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# Lanahan Readings American Polity

## Chapter Summaries

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The Phantom Public

Red Ink

The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity

Democracy in America

The American Political Tradition

The Good Citizen

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## **ROBERSON PONCE**

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*The Phantom Public* Lanahan Pub  
Incorporated

Gridlock is not a modern legislative condition. Although the term is said to have entered the American political lexicon after the 1980 elections, Alexander Hamilton complained about it more than two hundred years ago. In many ways, stalemate seems endemic to American politics. Constitutional

skeptics even suggest that the framers intentionally designed the Constitution to guarantee gridlock. In *Stalemate*, Sarah Binder examines the causes and consequences of gridlock, focusing on the ability of Congress to broach and secure policy compromise on significant national issues. Reviewing more than fifty years of legislative history, Binder measures the frequency of deadlock during that time and offers concrete advice for policymakers interested in improving the institutional capacity of Congress. Binder begins by revisiting the

notion of "framers' intent," investigating whether gridlock was the preferred outcome of those who designed the American system of separated powers. Her research suggests that frequent policy gridlock might instead be an unintended consequence of constitutional design. Next, she explores the ways in which elections and institutions together shape the capacity of Congress and the president to make public law. She examines two facets of its institutional evolution: the emergence of the Senate as a coequal legislative partner of the House and the insertion of political parties into a legislative arena originally devoid of parties. Finally, she offers a new empirical approach for testing accounts of policy stalemate during the decades since World War II.

These measurements reveal patterns in legislative performance during the second half of the twentieth century, showing the frequency of policy deadlock and the legislative stages at which it has most often emerged in the postwar period. Binder uses the new measure of stalemate to explain empirical patterns in the frequency of gridlock. The results weave together the effects of institutions and elections and place in perspective the impact of divided government on legislative performance. The conclusion addresses the consequences of legislative stalemate, assessing whether and to what degree deadlock might affect electoral fortunes, political ambitions, and institutional reputations of legislators and presidents. The results

suggest that recurring episodes of stalemate pose a dilemma for legislators and others who care about the institutional standing and capacity of Congress. Binder encourages scholars, political observers, and lawmakers to consider modest reforms that could have strong and salutary effects on the institutional standing and legitimacy of Congress and the president.

**Red Ink** Knopf

The Pulitzer-Prize-winning reporter, columnist, and bestselling author of *In Fed We Trust*, dissects the federal budget in this New York Times bestseller. In a sweeping narrative about the people and the politics behind the budget--a topic that is fiercely debated today in the halls of Congress and the media, and yet is often misunderstood

by the American public--Wessel looks at the 2011 fiscal year (which ended September 30) to see where all the money was actually spent, and why the budget process has grown wildly out of control. Through the eyes of key people, including Jacob Lew, White House director of the Office of Management and Budget; Douglas Elmendorf, director of the Congressional Budget Office; Blackstone founder and former Commerce Secretary Pete Peterson; and more, Wessel gives readers an inside look at the making of our unsustainable budget.

**The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity** Brookings Institution Press

"Although it almost certainly won't get much credit for it, this is a near-perfect

example of that rara avis, the impartial report on a white-hot public issue. Each chapter is full of meaningful quotation and value-neutral elucidation, and each is written in a rainwater-clear prose that makes the book nonpareil for learning what, in terms of law and public policy, abortion in the U.S. is all about." – ALA Booklist

*Democracy in America* Lanahan Pub Incorporated

In this major interpretive work Mr. Kammen argues that most attempt to understand America's history and culture have minimized its complexity, and he demonstrates that, from our beginnings, what has given our culture its distinctive texture, pattern, and thrust is the dynamic interaction of the imported and the indigenous. He shows

now, during the years of colonization, especially in the century from 1660 to 1760, many ideas and institutions were transferred virtually unchanged from Britain, while, simultaneously, others were being transformed in the New World environment. As he unravels the tangled origins of our "bittersweet" culture, Mr. Kammen makes us see that unresolved contradictions in the American experience have functioned as the prime characteristic of our national style. Puritanical and hedonistic, idealistic and materialistic, peace-loving and war-mongering, isolationist and interventionist, consensus-minded and conflict-prone—these opposing strands go back to the roots of our history. He pursues them down through the seventeenth and eighteenth

centuries—from the traumas of colonization and settlement through the tensions of the American Revolution—making clear both the relevance of this early experience to nineteenth and twentieth-century realities and the way in which America's dualisms have endured and accumulated to produced such dilemmas as today's poverty amidst abundance and legitimized lawlessness. Far from being a study in social pathology, *People of Paradox* is a depiction of a complex society and an explanation of its development—a bold interpretation that gives an entirely new perspective to the American ethos.

