Handbook on the Politics of Small States

Edited by Godfrey Baldacchino, University of Malta, Malta and Anders Wivel, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Comprehensive and timely, this Handbook identifies the key characteristics, challenges and opportunities involved in the politics of small states across the globe today. Acknowledging the historical legacies behind these states, the chapters unpack the costs and benefits of different political models for small states.

‘The Handbook on the Politics of Small States brings together scholars at different stages of their careers as well as policymakers to investigate the challenges of policy-making and policy implementation in small states. Especially recommended for those unfamiliar with the topic, the book may also be helpful for practitioners who are interested in an introduction to the politics of small states.’
– Christos Kourtelis, The International Spectator

‘This Handbook is timely, thoughtful, and engages critically with the politics of small states, including the challenges and opportunities faced by these states. I strongly recommend the Handbook to students, lecturers and researchers throughout the social sciences as well as those involved in small states’ politics and policy-making’
– Sarina Theys, Small States & Territories

‘Baldacchino and Wivel’s Handbook is a timely addition to small state studies that aggregates a number of original contributions by noted small state experts. My overall evaluation of the book is very good, and I am certain that due to its temporal focus on recent developments and important and interesting subject areas this book will find wide use among students, researchers, politicians, and diplomats.’
– Mari-Liis Sulg, Global Affairs

‘As the number of independent countries has dramatically increased in recent decades, small states have become a big subject, and deserve a big book like this timely volume, where experts of international relations provide insightful analyses of the challenges and opportunities that small states face in an economically globalized but politically fragmented world.’
– Enrico Spolaore, Tufts University, US

‘The vast majority of all states today are small states. Scattered around the world and highly diverse, small states nevertheless share many challenges and opportunities. This Handbook shows how ‘size matters’ in the making and implementation of policies and what we can learn from comparing the politics of small states.’
– Sieglinde Gstöhl, College of Europe, Belgium

‘The authors and contributors are some of the foremost names in the academic world and they bring with them not only the academic insight but extend their discussion to the practical realities of small states and the vulnerabilities these states face as a result of environmental and other kinds of challenges including the economic, political and social. This is without doubt compulsory reading for students in the disciplines of international relations, political science, as well as policy makers and administrators.’
– Ann Marie Bissessar, University of the West Indies

‘As our work on small states continues, the origins, fatalities and survivalism, as well as the patterns and policies, make this sub-field resilient and exciting. Once again we turn to Peter Katzenstein, Herman Schwartz, Paulette Kurzer, Jonas Pontusson and Bo Rothstein who shape the trends in this sub-field.’
– Patrick Winterton, University of South Australia

‘The Handbook is a timely addition to the growing body of literature on small states. It brings together an impressive array of contributors who provide a rich and diverse set of perspectives on the politics of small states.’
– Michael M. Waltmans, University of California, Santa Barbara
the unexpected outcomes in a once mercantilist or Realist hegemonic framework. The authors in this Handbook continue this tradition, expanding the scope of cases, and reaching back to the pre-Westphalian era. May we never forget the power of the weak.’
– Christine Ingebritsen, University of Washington, US

‘Small states face a balancing act between being seen as afflicted by a permanent inferiority complex attributable to their geographical predicament, and being perceived as having a political ego inversely proportional to it. This Handbook analyses some of the realities giving rise to this apparent dichotomy.’
– Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta (2013-2020)