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the classic work on qualitative methods in political science designing social inquiry presents a unified approach to qualitative and quantitative research in political science showing how the same logic of inference underlies both this stimulating book discusses issues related to framing research questions measuring the accuracy of data and the uncertainty of empirical inferences discovering causal effects and getting the most out of qualitative research it addresses topics such as interpretation and inference comparative case studies constructing causal theories dependent and explanatory variables the limits of random selection selection bias and errors in measurement the book only uses mathematical notation to clarify concepts and assumes no prior knowledge of mathematics or statistics featuring a new preface by robert o keohane and gary king this edition makes an influential work available to new generations of qualitative researchers in the social sciences

designing social inquiry focuses on improving qualitative research where numerical measurement is either impossible or undesirable what are the right questions to ask how should you define and make inferences about causal effects how can you avoid bias how many cases do you need and how should they be selected what are the consequences of unavoidable problems in qualitative research such as measurement error incomplete information or omitted variables what are proper ways to

estimate and report the uncertainty of your conclusions

with innovative new chapters on process tracing regression analysis and natural experiments the second edition of rethinking social inquiry further extends the reach of this path breaking book the original debate with king keohane and verba now updated remains central to the volume and the new material illuminates evolving discussions of essential methodological tools thus process tracing is often invoked as fundamental to qualitative analysis but is rarely applied with precision pitfalls of regression analysis are sometimes noted but often are inadequately examined and the complex assumptions and trade offs of natural experiments are poorly understood the second edition extends the methodological horizon through exploring these critical tools a distinctive feature of this edition is the online placement of four chapters from the prior edition all focused on the dialogue with king keohane and verba

please note this is a companion version not the original book sample book insights 1 this book is about research in the social sciences it is not a guide to specific research tasks such as the design of surveys conduct of field work or analysis of statistical data rather it focuses on the essential logic underlying all social scientific research 2 the styles of quantitative and qualitative research are very different quantitative research uses numbers and statistical methods and it tends to be based on numerical measurements of specific aspects of phenomena qualitative research in contrast covers a wide range of approaches and it relies on intensive interviews or depth analysis of historical materials 3 the difference between quantitative and qualitative research is only stylistic all good research can be understood to derive from the same underlying logic of inference both quantitative and qualitative research can be systematic and scientific 4 the rules of scientific inference are the same for all types of research even nonstatistical research they are often more clearly stated in the style of quantitative research since the abstract and even unrealistic nature of statistical models makes the rules of inference stand out

this book explores the epistemology and the methodology of political knowledge and social inquiry what can we know and how do we know contributing authors offer answers addressing the purpose and methods of research and analyzing concepts including the relationship of theory and evidence and the importance of medicine to social science

a discussion of the case study method which develops an integrative framework for causal inference in small n research this framework is applied to research design tasks such as case selection and process tracing the book presents the basics state of the art and arguments for improving the case study method and empirical small n research

research design the logic of social inquiry is a collection of critical writings on different aspects of social research they have been carefully selected for the variety of approaches they display in relation to three broad styles of research experimental survey and ethnographic all are classic contributions to the development of methodology and excellent expositions of particular procedures the book is organized in sections that detail the methods of a typical experimental research program design data collection and data analysis these five sections include the language of social research research design data collection measurement and data analysis and report each is preceded by an introduction stressing the unique strengths of the different viewpoints represented and reconciling them in one coherent approach to research the volume includes displays of philosophical underpinnings of different methodological styles and important issues in research design data collection

methods particularly the problem of systematic bias in the data collected and ways in which researchers may attempt to reduce it are discussed there is also a discussion on measurement in which the central issues of reliability validity and scale construction are detailed this kind of synthesis between such diverse schools of research as the experimentalists and the ethnographers is of particular concern to social researchers the book will be of great value to planners and researchers in local government and education departments and to all others engaged in social science or educational research

