



Politics, Position, and Power: The Dynamics of Federal Organization

By Harold Seidman

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The fifth edition of this classic text presents a concise study of the United States government in the 1990's, highlighting the constitutional implications of the current debate among anti-government revolutionaries, privatizers, and government reinventors about the governments purpose. It analyzes the legal, political, and organizational consequences of arguments which contend that there has ceased to be a realistic distinction between what is public and what is private. Seidman demonstrates how control of regulations, rather than structure, has become the center of the struggle for position and power, and by describing the logic behind the politics that influence federal agencies, he provides a detailed account of the limits of government performance and the most appropriate instruments for improvement. Completely updated and revised to cover such significant developments as the Clinton-Gore National Performance Review and the Gingrich revolution, this text shows how structural reorganization and procedures may be used to achieve political purposes and to alter the balance of power among the president, congress, judiciary, and interest groups. A provocative chapter entitled Amputation Before Diagnosis is critical in explaining the failure to relate proposed reforms to specific strategic goals. With its sound scholarship and unique personal insights, this new edition of *Politics, Position, and Power* is not only an ideal text for political science courses focusing on public administration, it is also an essential resource for understanding present trends in American government and public administration.

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Harold Seidman is at University of Connecticut (Emeritus).

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