Politics in Time

HISTORY, INSTITUTIONS,
AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS

Paul Pierson

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
PRINCETON AND OXFORD
CONTENTS

List of Figures and Tables ix
Acknowledgments xi
Introduction: Placing Politics in Time 1

CHAPTER ONE
Positive Feedback and Path Dependence 17

CHAPTER TWO
Timing and Sequence 54

CHAPTER THREE
Long-Term Processes 79

CHAPTER FOUR
The Limits of Institutional Design 103

CHAPTER FIVE
Institutional Development 133

CONCLUSION
Temporal Context in Social Science Inquiry 167

Bibliography 179
Index 195