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## Books Received

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# BOOKS RECEIVED

**Preserving the Constitution — The Autobiography of Senator Sam Ervin.** Michie Co., 1984. \$19.95 hardcover.

Former Senator Sam Ervin says he wrote this book because of his love of the Constitution and its enshrined freedoms, and because of his love of America. Through a description of his own life experiences, Ervin traces the development, for better or worse, of the Constitution in the twentieth century. His experiences serve as the foundation for his deeply felt and eloquently expressed belief that too much government is bad government. The Senator repeatedly urges, instead, that Congress should only enact laws to preserve equal protection and to balance the Federal budget. Mr. Ervin's recommendations are not limited to the legislative branch. He also suggests that executive orders are beyond the scope of Article II. Likewise, he cautions the Supreme Court to end its "legislative" activism which he argues is beyond the scope of Article III. The book includes five appendices that provide Mr. Ervin's appraisal of his own role in the American constitutional system from all facets of his professional life.

**The Reagan Regulatory Strategy - An Assessment.** Edited by *George C. Eads and Michael Fix.* The Urban Institute Press, 1984. \$12.95 softcover.

This book is one of a six-part series published by the Urban Institute, detailing its findings regarding the Reagan administration's domestic policy. The collection of essays begins with a broad overview of the initial goals of Reagan's regulatory relief program. Among other interesting and challenging essays, the collection also includes Murray Wiedenbaum's account of his specific economic recommendations which were not followed. Mr. Weidenbaum also details the economic program's successes and failures. Several essays collected in the book specifically examine the effects of the Reagan administration's program of regulatory relief on the automobile industry. Various authors conclude that the Reagan deregulation efforts did very little to aid the United States auto industry. Instead, these authors attribute the industry's resurgence to its own efforts to increase efficiency. Finally, the book looks at the role of federalism in the Reagan regulatory programs. The various contributors examine why the states have not rushed in to fill the role formerly played by the Federal Government.

**Contemporary Public Policy Perspectives and Black Americans** By *Mitchell F. Rice and Woodrow Jones, Jr.* Greenwood Press, 1984. \$29.95 hardcover.

The major focus of the book is whether recent public policy objectives are meeting the needs of America's black population. The editors have collected a series of studies that examine current public policy in an era of retrenchment politics. The essays point out that the results envisioned during the 1960's civil rights movement have not been fully attained. Various authors note that the Reagan administration perceives this failure as a cause-effect relationship that can only be eliminated by free market policies. Thus, these authors conclude that attainment of civil rights goals for blacks will become increasingly difficult. This difficulty is attributed to the policymakers' wrongful assumption that racial equality is not the talisman needed to provide blacks with social, political, and economic equality. The essays are complete with extensive footnotes, charts, and graphs.

**Channels of Power** By *Austin Ranney.* American Enterprise Institute, 1983. \$6.95 softcover.

In *Channels of Power*, Ranney examines the impact of television on American politics. He begins with a look at political reality in this age of television. Ranney concludes that most Americans fail to perceive that "television reality" is not always reality itself. Television contains biases, and politicians must understand that in order to overcome or use those biases to their advantage. Ranney has researched how television has affected votes, politicians, and polit-

ical institutions. The author concludes that television is not an Orwellian all-powerful force, but that citizens must critically analyze television's merits and failings in order to preserve the values and institutions that Americans have cherished since the inception of our democracy.

**Thinking Economically.** By *Maurice Levi*. Basic Books, Inc., 1985. \$16.95 hardcover.

This book attempts not to teach readers how to be economists, but rather, how to think like economists. Levi says that his motivation in writing the book was to demonstrate to a wide range of readers that economics is useful rather than esoteric, especially to consumers in making ordinary day-to-day decisions. Levi divides his book into four parts in which he discusses: Thinking positively — positive versus normative reasoning; Thinking small — microeconomic reasoning; Thinking big — macroeconomic reasoning; and finally, Thinking aloud — the horizons and limitations of economics. This breakdown of the topic provides the reader with an understanding of how free market economics works and how each business and consumer fits into the big picture. Though lacking in discussion regarding how values, other than bottom line dollars and cents, can alter purely rational market behavior, the book provides the reader with a useful method of thinking to cope with today's increasing focus on how economics determines the kind of world in which we live.

