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Entitlement Politics: Medicare and Medicaid, 1995-2001 (Social Institutions and Social Change)

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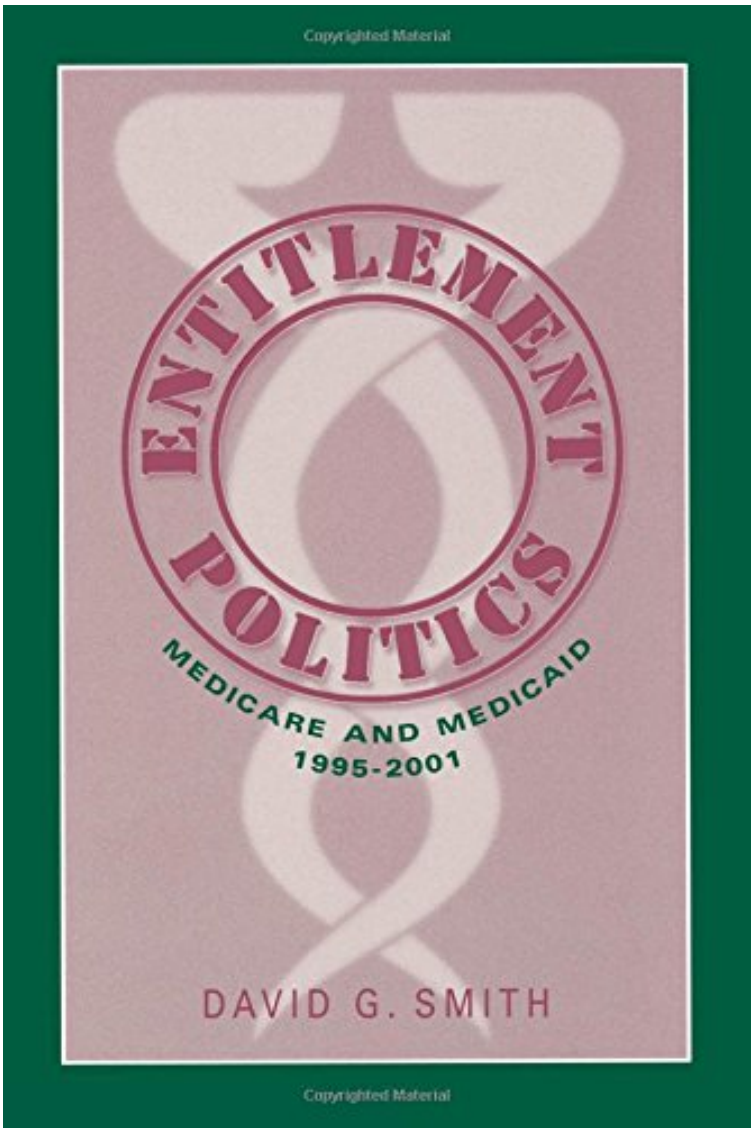

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#6224811 in Books 2002-11-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.46 x 1.17 x 6.36l, 1.51 #File Name: 0202307182432 pages | File size: 56.Mb

From Routledge : Entitlement Politics: Medicare and Medicaid, 1995-2001 (Social Institutions and Social Change) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Entitlement Politics: Medicare and Medicaid, 1995-2001 (Social Institutions and Social Change):

Entitlement Politics describes partisan attempts to shrink the size of government by targeting two major federal health care entitlements. Efforts to restructure or eliminate entitlements as such, and to privatize and decentralize programs, along with more traditional attempts to amend and reform Medicare and Medicaid have radically transformed policymaking with respect to these programs. However, they have failed to achieve fundamental or lasting reform. Smith combines historical narrative and case studies with descriptions of the technical aspects and dynamics of policymaking to help the consumer understand how the process has changed, evaluate particular policies and outcomes, and anticipate future possibilities. His account intentionally goes at some length into the substance of the programs, the policies that are involved, and the views of different protagonists about the major issues in the dispute. One unhealthy consequence of politicizing Medicare and Medicaid policy has been to separate public debate from the technical and organizational realities underlying issues of cost containment or program structure. Smith considers this development unfortunate, since it leaves even informed citizens unable to evaluate the claims being made. Ironically, strife over Medicare has complicated the political and policy issues in American life. Only a serious and genuine bipartisan effort bringing forth the best efforts of both political parties--and some of the best industry leaders and policy experts in the field--is likely to achieve genuine reform. The more people and parties know about the history, politics, and policies of these programs, the better our prospects for devising workable, equitable, and lasting solutions. This volume leads the way toward that understanding.

ldquo;Both political sociologists and medical sociologistshellip; will find that Entitlement Politics offers an interesting structural analysis. The book provides a rich account, along with hundreds of references to historical and policy documents of the political process and the structure of the Medicare/Medicaid programs. Moreover, Smithrsquo;s analysis offers a provocative case study of how structural forces influence the political process and the outcomes of political reform efforts.rdquo; mdash;Eric R. Wright, Contemporary Sociology ldquo;David G. Smithrsquo;s review of Medicare and Medicaid politics between 1995 and 2001 should be a basic resource for current and future scholars of both health politics and American politics more generallyhellip;. [T]he evaluative overlay in this book is only part, and not the most important part, of the authorrsquo;s achievement. Entitlement Politics will not only answer most of any readerrsquo;s questions about the events it describes, but also alert readers to questions they may not even have considered. It is invaluable for its challenges to all sidesrsquo; settled beliefs, for its overview of the methods of political combat in the 1990s, for its nearly unique focus on implementation, and for its careful explication of the arguments about each policy choice.rdquo; mdash;Joseph White, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and LawAbout the AuthorDavid G. Smith is Richter Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Swarthmore College. He is the author of The Childrenrsquo;s Health Insurance Program and Paying for Medicare. His book, Paying for Medicare, won the Elizur Wright Award from the American Risk and Insurance Association. nbsp;