

The American Political Economy

This volume brings together leading political scientists to explore the distinctive features of the American political economy. The introductory chapter provides a comparatively informed framework for analyzing the interplay of markets and politics in the United States, focusing on three key factors: uniquely fragmented and decentralized political institutions; an interest group landscape characterized by weak labor organizations and powerful, parochial business groups; and an entrenched legacy of ethnoracial divisions embedded in both government and markets. Subsequent chapters look at the fundamental dynamics that result, including the place of the courts in multi-venue politics, the political economy of labor, sectional conflict within and across cities and regions, the consolidation of financial markets and corporate monopoly and monopsony power, and the ongoing rise of the knowledge economy. Together, the chapters provide a revealing new map of the politics of democratic capitalism in the United States.

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The American Political Economy

Politics, Markets, and Power

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CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316516362
DOI: 10.1017/9781009029841

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Hacker, Jacob S., editor. | Hertel-Fernandez, Alexander, 1986– editor. |

Pierson, Paul, editor. | Thelen, Kathleen Ann, editor.

TITLE: The American political economy: politics, markets, and power / Jacob S. Hacker, Yale University, Connecticut, Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, Columbia University, New York, Paul Pierson, University of California, Berkeley, Kathleen Thelen, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes bibliographical references.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021017733 (print) | LCCN 2021017734 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316516362 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009014861 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009029841 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Income distribution – Political aspects – United States. | Wealth – Political aspects – United States. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General | POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General CLASSIFICATION: LCC HC110.15 A685 2021 (print) | LCC HC110.15 (ebook) | DDC 339.2/20973-dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021017733 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021017734

> ISBN 978-1-316-51636-2 Hardback ISBN 978-1-009-01486-1 Paperback

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Acknowledgments

In the two years we have been working on this project, we have accumulated many debts, and so it is a pleasure to be able to acknowledge some of the people who have contributed to its successful completion.

We extend thanks, first and foremost, to the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, which provided the funding for this initiative. We owe a debt of gratitude to Larry Kramer for his vision; we are delighted to be a part of Hewlett's path-breaking efforts to broaden and enhance economic discourse in the United States. We also could not have wished for more enthusiastic support than we received from Jennifer Harris, who has been our project's biggest booster. We are grateful to Raquel Abdala and Gail Claspell for their invaluable support with respect to finances and budgets. We look forward to working with all of them and with Brian Kettenring, as well as with the members of our Advisory Board – Sarah Anzia, Devin Caughey, Peter Hall, Jamila Michener, Jonathan Rodden, Maya Sen, and Leah Stokes – in the next phases of our joint work.

For comments on individual chapters, and in some cases on the entire book, we thank Devin Caughey, Peter Hall, Jonathan Rodden, and the two anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press (one of whom provided comments so extensive and helpful that we dearly wish we could extend personalized thanks). We are grateful as well to our contributors, who provided input into each and every one of the other chapters in the volume. We also received critical input on specific aspects of our arguments from Jacco Bomhoff, Yonah Freemark, Kate Krimmel, Nicola Lacey, Wolfgang Seibel, and Kai Wegrich.

We have benefited from superb administrative and logistical support throughout the project. Pam Lamonaca (Yale) and Kate Searle (MIT) both



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Acknowledgments

contributed mightily – Pam managing a complex budget spanning four institutions, and Kate organizing two workshops with her characteristic combination of efficiency and good humor.

We thank Sara Doskow of Cambridge University Press for all she has done to encourage and promote this work. Angie Jo and Sam Zacher provided invaluable assistance with pulling the manuscript together in preparation for publication. When the going got tough, Sam kept us going.

Finally, we thank the authors who contributed to this volume, all of whom brought their A-games to a many-round event. This distinguished group has taught us a great deal about the American political economy. Working with them has been not just intellectually exhilarating but also a whole lot of fun. Above all, it has been a deeply inspiring process – and we hope some of the inspiration we felt carries forward to the readers of this volume as well.