Christian Schafferer, ed. *Election Campaigning in East and Southeast Asia*. Reviewed by Edmund Terence Gomez 347

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Comparative politics has witnessed a surge of textually sensitive area studies that place their work within a scientific, noncumulative, or even anti-science knowledge. In Southeast Asia: Qualitative Analysis, edited by Thomas B. Hagedorn and Richard D.明明, a group of bright, young Southeast Asia specialists have used their qualitative research in Southeast Asia to make fundamental and lasting contributions to the field. This volume is the product of the conference held by the Southeast Asianists to assert the importance of qualitative analysis and urge the rest of the comparative field to do the same. In *Politics in Asia* by political scientists. The reviews address both the politics of the book and are followed by:

**KEYWORDS:** comparative politics

Theory, Regions, Comparative Policies

Erik Martinez Kuhonta, has made a major contribution to comparative politics.
contention that there is no “Asian” style of campaigning indicates major differences in key components of the political system. These differences include the volume of funds and the extent of media access available to parties—especially those in the opposition—and the effectiveness of election legislation. These issues, which inform campaigning styles, along with the fall and rise of dominant parties, evidently require more meticulous scrutiny.

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Political Conflict and Economic Interdependence Across the Taiwan Strait and Beyond. By Scott L. Kastner. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009. 240 pp. $70.00 (cloth); $24.95 (paper).

This book investigates an interesting, timely, and important research puzzle: Why do some political conflicts between countries undermine economic ties, but others do not? For example, the author points out that during the Cold War, Western countries, led by the United States, had limited economic relations with the Eastern Bloc. However, on the eve of World War I, Great Britain and Germany had extensive commercial relations (p. 1). Focusing on a contemporary example, the author explores why economic ties between China and Taiwan flourish despite political rivalry and even military tension.

The existing literature does not seem to provide a satisfactory answer. While most existing studies focus their debates on whether and how conflict affects trade, Scott L. Kastner examines a more difficult and deeper question: When does conflict hurt commerce, and when does it not? Through a detailed case study of China and Taiwan’s economic ties in the shadow of political tensions, Kastner suggests that the effect of conflict on economic interdependence is contingent on the nature of domestic ruling coalitions within the states enmeshed in conflict (p. 7). When political leaders in conflict are politically accountable to internationalist economic interests—that is, they support and gain from integration into the world economy—the political conflict is more likely to have limited impact on economic arenas. Kastner lists two theoretical reasons for this phenomenon. First, political leaders accountable to internationalist economic interests need to maintain domestic political support, which links closely to international trade and invest-