American Politics in the Postwar Sunbelt
Conservative Growth in a Battleground Region

This book analyzes the political culture of the American Sunbelt since the end of World War II. It highlights and explains the Sunbelt’s emergence during the second half of the twentieth century as the undisputed geographic epicenter for conservative Republican power in the United States. However, the book also investigates the ongoing nature of political contestation within the postwar Sunbelt, often highlighting the underappreciated persistence of liberal and progressive influences across the region. Sean P. Cunningham argues that the conservative Republican ascendancy that many have identified as almost synonymous with the rise of the postwar American Sunbelt was hardly an easy, unobstructed victory march. Rather, it was consistently challenged and never foreordained. The history of American politics in the postwar Sunbelt resembles a rollercoaster of partisan and ideological adaptation and transformation.

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American Politics in the Postwar Sunbelt

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SEAN P. CUNNINGHAM
Texas Tech University
For Caitlin and Samantha
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