What are the political motivations behind firms’ decisions to adopt policies that self-regulate their behavior in a manner that is beyond compliance with state, federal, and local law? *Public Forces and Private Politics in American Big Business* advances a new understanding of the firm as a political actor that expands beyond the limited conceptualizations offered by economists and organization theorists. Timothy Werner develops a general theory of private politics that is tested using three case studies: the environment, gay rights, and executive compensation. Using the conclusions of these case studies and an analysis of interviews with executives at Fortune 500 firms, Werner finds that politics can contribute significantly to our understanding of corporate decision-making on private policies and corporate social responsibility in the United States.

**Timothy Werner** is an assistant professor of business, government and society at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches courses on corporate political strategy, and business and public policy. He previously worked as a legislative and regulatory analyst for a major energy firm, which inspired him to place the investigation of corporations’ private political decision-making at the heart of his research.
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Public Forces and Private Politics in American Big Business

TIMOTHY WERNER
The University of Texas at Austin
# Contents

*List of illustrations*  
List of tables  
Acknowledgments  

1 Introduction  

2 The firm as political actor and a theory of private policymaking  

3 Unveiling the public roots of private policymaking  

4 The public, the state, and corporate environmentalism  

5 Public opinion and gay rights in the workplace  

6 Total executive compensation and regulatory threat  

7 Conclusion  

Appendix  Data sources and variable measurement by chapter  

References  

Index
Illustrations

2.1 A model of political influences on private policymaking  page 25
3.1 Annual mean S&P 500 firm stakeholder management score, 1991–2005  41
4.1 Number of annual entries under “environment” in the New York Times Index, 1960–2005  62
4.2 Pew Research Center, Gallup Poll, and General Social Survey results on the environment, 1972–2006  67
4.3 Environmental policies in the S&P 500, 1991–2005  70
4.4 Federal activity with regard to the environment, 1990–2005  73
5.1 Gay rights policies in the Fortune 500, 1995–2006  89
5.2 Number of annual entries under “homosexuality” in the New York Times Index, 1960–2005  90
5.3 Gay rights laws in the US states, August 2011  94
5.4 Feeling thermometer results for gays and lesbians, 1984–2004  96
5.5 Gallup Poll and General Social Survey results on homosexuality, 1977–2005  98
5.6 Hazard rate effects on nondiscrimination policy adoption, varying equal employment support, firm shareholder resolution, and state civil rights legacy  111
6.2 Distribution of total CEO compensation in the S&P 500, 2001–2006  127
6.3 Predicted probabilities of compensation outcomes, varying SEC lawsuits  135
6.4 Predicted probabilities of compensation outcomes, varying S&P 500 annualized returns  139
Tables

2.1 Issue typology and predicted driver(s) of private policymaking, should it occur  page 29
3.1 Starbucks mission statement and guiding principles  43
3.2 A firm-level model of aggregate private policymaking  47
4.1 A firm-level model of pollution prevention policy adoption  76
4.2 A firm-level model of environmental reporting adoption  78
4.3 Substantive impact of statistically significant variables in the pollution prevention model, specification two  80
4.4 Substantive impact of statistically significant variables in the environmental reporting model, specification two  81
5.1 A firm-level model of sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy adoption  106
5.2 A firm-level model of domestic partnership benefits policy adoption  108
6.1 A firm-level model of adherence to executive compensation limits  133
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