

This symposium explores old debates about the role of the executive in British government and breaks new ground in the theoretical analysis and the description of the executive 'in action'. Classic arguments about the respective powers of the Cabinet and the Prime Minister are reviewed. The contribution of theories of the state to the understanding of the executive is evaluated. Such major policy areas as the Westland affair, foreign policy and information technology are explored along with such institutional questions as the development of the Cabinet Office and the role of Prime Ministers in the House of Commons. The symposium demonstrates that theoretical and methodological pluralism surmounts the stale controversies surrounding prime ministerial power and opens up new directions in the study of the British executive.

Prime Minister, Cabinet and Core Executive

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RIPA

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