do some technologies provoke war do others promote peace offense defense theory contends that technological change is an important cause of conflict leaders will be tempted to launch wars when they believe innovation favors attackers over defenders offense defense theory is perhaps best known from the passionate and intricate debates about first strike capability and deterrence stability during the cold war but it has deeper historical roots remains a staple in international relations theorizing and drives modern arms control policymaking in war and the engineers the first book systematically to test the logical and empirical validity of offense defense theory keir a lieber examines the relationships among politics technology and the causes of war lieber s cases explore the military and political implications of the spread of railroads the emergence of rifled small arms and artillery the introduction of battle tanks and the nuclear revolution lieber incorporates the new historiography of world war i which draws on archival materials that only recently became available to challenge many common beliefs about the conflict the author s central conclusion is that technology is neither a cause of international conflict nor a panacea instead power politics remains paramount

covers 8th session

it all began atop a drugstore in princeton new jersey in november 1905 from its modest beginnings princeton university press was to become one of the world s most important scholarly publishers embracing a wealth of disciplines that have enriched our cultural academic and scientific landscape both as a tribute to our authors and to celebrate our centenary princeton university press here presents a century in books this beautifully designed volume highlights 100 of the nearly 8 000 books we have published necessarily winnowed from a much larger list these books best typify what has been most lasting most defining and most distinctive about our publishing history from einstein s the meaning of relativity 1922 to the numerous mathematical and other works that marked the press s watershed decade of the 1940s including von neumann and morgenstern s theory of games and economic behavior from milestones of literary criticism by erich auerbach and northrop frye to george kennan s pulitzer prize winning book on soviet american relations from milton friedman and anna jacobson schwartz s a monetary history of the united states 1867 1960 to more recent landmarks such as l luca cavalli sforza paolo menozzi and alberto piazza s the history and geography of human genes and robert shiller s irrational exuberance in addition to succinct descriptions of the 100 titles and a short introduction on the history of the press the book features five essays by prominent scholars and writers michael wood discusses the impact on princeton university press of intellectuals who fled nazi germany and authored many influential books anthony grafton recounts our rich publishing tradition in history politics and culture sylvia nasar traces our evolution into a leading voice in economics publishing daniel kevles reflects on einstein a figure of special importance to princeton and lord robert may writes on our long standing tradition of publishing in mathematics and science a century in books is more than a celebration of 100 years of publishing at princeton university press it is a treasure trove of 100 years of books that have added to the richness of twentieth century intellectual life

this title was first published in 2003 using extensive case studies of the nuclear weapons programmes of india pakistan israel iraq iran egypt and syria this important work shows that a higher than normal probability of war in protracted conflict regions prompts states to search for credible deterrents such as nuclear weapons the book rigorously examines the factors that affect the pace of this proliferation such as regional power structures and geographical proximity and challenges many prevailing theories on proliferation this compelling text convincingly argues that simple conflict relationships are not sufficient for countries to go nuclear thus providing insight into the true complexity of the issue explaining the similarities and differences between the nuclear policies of states in protracted conflict regions the book commands the attention of anyone interested in nuclear proliferation and regional conflict

we know very little about political dynamics in states that have just experienced an internal war despite the increasing need to deal with such states in the post cold war world matthew krain examines what prompts leaders in post revolutionary states to employ repression or accommodation through statistical analysis and case studies of iran cuba nicaragua and bolivia he also examines the effects of these choices on how the domestic opposition reacts what type of political system develops in the new state and whether or not the leaders who institute these policies survive in power in the long run krain concludes with a series of policy recommendations

