

The Mild Voice of Reason: Deliberative Democracy and American National Government

By Joseph M. Bessette

University of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 306 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. In recent years, many Americans and more than a few political scientists have come to believe that democratic deliberation in Congress whereby judgments are made on the merits of policies reflecting the interests and desires of American citizens is more myth than reality. Rather, pressure from special interest groups, legislative bargaining, and the desire of incumbents to be reelected are thought to originate in American legislative politics. While not denying such influences, Joseph M. Bessette argues that the institutional framework created by the founding fathers continues to foster a government that is both democratic and deliberative, at least to some important degree. Drawing on original research, case studies of policymaking in Congress, and portraits of American lawmakers, Bessette demonstrates not only the limitations of nondeliberative explanations for how laws are made but also the continued vitality of genuine reasoning on the merits of public policy. Bessette discusses the contributions of the executive branch to policy deliberation, and looks at the controversial issue of the proper relationship of public opinion to policymaking. Informed by Bessette's nine years of public service in city and federal government,...



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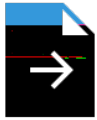
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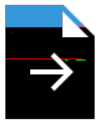
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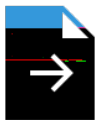
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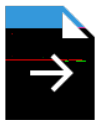
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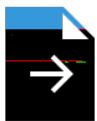
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