

## The Scottish Parliament

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### A New Devolved Institution

The Scottish Parliament was established by the 1998 Scotland Act following the assent of the Scottish electorate in a 1997 referendum. Following the Act all matters not explicitly 'reserved' to the UK Parliament passed to the Scottish Parliament. At the same time certain powers were also passed to a Welsh Assembly and Northern Irish Assembly, in a process collectively known as 'devolution'.

In Scotland devolution was widely regarded as an opportunity to advance a 'new politics' through a more inclusive and responsive Parliament, in comparison to Westminster.

**Understanding Institutional Change:  
A Gender Perspective**