**The American Political Tradition**

Penguin

Based on conversations with hundreds of

Americans, this volume reveals the self-understanding of Americans as a people and as a nation

**The Good Citizen** Univ of California Press

The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity Lanahan Pub Incorporated

The Imperial Presidency Rowman & Littlefield Pub Incorporated

This is the third edition of a broad collection of engaging readings that has been widely assigned in a variety of civil rights and law-related courses. New to this edition is a major section (Part One) on the Supreme Court and the construction of civil rights and liberties reflecting contrasting views of Constitutional interpretation. For this third edition, noted Constitutional law scholar David M. O'Brien has selected

nearly forty essays to represent diverse and rival views on major conflicts: the First Amendment and hate speech, commercial speech, and pornography; law and religion; unreasonable searches and criminal procedure, racial profiling, and capital punishment; civil liberties and national security; affirmative action, gender equality, and others. With selections written by justices of the Court, legal scholars, political scientists, sociologists, historians, and journalists, and drawn from a wide variety of sources, both scholarly and popular, this new edition remains the ideal reader to assign to students in courses on civil rights and civil liberties, Constitutional law, and any other course taking up the ongoing legal, political, and social issues that have such impact on American life. -

- Book cover.

Congress University of Chicago Press  
The classic study of post-Cold War international relations, more relevant than ever in the post-9/11 world, with a new foreword by Zbigniew Brzezinski. Since its initial publication, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* has become a classic work of international relations and one of the most influential books ever written about foreign affairs. An insightful and powerful analysis of the forces driving global politics, it is as indispensable to our understanding of American foreign policy today as the day it was published. As former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski says in his new foreword to the book, it “has earned a place on the shelf of only about a dozen



or so truly enduring works that provide the quintessential insights necessary for a broad understanding of world affairs in our time.” Samuel Huntington explains how clashes between civilizations are the greatest threat to world peace but also how an international order based on civilizations is the best safeguard against war. Events since the publication of the book have proved the wisdom of that analysis. The 9/11 attacks and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have demonstrated the threat of civilizations but have also shown how vital international cross-civilization cooperation is to restoring peace. As ideological distinctions among nations have been replaced by cultural differences, world politics has been reconfigured. Across the globe, new conflicts—and new cooperation—have

replaced the old order of the Cold War era. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order explains how the population explosion in Muslim countries and the economic rise of East Asia are changing global politics. These developments challenge Western dominance, promote opposition to supposedly “universal” Western ideals, and intensify intercivilization conflict over such issues as nuclear proliferation, immigration, human rights, and democracy. The Muslim population surge has led to many small wars throughout Eurasia, and the rise of China could lead to a global war of civilizations. Huntington offers a strategy for the West to preserve its unique culture and emphasizes the need for people everywhere to learn to coexist in a

complex, multipolar, multicivilizational world.

Honoring God in Red or Blue Princeton University Press

With its rock-bottom approval ratings, acrimonious partisan battles, and apparent inability to do its legislative business, the U.S. Senate might easily be deemed unworthy of attention, if not downright irrelevant. This book tells us that would be a mistake. Because the Senate has become the place where the policy-making process most frequently stalls, any effective resolution to our polarized politics demands a clear understanding of how the formerly august legislative body once worked and how it came to the present crisis. Steven S. Smith provides that understanding in *The Senate Syndrome*. Like the Senate

itself, Smith's account is grounded in history. Countering a cacophony of inexperienced opinion and a widespread misunderstanding of political and legislative history, the book fills in a world of missing information—about debates among senators concerning fundamental democratic processes and the workings of institutional rules, procedures, and norms. And Smith does so in a clear and engaging manner. He puts the present problems of the Senate—the “Senate syndrome,” as he calls them—into historical context by explaining how particular ideas and procedures were first framed and how they transformed with the times. Along the way he debunks a number of myths about the Senate, many perpetuated by senators themselves, and makes some

pointed observations about the media's coverage of Congress. The Senate Syndrome goes beyond explaining such seeming technicalities as the difference between regular filibusters and post-cloture filibusters, the importance of chair rulings, the changing role of the parliamentarian, and the debate over whether appeals of points of order should be subject to cloture margins, to show why understanding them matters. At stake is resolution of the Senate syndrome, and the critical underlying struggle between majority rule and minority rights in American policy making.

