

## Critical Strategies For Social Research

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this book examines the fundamental role of politics in funding our public schools and fills a conceptual imbalance in the current literature in school finance and educational policy unlike those who are primarily concerned about cost efficiency kenneth wong specifies how resources are allocated for what purposes at different levels of the government in contrast to those who focus on litigation as a way to reduce funding gaps he underscores institutional stalemate and the lack of political will to act as important factors that affect legislative deadlock in school finance reform wong defines how politics has sustained various types of rules that affect the allocation of resources at the federal state and local level while these rules have been remarkably stable over the past twenty to thirty years they have often worked at cross purposes by fragmenting policy and constraining the education process at schools with the greatest needs wong s examination is shaped by several questions how do these rules come about what role does politics play in retention of the rules do the federal state and local governments espouse different policies in what ways do these policies operate at cross purposes how do they affect educational opportunities do the policies cohere in ways that promote better and more equitable student outcomes wong concludes that the five types of entrenched rules for resource allocation are rooted in existing governance arrangements and seemingly impervious to partisan shifts interest group pressures and constitutional challenge and because these rules foster policy fragmentation and embody initiatives out of step with the performance based reform agenda of the 1990s the outlook for positive change in public education is uncertain unless fairly radical approaches are employed wong also analyzes four allocative reform models two based on the assumption that existing political structures are unlikely to change and two that seek to empower actors at the school level the two models for systemwide restructuring aimed at intergovernmental coordination and or integrated governance would seek to clarify responsibilities for public education among federal state and local authorities above all integrating political and educational accountability the other two models identified by wong shift control from state and district to the school one based on local leadership and the other based on market forces in discussing the guiding principles of the four models wong takes care to identify both the potential and limitations of each written with a broad policy audience in mind wong s book should appeal to professionals interested in the politics of educational reform and to teachers of courses dealing with educational policy and administration and intergovernmental relations

concise and refreshingly balanced this history portrays fdr as he confronted crises of epic proportions during his record 12 year tenure as our nation s chief executive mcjimsey gives a fresh account of roosevelt s landmark administration and offers a new perspective on the new deal 12 photos

if you think your job is hopelessly difficult you may be right particularly if your job is public administration those who study or practice public management know full well the difficulties faced by administrators of complex bureaucratic systems what they don t know is why some jobs in the public sector are harder than others and how good managers cope with those jobs drawing on leadership theory and social psychology erwin hargrove and john glidewell provide the first systematic analysis of the factors that determine the inherent difficulty of public management jobs and of the coping strategies employed by successful managers to test their argument hargrove and glidewell focus on those jobs fraught with extreme difficulties impossible jobs what differentiates impossible from possible jobs are 1 the publicly perceived legitimacy of the commissioner s clientele 2 the intensity of the conflict among the agency s constituencies 3 the public s confidence in the authority of the commissioner s profession and 4 the strength of the agency s myth or long term idealistic goal hargrove and glidewell flesh out their analysis with six case studies that focus on the roles played by leaders of specific agencies each essay summarizes the institutional strengths and weaknesses specifies what makes the job impossible and then compares the skills and strategies that incumbents have employed in coping with such jobs readers will come away with a thorough understanding of the conflicting social psychological and political forces that act on commissioners in impossible jobs

the authors outline an approach to the study of literacy that does not neglect the cognitive or individual aspects of literacy but rather sees them as largely shaped by the social forces of our political economic and educational systems

between 1700 and 1830 men and women in the english speaking territories framing the atlantic gained unprecedented access to material things the british atlantic was an empire of goods held together not just by political authority and a common language but by a shared material culture nourished by constant

flows of commodities diets expanded to include exotic luxuries such as tea and sugar the fruits of mercantile and colonial expansion homes were furnished with novel goods like clocks and earthenware teapots the products of british industrial ingenuity this groundbreaking book compares these developments in britain and north america bringing together a multi disciplinary group of scholars to consider basic questions about women men and objects in these regions in asking who did the shopping how things were used and why they became the subject of political dispute the essays show the profound significance of everyday objects in the eighteenth century atlantic world

compact timely well researched and balanced this institutional history of social security s seventy years shows how the past still influences ongoing reform debates helping the reader both to understand and evaluate the current partisan arguments on both sides

this survey of the nature problems and outcomes of supportive interactions covers a wide range of contexts and relationships exploring social support between friends spouses family members and co workers both qualitative and quantitative studies in natural and laboratory settings are discussed the contributors examine methods and models for assessing specific messages through which people attempt to provide support approaches for examining the form and content of specific social support interactions and how features of social relationships convey and contextualize support

synthesizes what is known about the cultural human history of kansas from 10 000 b c to the nineteenth century this significant contribution to plains archaeology provides the reader with the first comprehensive overview of the subject in nearly fifty years

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