
Bruce Russett Award for Article of the Year in JCR for 2012

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Geoffrey P.R. Wallace at Rutgers University has been awarded the annual Bruce Russett Award for the Article of the Year published in *Journal of Conflict Resolution* during 2012. The winning article, “Welcome Guests, or Inescapable Victims? The Causes of Prisoner Abuse in War” was published in the December 2012 issue (*JCR* 56,6: 955-81).

Members of the editorial board of *JCR* participated in a two-stage process in order to determine the winner of the award. The first step was for a nominating committee to recommend their top three articles for consideration. In the second step the three articles that received the most nominations were given to a voting committee who were asked to rank-order each of the articles. The winner received the highest overall rankings among all the votes cast. In casting their votes for the article of the year, the committee was asked to judge the strength of each article in terms of new and important contributions to basic research based on considerations of theoretical quality, methodological rigor, and substantive relevance to the field of conflict studies.

In the award-winning article Wallace presents an innovative theoretical and empirical study of the causes of prisoner abuse during all interstate wars from 1898 to 2003. Wallace notes that the treatment of prisoners varies extensively across wars and presents a twofold argument for explaining differences in the treatment of prisoners. First, he argues that democratic norms and respect for rule of law should lead to less abuse. Second, abuse becomes more likely when combatants find themselves entangled in wars of attrition or have ambitious wartime goals of territorial conquest. Wallace assembles a new data set to test these propositions and in a series of statistical analyses finds strong empirical support for each proposition. The editor of *JCR* would like to extend a special thanks to all of those board members who served on the nominating and voting committees: Christian Davenport, Dan Reiter, Todd Sandler, Michael Horowitz, Barbara Walter, and Rose McDermott.

The award is USD 500.