic structure. In countries with low ethnic salience, PR has the same positive effect as in past theories. In countries with high ethnic salience, the geographic distribution of ethnic groups further matters: where they are intermixed, PR rules are worse for health outcomes; where they are isolated, neither rule is superior. The theory is supported through a combination of careful analysis of electoral reform in individual country cases with numerous well-designed cross-country comparisons. The case studies include Thailand, Mauritius, Malaysia, Botswana, Burma, and Indonesia. The theory has broad implications for electoral rule design and helps a middle ground in the debate between the Consociational and Centripetal schools of thought.

"Public goods and their delivery is a core issue for scholars and policy makers alike. In this innovative and challenging contribution to comparative politics, Joel Selway shows how health policy - a key public good in any country - depends, in part, on the design of political institutions such as electoral systems and political parties. Particularly in ethnically diverse democracies, effective healthcare is a product of not just political will but of political engineering." Benjamin Reilly, Sir Walter Murdoch School of Public Policy and International Affairs, Murdoch University, Western Australia "This is a pathbreaking study. In terms of theory, the book goes well beyond arguments that democracy is best suited to provide public goods. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, Selway argues for a more fine-grained analysis in which the benefits of different electoral rules - proportional representation vs. majoritarianism - vary with countries' sociological and spatial characteristics. Substantively, the study helps to explain why countries vary in such key development areas as public health policy. Finally, built largely on a series of carefully selected and closely examined comparative cases, the book demonstrates the benefits of well-designed qualitative analysis." Richard F. Doner, Goodrich C. White Professor of Political Science, Emory University, Atlanta About the Author Joel Sawat Selway is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and Director of the Political and Economic Development Laboratories at Brigham Young University, Utah. He has published in several of the field's top journals, including *World Politics*, *Political Analysis*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies* and the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Support for his research has come from the Center for Global Health and Center for International Business Education and Research (University of Michigan), the Fulbright Association, and the Brigham Young University Kennedy Center for International Studies.