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BOOK REVIEWS


Many important changes have occurred in all aspects of American national government since the first edition of this book was published in 1952. The authors have included in the revision the major changes, demonstrating their effect on the political and administrative structure of our nation, and have re-emphasized from a fresh viewpoint those basic structural features that they consider most important to an understanding of our government.

In this edition is an entirely new foreign policy section entitled "The Foreign Affairs Functions of the National Government." Included are studies of American foreign policy and its administration and of national defense and security. Among other new features is a greatly expanded coverage of the field of individual liberty, with emphasis upon recent problems raised by conflicts between liberty and the loyalty required for national security. There is also a thorough analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions.

An innovation that should make the text of increased value is the inclusion of selective charts and tables pertaining to the material covered. The references at the end of each chapter have been brought up to date; they should be most helpful to the student or teacher interested in further study.

The authors state that the fundamental approach of the book has not been changed but that this edition, "like the first, is designed to serve not as a reference work for the research specialist but as a text for the student meeting the American national government on the college level for the first time." It is evident that the authors' purpose has been attained.

Because of its clarity of style and presentation, this functional approach to the study of our federal system should be considered seriously by those teaching an introductory course in American government. The revision and enlargement of the book enhance its value.

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