deindustrialization white flight and inner city poverty have spelled trouble for baltimore schools marion orr now examines why school reform has been difficult to achieve there revealing the struggles of civic leaders and the limitations placed on baltimore s african american community as each has tried to rescue a failing school system examining the interplay between government and society orr presents the first systematic analysis of social capital both within the african american community black social capital and outside it where social capital crosses racial lines orr shows that while black social capital may have created solidarity against white domination in baltimore it hampered african american leaders capacity to enlist the cooperation from white corporate elites and suburban residents needed for school reform orr examines social capital at the neighborhood level in elite level interactions and in intergovernmental relations to argue that black social capital doesn t necessarily translate into the kind of intergroup coalition needed to bring about school reform he also includes an extensive historical survey of the black community showing how distrust engendered by past black experiences has hampered the formation of significant intergroup social capital the book features case studies of school reform activity including the first analysis of the politics surrounding baltimore s decision to hire a private for profit firm to operate nine of its public schools these cases illuminate the paradoxical aspects of black social capital in citywide school reform while offering critical perspectives on current debates about privatization site based management and other reform alternatives orr s book challenges those who argue that social capital alone can solve fundamentally political problems by purely social means and questions the efficacy of either privatization or black community power to reform urban schools black social capital offers a cogent conceptual synthesis of social capital theory and urban regime theory that demonstrates the importance of government politics and leadership in converting social capital into a resource that can be mobilized for effective social change

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charles walcott and karen hult maintain that the organization of the white house influences presidential performance much more than commonly thought and that organization theory is an essential tool for understanding that influence their book offers the first systematic application of organizational governance theory to the structures and operations of the white house office using organizational theory to analyze what at times has been a rather ad hoc and disorganized office might seem quixotic after all the white house office exists within a turbulent political environment that encourages expedient decision making and every four to eight years it must be reinvented by presidents who have their own theories and preferences about how to organize a staff to serve their policy needs but walcott and hult argue that white house staffs are not simply puppets of presidential preference and style yes staff structures evolve primarily from presidents strategic responses to external demands but those structures in turn significantly influence how the executive branch perceives and responds to further demands the first part of their book lays out the theoretical argument the second examines white house outreach congressional liaison press relations personnel selection executive branch oversight and interest group and intergovernmental liaison the third focuses on white house handling of policy development and implementation the fourth analyzes staff structures that facilitate the operation of the presidency itself presidential writing and scheduling staff management and cabinet coordination the book concludes by identifying general patterns in the emergency nature and stability of governance structures in the white house original and instructive governing the white house provides a much needed primer on the inner workings of the white house staff and will be an essential volume for anyone studying the presidency

most americans believe that local school districts are the only means by which citizens may exercise control over public education kathryn mcdermott argues to the contrary that existing local institutions are no longer sufficient for achieving either equity or democratic governance not only is local control inequitable it also fails to live up to its reputation for guaranteeing public participation and citizen influence drawing upon democratic theory and the results of field research in new haven connecticut and three suburbs mcdermott contends that our educational system can be made more democratic by centralizing control over funding while decentralizing most authority over schools to the level of schools themselves while enacting public school choice controlled for racial balance to many people in connecticut and elsewhere the tension between equal opportunity for all students and local control of public education seems impossible to resolve in 1996 the connecticut supreme court ruled in sheff v o neill that local control produces unconstitutional segregation of public schools nearly all of the state's 169 towns operate their own public schools and like the towns they serve the schools are generally homogeneous with respect to race and socioeconomic class in the sheff ruling the court declared that making school districts coterminous with town lines is the single most important factor contributing to the present concentration of racial and ethnic minorities in the hartford public school system at the same time the court also acknowledged that the town based school system presently furthers the legitimate nonracial interests of permitting considerable local control and accountability in educational matters in connecticut and elsewhere it has often seemed

necessary to choose between local control and equity in public education and local control has almost always won mcdermott argues that rather than seeing local control and equity as conflicting goals policymakers should regard them as equally important components of democracy in public education in her view a truly democratic system of education should both encourage citizen participation in school governance and contribute to the formation and maintenance of a social order in which equality of opportunity prevails over hierarchies of privilege centralizing distribution of resources and using controlled choice to end racial isolation would provide greater equality of opportunity while decentralizing management of schools would expand citizen participation mcdermott s conclusions break new ground in our understanding of local school governance itself and call into question the conventional wisdom about local participation these findings should interest those who study school governance and reform especially in an urban setting as well as policy makers administrators teachers students and citizens eager to improve their schools

a very wide ranging and international introduction to research methods in political science

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