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## Article

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## Editor's Note

## Data markets, government defense spending, big political families, and international tax coordination: Introducing articles of the journal of government and economics volume 7



Welcome to the 7th volume of the Journal of Government and Economics. From this issue on, as editors, we will write up a summary of the newly published articles. We aim to provide a reading guide to the readers of the Journal.

In the section of regular articles, we have four very good articles covering diverse topics of government and economics. Sen (2022) is about a very important issue in today's market economy, that is, how should the government deal with the potential problems of big tech companies in the digital economy. Should the government allocate the right of the data to individual consumers and then let the data market work? The answer is yes. However, the paper finds that in order for the data market to work, the government still has to step in to provide a lot of regulatory work.

Ahmed, Mahmood and Shadmani (2022) is about how government adjusts its spending when its revenues fluctuate. In the context of the US federal government, one interesting finding is that defense spending is relatively stable relative to fluctuations in government revenue measured by the debt to GDP ratio. The opposite is true with non-defense spending. This finding sheds light on the behavior of the US federal government and has many implications.

Mendoza et al (2022) is about how big political families (political dynasties) affects economic development. The context is the Philippines. The findings are very interesting. They compare the Northern part of the country with the Southern part and they find that in the Northern part of the country, where markets are relatively competitive and investors and industrialists may easily move to other areas, big political families are less detrimental to economic development. This shows that the market competitiveness and the mobility of investors are important to hedge against bad political influences.

Last but not least is Stahler (2022), which looks at the consequences of sovereign governments' coordination in their tax policy when dealing with companies that can move across borders. The analyses show that if taxes are collected at the place of consumption rather than production and a minimal tax is introduced, regions with formerly low tax rates will have higher government revenue from mobile firms and, in turn, this will reduce the region's GDP. But the tax burden on the households will also reduce and therefore will boost consumption. This provides us with a guide to tax coordination among sovereign governments.

We are very excited to present these papers. Together, they advance our knowledge of how governments work in today's market economy. Enjoy the reading.

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