

Booknotes

Authors and publishers interested in having their books included in *Booknotes* and considered for inclusion in a book review essay are encouraged to send copies to the book review editor. Books listed here may be included in a book review essay later. Persons interested in writing a book review essay should also contact the book review editor.

Aberbach, Joel D., and Bert A. Rockman. 2000. *In the Web of Politics: Three Decades of the U.S. Federal Executive*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

Aberbach and Rockman argue that unhappiness with public administration in the U.S. is less about bureaucracy and more about elected officials and the way they have structured our governance—more about disjointed political structures, a lack of coherence in policy, and fragmented decision making.

Alm, Leslie R. 2000. *Crossing Borders, Crossing Boundaries: The Role of Scientists in the U.S. Acid Rain Debate*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

In a descriptive analysis of the science-policy linkage, Alm examines the role that scientists played in placing acid rain on the political agenda and in framing the issue in a way that prompted action. He pays particular attention to the scientists' perspective regarding how science is and ought to be used in public policy formulation.

Baker, Will. 2000. *Tony and the Cows: A True Story from the Range Wars*. Lewiston, ID: Confluence Press.

Baker explores environmental politics in a way that combines personal experience and abstract philosophy. He looks at such connections as Thoreau and the Unabomber, the cattle trade and democracy, civilization and wildness, and nature and human nature.

Burke, Sheila, Eric Kingson, and Uwe Reinhardt, eds. 2000. *Social Security and Medicare: Individual vs. Collective Risk and Responsibility*. Washington, DC: National Academy of Social Insurance.

An annual volume from the Academy, this edition examines the idea of bringing more individual choice and responsibility into Social Security and Medicare. In addition to the benefits and risks of such reforms, the authors evaluate the political likelihood of their adoption.

Collins, Paul, ed. 2000. *Applying Public Administration in Development: Guideposts to the Future*. New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons, Ltd.

Using papers from the 1999 conference of the journal *Public Administration and Development*, this volume reviews the state of the art from both historic and futuristic perspectives. It uses case studies to draw conclusions about the current state of affairs.

Dionne, E. J., Jr., and John J. DiIulio, Jr., eds. 2000. *What's God Got to Do with the American Experiment?* Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

A compilation of essays that examine questions about the role of religion in contemporary American life, this volume explores the relationship between: social science and religion, civic actions and sacred purposes, politics and religion, and government and religious institutions.

Harriger, Katy J. 2000. *The Special Prosecutor in American Politics*, Second Edition, Revised. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

The author has updated an earlier edition to include material from Walsh's Iran-Contra and Starr's Whitewater-Lewinsky investigations. She analyzes the office in a framework of separation of powers.

Hatry, Harry P. 1999. *Performance Measurement: Getting Results*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press.

Hatry offers a step-by-step guide to performance measurement that uses examples to highlight key steps. He suggests that the service characteristics to track include: timeliness, accessibility, convenience, accuracy, courteousness, adequacy, facility condition, and customer satisfaction.

Kearney, Richard C., and Evan M. Berman, eds. 1999. *Public Sector Performance: Management, Motivation, and Measurement*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

This collection presents a look at the enduring beliefs and core principles of performance strategies in a way that is intended to provide a compass for managers today as they face the challenge of getting the job done. An "ASPA Classics" volume, it contains articles that were previously published in journals sponsored by ASPA and that the editors consider to have lasting value.

Kemp, Emory L. 2000. *The Great Kanawha Navigation*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.

In a case study of a regional public works project, Kemp combines biographical, technical, political, geographical, and industrial history. The Great Kanawha Navigation was a laboratory for movable dam technology in the U.S.

Kettl, Donald F. 2000. *The Global Public Management Revolution: A Report on the Transformation of Governance*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

According to Kettl, most of the efforts to provide smaller, cheaper, and more efficient government revolve around six core ideas: improved productivity, increased re-

liance on private markets, enhanced service, increased decentralization, enhanced policy management capacity, and improved accountability.

King, Ronald F. 2000. *Budgeting Entitlements: The Politics of Food Stamps*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

King focuses on the food stamp program to examine how the politics of budgeting has affected people. He also analyzes the influence of shifting institutional factors such as budgetary rules (discretion, entitlements, expenditure caps) on the politics of budgeting.

Koven, Steven G. 1999. *Public Budgeting in the United States: The Cultural and Ideological Settings*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

Koven examines budget formation at several levels of government with a focus on the influence of attitudes about how money should be generated and spent. Included in the case studies are looks at the impacts of personal and policy agendas.

Levin, Martin A., and Mary Bryna Sanger. 2000. *After the Cure: Managing Aids and Other Public Health Crises*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

Drawing on cases of previous large-scale public health initiatives, the authors offer ways to improve the prospects for effective management of public health crises. They focus on AIDS as the most compelling current example and suggest a "strategic skepticism" approach that anticipates potential problems.

Liebmann, George W. 2000. *Solving Problems without Large Government: Devolution, Fairness, and Equality*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

An advocate of small institutions, Liebmann discusses the potential role of "sub-local government-as-

sisted entities" in providing accessible and effective public services. He provides numerous examples from societies throughout history.

Light, Paul C. 2000. *Making Nonprofits Work: A Report on the Tides of Nonprofit Management Reform*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution Press.

Examining models for nonprofit reform, exploring potential ways of improving organizational performance, and considering four reform philosophies, Light recommends possible solutions.

Mezey, Susan Gluck. 2000. *Pitiful Plaintiffs: Child Welfare Litigation and the Federal Courts*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Gluck looks at the role of federal courts in child welfare policy making and addresses whether litigation is a viable approach to reform. The research is based largely on interviews with people involved with the Illinois child welfare system.

Munger, Michael C. 2000. *Analyzing Policy: Choices, Conflicts, and Practices*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton and Company.

Describing policy analysis as a pursuit of two questions (What would be the best thing to do? What is the best result that can actually be achieved?), Munger examines questions of efficiency and equity as well as limits and constraints on their attainability.

Nelson, Robert H. 2000. *A Burning Issue: A Case for Abolishing the U.S. Forest Service*. New York, NY: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Seeing the performance of the USFS as unacceptable, this author says severe forest fires are only one example of the results of a lack of vision and initiative and a mistaken reliance on scientific management. He would replace the forest service with a decentralized system.

Rao, Nirmala, ed. 2000. *Representation and Community in Western Democracies*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.

This edited volume examines the role of local elected officials in Western democracies, treating issues of representation, responsiveness, and governance. Specific countries covered include Denmark, Norway, Britain, France, and the United States.

Rich, Wilbur C., ed. 2000. *The Economics and Politics of Sports Facilities*. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.

Examining the topic using historical, political, and economic perspectives, the authors address impacts on the sports industry as well as on the communities in which sports facilities are built. They challenge the idea that stadiums stimulate economic development, and suggest ways to make sports franchise owners accountable to affected communities.

Stever, James A. 2000. *The Path to Organizational Skepticism*. Burke, VA: Chatelaine Press.

Examining populist, pluralist, pragmatist, managerialist, and postmodernist theories of organization, Stever suggests that the most important distinction to make is between those who have faith in modern organizations and those who are skeptical about them. Worried about a meltdown in organizational life, he promotes the need to believe despite the imperfections found in organizational life.

Vasta, Ellie, ed. 2000. *Citizenship, Community and Democracy*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.

The contributions in this volume explore challenges to the nation-state as a structure for democratic governance that are posed by the centrifugal forces of globalization and the centripetal forces of community identity.