[American Government 3e](#) Vintage  
In this provocative and engagingly written book, the authors argue that politicians seldom tailor their policy

decisions to "pander" to public opinion. In fact, they say that when not facing election, contemporary presidents and members of Congress routinely ignore the public's preferences and follow their own political philosophies. 37 graphs.

**Individualism and Commitment in American Life** Brookings Institution Press

A First Nations former hockey star looks back on his life as he undergoes treatment for alcoholism in this novel from the author of *Dream Wheels*. Saul Indian Horse is a child when his family retreats into the woods. Among the lakes and the cedars, they attempt to reconnect with half-forgotten traditions and hide from the authorities who have been kidnapping Ojibway youth. But when winter approaches, Saul loses

everything: his brother, his parents, his beloved grandmother—and then his home itself. Alone in the world and placed in a horrific boarding school, Saul is surrounded by violence and cruelty. At the urging of a priest, he finds a tentative salvation in hockey. Rising at dawn to practice alone, Saul proves determined and undeniably gifted. His intuition and vision are unmatched. His speed is remarkable. Together they open doors for him: away from the school, into an all-Ojibway amateur circuit, and finally within grasp of a professional career. Yet as Saul’s victories mount, so do the indignities and the taunts, the racism and the hatred—the harshness of a world that will never welcome him, tied inexorably to the sport he loves. Spare and compact yet undeniably rich, Indian

Horse is at once a heartbreaking account of a dark chapter in our history and a moving coming-of-age story. “Shocking and alien, valuable and true... A master of empathy.”—Jane Smiley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Golden Age* “A severe yet beautiful novel.... Indian Horse finds the granite solidity of Wagamese’s prose polished to a lustrous sheen; brisk, brief, sharp chapters propel the reader forward.”—Donna Bailey Nurse, *National Post* (Toronto)

**The Electoral Connection, Second Edition** Routledge

Political campaigns today are won or lost in the so-called ground war--the strategic deployment of teams of staffers, volunteers, and paid part-timers who work the phones and canvass block by block, house by house, voter by

voter. *Ground Wars* provides an in-depth ethnographic portrait of two such campaigns, New Jersey Democrat Linda Stender's and that of Democratic Congressman Jim Himes of Connecticut, who both ran for Congress in 2008. Rasmus Kleis Nielsen examines how American political operatives use "personalized political communication" to engage with the electorate, and weighs the implications of ground war tactics for how we understand political campaigns and what it means to participate in them. He shows how ground wars are waged using resources well beyond those of a given candidate and their staff. These include allied interest groups and civic associations, party-provided technical infrastructures that utilize large databases with detailed

individual-level information for targeting voters, and armies of dedicated volunteers and paid part-timers. Nielsen challenges the notion that political communication in America must be tightly scripted, controlled, and conducted by a select coterie of professionals. Yet he also quashes the romantic idea that canvassing is a purer form of grassroots politics. In today's political ground wars, Nielsen demonstrates, even the most ordinary-seeming volunteer knocking at your door is backed up by high-tech targeting technologies and party expertise. *Ground Wars* reveals how personalized political communication is profoundly influencing electoral outcomes and transforming American democracy. [Views from the Bench](#) Read Books Ltd

Politics isn't a four-letter word. Everyone's been at that dinner party. The conversation takes a political turn. The arguments start, the atmosphere grows tense, and all that remains is a hopeless stalemate and an awkward silence. Makes you wonder . . . is thoughtful and productive dialogue about politics even possible? In *Honoring God in the Red or Blue*, Dr. Amy Black addresses the debaters as well as those intimidated or annoyed by the debaters; political junkies and the contented uninvolved. She explains the purposes and limitations of our system and helps readers create realistic expectations for government. While God's truth is perfect, human application of it is not, a reality that shouldn't deter us from engaging in debate and staying

informed. Rather, it should challenge us to raise our standards for how we speak about the issues—and those in office. It's time to approach political divides with an extra measure of grace. Success begins with seeking God's honor first and foremost, regardless of where we fall on the political spectrum. Don't limit yourself to chatting about the weather.

**The Hollow Hope** CQ Press

*American Government 2e* is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of the single-semester American Government course. This title includes innovative features designed to enhance student learning, including Insider Perspective features and a Get Connected module that shows students how they can get engaged in the political process. The book provides an

important opportunity for students to learn the core concepts of American Government and understand how those concepts apply to their lives and the world around them.

