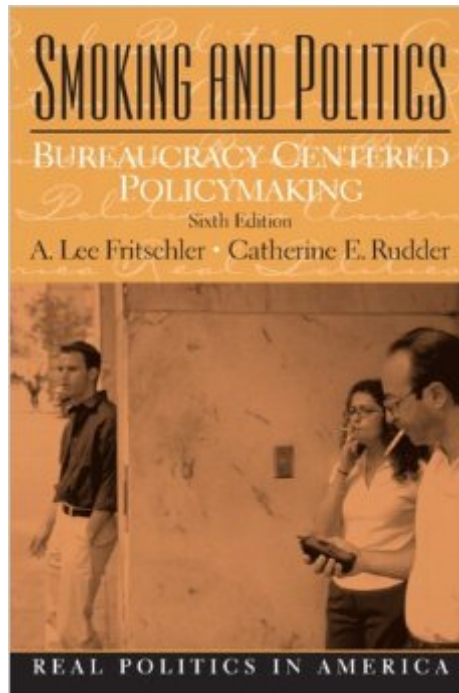


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Smoking And Politics: Bureaucracy Centered Policymaking (6th Edition)



Synopsis

This brief, supplemental text is intended for introductory courses in American government, or intermediate level courses on public policy, public administration, and administrative law. This new 6th edition is a now part of the Paul S. Herrnson (Editor) series Real Politics in America.

Recognizing the centrality and complexity of modern bureaucracy public policy making, Smoking and Politics helps the reader understand why under our system of government tobacco is a legal and thriving industry despite the harms caused by using its products.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Federal policy with regard to tobacco has undergone substantial change over the past thirty years. Fritschler and Hoefler have regularly updated their book, to include these new changes. Unfortunately for them, the mid- to late-1990s has seen a whole new series of proposals, which means a two year old book is already somewhat out of date. Also, with each new edition, they've tried to maintain the general organization of their earlier editions. This means the fifth edition tells a somewhat disjointed story. The book jumps repeated from the 1960s to the 1970s to the 1980s and 1990s, then back again. Often, this leaves the reader confused as to exactly *when* a particular change occurred. The book's strongest point is that it clearly illustrates the importance of the bureaucracy in making [not just implementing] public policy. Many policy texts present the mistaken impression that Congress makes policy and the bureaucracy implements policy. Fritschler and Hoefler do policy students a great service by demonstrating the importance of the federal

rulemaking process, and the ability of an activist bureaucracy to make or motivate substantial changes in federal policy.

"Smoking and Politics," presents the mechanical bureaucratic and political moves that involve PACs, lobbyist firms, and constituents. There are ample amounts of administrative information that is important to explain what happened and why, but it can overwhelm some. However, it does reflect the complexities of the legislative process. In recent years there have been many legislative and legalistic transformations since Fritschler began this book (first edition). This book is commonly read, studied, and dissected at some point in a public administration student's college stint. Compromising, steps forward and back, lobbying, and watershed legislation are presented here highlighting the individuals and organizations involved. (The who, what, how, why, and where.) It's what I call "Machiavellian bureaucratic implementation of policy." Those doing research into the historical politics of smoking, and/or the public policy process involving smoking in particular will get a lot of facts from this.

I read this book for a policy analysis class and was surprised at how concise and clear the writers made this issue. I would recommend it to anyone interested in how policy is made and changed, or to anyone who just wants to know more about the history of smoking in America.

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