# Contents

List of Contributors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction: Comparing the Legislative Performance of Legislatures</th>
<th>David Arter</th>
<th>xv</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Qualified Exceptionalism: The US Congress in Comparative Perspective</td>
<td>John E. Owens and Burdett A. Loomis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 The Baltic Parliaments: Legislative Performance from Independence to EU Accession</td>
<td>Vello Pettai and Ülle Madise</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Parliaments and the Enhancement of Democracy on the African Continent: An Analysis of Institutional Capacity and Public Perceptions</td>
<td>Lia Nijzink, Shaheen Mozaffar and Elisabete Azevedo</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The French Assemblée Nationale: The Case of a Weak Legislature?</td>
<td>Eric Kerrouche</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The Influence of Candidate Selection Methods on Legislatures and Legislators: Theoretical Propositions, Methodological Suggestions and Empirical Evidence</td>
<td>Reuven Y. Hazan and Gideon Rahat</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Characterising the Italian Parliament: Legislative Change in Longitudinal Perspective</td>
<td>James L. Newell</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7 Legislatures in Presidential Systems: The Latin American Experience
Carlos Huneeus, Fabiola Berríos and Rodrigo Cordero 147

8 Assessing Strength and Weakness in Legislatures: The Case of Denmark
Erik Damgaard and Henrik Jensen 169

9 Social Choice and Comparing Legislatures: Constitutional versus Institutional Constraints
Anthony J. McGann 186

10 Conclusion. Questioning the ‘Mezey Question’: An Interrogatory Framework for the Comparative Study of Legislatures
David Arter 205

Index 227