THE PRESIDENT’S LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA, 1789–2002

Jeffrey E. Cohen asks why U.S. presidents send to Congress the legislative proposals that they do and what Congress does with those proposals. His study covers nearly the entire history of the presidency, from 1789 to 2002. The long historical scope allows Cohen to engage competing perspectives on how the presidency has developed over time. He asks what accounts for the short- and long-term trends in presidential requests to Congress, what substantive policies and issues the recommendations are concerned with, and which factors affect the presidential decision to submit a recommendation on a particular issue. The President’s Legislative Policy Agenda, 1789–2002, argues that presidents often anticipate the congressional reaction to their legislative proposals and modify their agendas accordingly.

Jeffrey E. Cohen is Professor of Political Science at Fordham University. He is the author of twelve books, including Presidential Responsiveness and Public Policy-Making: The Public and the Policies that Presidents Choose (1997), which won the Richard E. Neustadt Award from the Presidency Research Group of the American Political Science Association for the best book on the presidency, and Going Local: Presidential Leadership in the Post-Broadcast Age (Cambridge 2010), which also won both the Neustadt Award and the Goldsmith Award from the Joan Shorenstein Center at the Kennedy School, Harvard University, for the book that best fulfills the objective of improving democratic governance through an examination of the intersection between the media, politics, and public policy.
The President’s Legislative Policy Agenda, 1789–2002

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