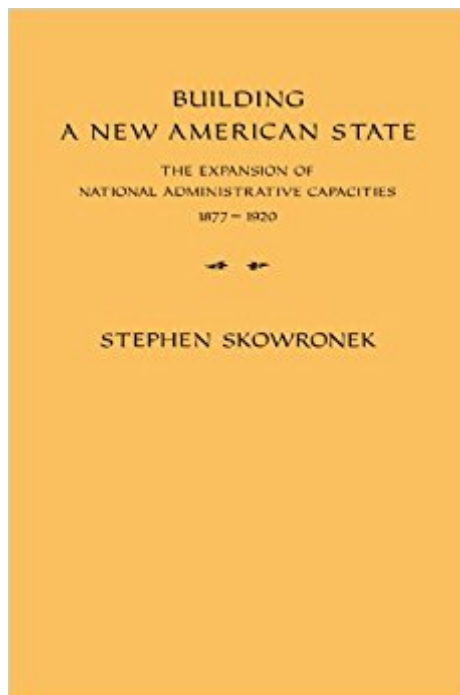




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Building A New American State: The Expansion Of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920



Synopsis

This book is about governmental change in America. It examines the reconstruction of institutional power relationships that had to be negotiated among the courts, the parties, the president, the Congress and the states in order to accommodate the expansion of national administrative capacities around the turn of the twentieth century. Stephen Skowronek argues that new institutional forms and procedures do not arise reflexively or automatically in response to environmental demands on government, but must be extorted through political and institutional struggles that are rooted in and mediated by pre-established governing arrangements. As the first full-scale historical treatment of the development of American national administration, this book will provide a useful textbook for public administration courses.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (June 30, 1982)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521288657

ISBN-13: 978-0521288651

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #369,773 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Communication Policy](#) #1220 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Government](#) #3111 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > United States](#)

Customer Reviews

Examines the reconstruction of institutional power relationships that had to be negotiated among the courts, the parties, the President, the Congress, and the states in order to accommodate the expansion of national administrative capacities around the turn of the twentieth century.

A little too optimistic about the ability of experts to use government authority to plan the direction of a society...and certainly too friendly to Woodrow Wilson and the American mobilization for the First World War (which is presented as a legitimate challenge to American state capacity)...nonetheless, this is one of the four or five most important works in American political history published in the last

half century...and that is true even if you have to wait for the distributor to deliver it...

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