**The Troubled Crusade.** By *Diane Ravitch*. Basic Books, Inc., 1983. \$8.95 softcover.

This book chronicles the difficult controversies that have been faced by American schools and universities since the second world war. The author characterizes that forty-five year span of education as being a "crusade against ignorance." Ravitch conducts the reader on a tour of American educational theory and practice from the earliest initiatives of postwar educational theorists. The book includes a discussion of the rise and fall of progressive education. The author traces the parallel relationship between educational principles and the changing political climates of the era, including most notably, an analysis of McCarthian loyalty investigations, the tension between blacks and whites as played out through *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the student unrest over the Vietnam War as it came to a boiling point on the campus of Kent State University. The book concludes with a discussion of the expanding role of the Federal Government in education under President Jimmy Carter. In her epilogue, Ravitch concludes that we have properly relied on the integrity of our educational system for it has scaled many barriers, dispelled much hatred, and created numerous possibilities for reconciliation among our people.

**The Ideal Worlds of Economics** By *Benjamin Ward*. Basic Books, Inc., 1979. \$15.95 softcover.

Professor Ward's book is really three books in one. The first book describes the economic view of the world generally ascribed to political liberals; while the second and third 'books' examine similar perceptions generally characterized as "radical" and "conservative," respectively. An unsuspecting reader who accepts the underlying premises supporting any of the three economic models, will likely be convinced of the truth of that economic view — at least until the next model challenges that belief. The author has carefully presented support for each economic model to demonstrate that each is consistent with differing widely held moral views. Because of the author's careful and unbiased presentation, economists and the general public may better understand the logic and popularity of economic views inconsistent with their own. Ward's book makes clear that one's perception of the world's economic status largely correlates with the facts one initially chooses to accept as valid and relevant.

**Principles for Electric Power.** By *Technology & Futures, Inc. & Scientific Foresight, Inc.* Greenwood Press 1984. \$49.95 hardcover.

This book was written for the benefit of politicians and administrators who will formulate government policy affecting the future of electric power and for those who will attempt to influence those policymakers. It is based on a two-year study, funded by the National Science Foundation, which showed that electric power will become an increasingly larger source of energy in the United States. The volume also presents various scenarios predicting future electric power

production. These scenarios range from predictions of mammoth centralized facilities to rooftop and community-based distribution facilities. Background chapters in the book discuss factors from other disciplines that affect electric power and provide the reader with numerous references to additional information and technical data. The book concludes with a survey of the evolution of electric power, complete with appendices and an extensive bibliography.

**The Schools We Deserve.** By *Diane Ravitch*. Basic Books, Inc., 1985. \$19.95 hardcover.

This book compiles Ms. Ravitch's major essays on a wide variety of issues pertaining to the American educational system. This eclectic collection examines such disparate controversies as the use and misuse of tests, tuition tax credits, the place of the humanities in the curriculum, the decline of the study of history, desegregation, bilingual education, and the debates about the quality of American schools. The book points out the relation between schools and society, the unintended consequences of educational reform, the need for disciplined use of intelligence to achieve social improvement, and the importance of a societal commitment to good education. Ms. Ravitch ends with a look at the future, concluding that continued use of fads in educational theory will have schools locked in a unending cycle of educational reform, perpetually dissatisfied with the results.

**Beyond The Human Scale - The Large Corporation at Risk** By *Eli Ginzberg and George Vojta*. Basic Books, Inc. 1985 \$16.95 hardcover.

The authors' major theme is that despite the phenomenal success of the corporate business form during the post-war years, the large corporation is today an endangered species. The authors argue this position despite their recognition that the corporation is the dominant form of business entity in this country. They base their conclusion on the premise that as corporations have prospered and grown, they have found it increasingly difficult to manage human resources effectively and innovatively. Though such a thesis is controversial, the authors fully document their claim, using actual case studies to demonstrate how the increasing complexity of particular corporations has inevitably led to their underutilization of human resources, especially in management. The authors conclude that without radical reductions in the corporate structure to return to a more human scale, the large corporation is at risk of extinction.

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