



Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do And Why They Do It (Basic Books Classics)

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Wilson (management, UCLA) attempts to explain bureaucratic behavior, beginning with a contrast of similar institutions (armies, prisons, and schools) that have succeeded and failed. He finds that neither the liberal view (more money, new programs) or the conservative ideology (smaller government) provides the single answer. Wilson's key contribution here is his emphasis on the "bottom" of the bureaucracy--those who do the work. Policy, he says, is developed by those with no understanding of its implementation. In addition, Wilson suggests that bureaucracy can be made "efficient" by giving bureaucrats more incentives and flexibility, a strategy, he concludes, that conflicts with our political culture. For academic libraries.

- *Jeffrey Kraus, Wagner Coll., Staten Island, New York*

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Review

"A gold mine of interesting, even unique observations about bureaucratic government on all levels." -- *Christian Science Monitor*

"A gold mine of interesting, even unique observations about bureaucratic government on all levels." -- --R. Cort Kirkwood, *Christian Science Monitor*

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"The synthesis is shrewd and creative. The prose is uncommonly swift. The fresh insights are abundant and compelling." -- --Martha Derthick, *University of Virginia*

About the Author

James Q. Wilson is James Collins professor of management and public policy at UCLA. Winner of the 1990, James Madison Award of the American Political Science Association, he is also the author of *Moral Sense* and *Moral Judgement*.

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