



Understanding Public Policy (13th Edition)

By Thomas R. Dye

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Updated in a new 13th edition and the gold-standard for introductory public policy texts, *Understanding Public Policy* is designed to provide readers with concrete tools for not only understanding public policy in general, but for analyzing specific public policies.

This new edition focuses on the many policy changes initiated by President Barack Obama, with special attention given to the economic policies addressing the global financial crisis.

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Editorial Review

From the Publisher

This introduction to the models political scientists use to describe and explain political life explores what policies governments pursue, why governments pursue the policies they do, and what the consequences of these policies are.

From the Back Cover

“Probably the best general public policy textbook on the market, Dye’s Understanding Public Policy has proven its worth, utility and staying power over the years with its comprehensive treatment of critical issues and ability to link theory with practice.” – Euel Elliott, *University of Texas at Dallas*

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New to the Thirteenth Edition

- Analysis of **President Obama’s Budget of the United States Government 2010**, including critical and comprehensive coverage of bank bailouts, the stimulus package, the TARP program, mortgage modification, the purchase of “toxic assets,” and dramatic increases in federal spending.
- Discussion on **the Obama administration’s Tax Code** and plans to raise taxes on capital gains and increase top marginal tax rates.
- A focus on **asymmetrical warfare** in the chapter on defense policy –countering small-scale guerilla operations, ambushes, hidden explosives, suicide bombings, and hostage takings.
- **Three new case studies** on the Gulf War, the war in Iraq, and the war in Afghanistan analyze the use of military force.
- A special section, **“What Went Wrong in Iraq,”** describes the early mistakes, later stabilization, and phased withdrawal of U.S. forces in that country.
- Detailed coverage of the resurrected debate over **comprehensive immigration policy reform and border control**.
- **New coverage of energy policy** is incorporated into the environmental policy discussion with treatment of national and international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the “cap and trade” model, and the role of the nuclear power industry.
- **The health policy chapter** has been substantially revised to include analysis of President Obama’s healthcare plan.
- An in depth discussion on **education policy** is included, with special attention to the **No Child Left Behind Act** controversies, and President Obama’s plans for teacher accountability, merit pay, and standardized testing.
- New coverage of several **Supreme Court decisions**, including the 2008 hearing of the *District of Columbia vs. Heller* affirming an individual’s right to bear arms.

About the Author

Formerly Professor of Government at Florida State University, Thomas Dye is President of the Lincoln Center for Public Service. He was University Teacher of the Year in 1987. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Dye is the author of numerous books and articles on American government and public policy. He has served as president of the Southern Political Science Association, president of the Policy Studies Organization, and secretary of the American Political Science Association. Additional information is available at www.thomasrdye.com.

Users Review

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Michael Trumbo:

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