Judges on Judging The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity

Presents a collection of ninety essays that cover American politics and government.

**Pressure and Power** J M Dent & Sons Limited

In follow-up studies, dozens of reviews, and even a book of essays evaluating his conclusions, Gerald Rosenberg's critics—not to mention his supporters—have spent nearly two decades debating the arguments he first put forward in *The Hollow Hope*. With this substantially expanded second

edition of his landmark work, Rosenberg himself steps back into the fray, responding to criticism and adding chapters on the same-sex marriage battle that ask anew whether courts can spur political and social reform. Finding that the answer is still a resounding no, Rosenberg reaffirms his powerful contention that it's nearly impossible to generate significant reforms through litigation. The reason? American courts are ineffective and relatively weak—far from the uniquely powerful sources for change they're often portrayed as. Rosenberg supports this claim by documenting the direct and secondary effects of key court decisions—particularly *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. He reveals, for example, that Congress, the White

House, and a determined civil rights movement did far more than Brown to advance desegregation, while pro-choice activists invested too much in Roe at the expense of political mobilization. Further illuminating these cases, as well as the ongoing fight for same-sex marriage rights, Rosenberg also marshals impressive evidence to overturn the common assumption that even unsuccessful litigation can advance a cause by raising its profile. Directly addressing its critics in a new conclusion, *The Hollow Hope*, Second Edition promises to reignite for a new generation the national debate it sparked seventeen years ago.

And the Men Who Made it University of Chicago Press

A political handbook of the 16th century

presents a formula for acquiring a position of leadership and power

### **Government in the Twilight Zone**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Illuminates how local board systems operate and the motivations and experiences of their members. While 97 percent of all American cities are smaller than 50,000 and millions of Americans experience civic life in these communities, what we know about their politics and governance is limited, particularly how local board systems operate, who the board members are, what motivates them to serve, and what they think about their experiences.

Drawing on a unique and extensive set of survey data from board members, mayors, and city councilors in sixty cities across six states, *Government in the*



Twilight Zone significantly expands our knowledge of small-city boards and politics. By embedding the empirical research in the historical trajectory of small towns, John R. Baker provides a rich narrative that discusses the role of entities such as planning commissions, parks and recreation boards, and zoning appeals boards. He also clarifies how board and commission members are recruited in small cities, explains how these organizations work to make the decisions required of them, and reveals what they and their city councilors and mayors think about their importance and effectiveness. “Professional city managers have long known about the influence and importance of advisory boards and commissions in the decision making in local government. Thank you,

Rob, for shedding a little light on these groups that operate in the twilight of government.” — Scot E. Simpson, City Administrator, River Falls, Wisconsin

**The American Commonwealth** SUNY Press

Thoroughly revised and updated for this Fifth Edition, *Judges on Judging* offers insights into the judicial philosophies and political views of those on the bench. Broad in scope, this one-of-a-kind book features “off-the-bench” writings and speeches in which Supreme Court justices, as well as lower federal and state court judges, discuss the judicial process, constitutional interpretation, judicial federalism, and the role of the judiciary. Engaging introductory material written by David M. O’Brien provides students with necessary thematic and

historical context making this book the perfect supplement to present a nuanced view of the judiciary.

**The Federalist Papers** Lanahan Pub Incorporated

Greater racial diversity is good news for America's future. Race is once again a contentious topic in America, as shown by the divisive rise of Donald Trump and the activism of groups like Black Lives Matter. Yet *Diversity Explosion* argues that the current period of profound racial change will lead to a less-divided nation than today's older whites or younger minorities fear. Prominent demographer William Frey sees America's emerging diversity boom as good news for a country that would otherwise face declining growth and rapid aging for many years to come. In the new edition

of this popular Brookings Press offering, Frey draws from the lessons of the 2016 presidential election and new statistics to paint an illuminating picture of where America's racial demography is headed—and what that means for the nation's future. Using the U.S. Census, national surveys, and related sources, Frey tells how the rapidly growing "new minorities"—Hispanics, Asians, and multiracial Americans—along with blacks and other groups, are transforming and reinvigorating the nation's demographic landscape. He discusses their impact on generational change, regional shifts of major racial groups, neighborhood segregation, interracial marriage, and presidential politics. *Diversity Explosion* is an accessible, richly illustrated overview of how unprecedented racial

change is remaking the United States once again. It is an essential guide for political strategists, marketers, investors, educators, policymakers, and

anyone who wants to understand the magnitude, potential, and promise of the new national melting pot in the twenty-first century.

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