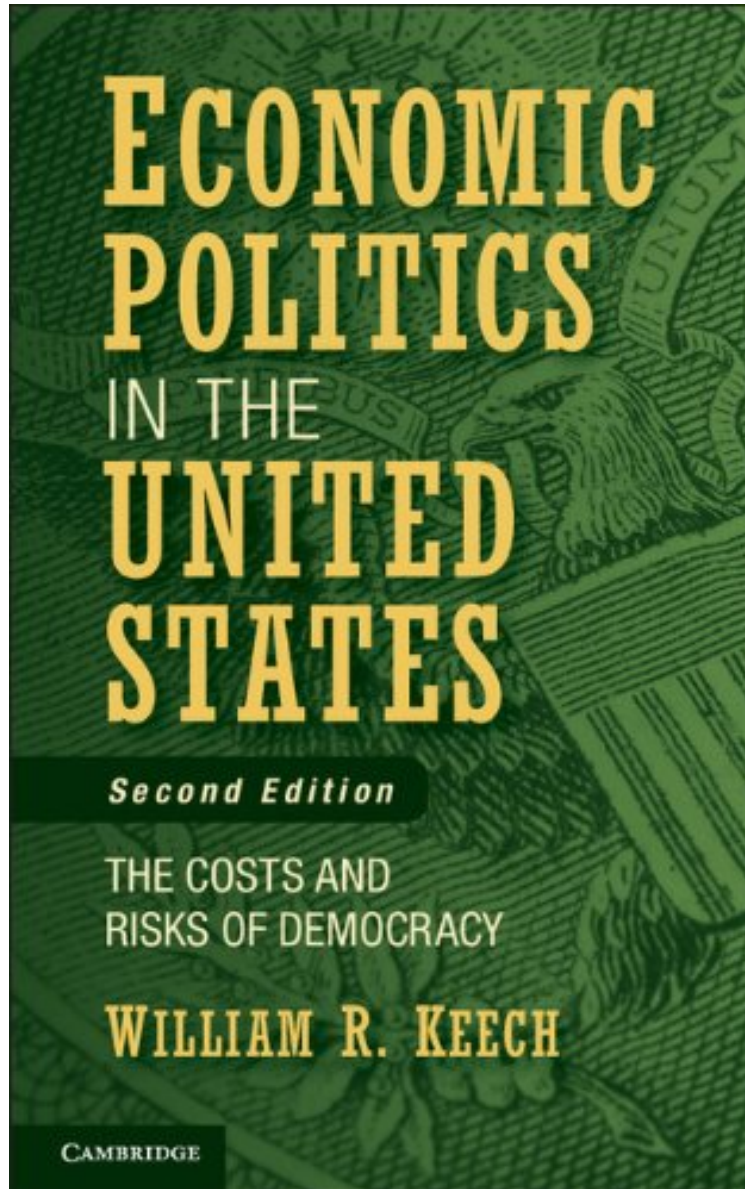


Economic Politics in the United States

William R. Keech

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William R. Keech : Economic Politics in the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Economic Politics in the United States:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a thoughtful, challenging workBy James A. LaRueI love the author's choosing to be an "agnostic" as author of this book. You are less likely to become a defender of the left or right, and it makes the reader grow up and have to seriously look at where they stand and thoughtfully take responsibility for whatever position they hold at this time and listen to the views of others.It is a friendlier read than most books as

densely packed as this one. The multitudinous references not only suggest the depth of the author's research, but also force the reader to see the number of perspectives that come to just about every critical economic and political issue. We live in a time when our economic crises demand that we see clearly "the costs and risks of democracy" as we know it!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Overview of American Government's Economic Mismanagement By Paul H. Lewis Given the subject-matter, I had feared that this would be a "tough read." Instead, I was impressed by how clearly the author explained fiscal policy, computer modeling, and concepts from econometrics to an uninitiated reader such as me. He carefully lays out his argument, his evidence, his method, and all the alternative approaches. I learned a great deal from this book and share the author's apprehensions about America's future if our political elites continue to behave irresponsibly toward the economy.

This book uses macroeconomic performance to evaluate democratic institutions and processes in the United States. Originally published in 1995, this revised edition gives a more pessimistic assessment than the first did. Employing macroeconomic performance as a lens to evaluate democratic institutions, the author uses public choice and political economy models of political behavior that give room for opportunism on the part of public officials and shortsightedness on the part of voters to see if democratic institutions lead to inferior macroeconomic performance. What has happened since the publication of the first edition to make the conclusions about democratic performance more pessimistic? The author finds that informal institutions of democracy, such as the norm that the federal budget should be balanced, have deteriorated so that performance suffers.

'In this important new edition, Bill Keech, one of the first political scientists to apply macroeconomic tools and research to political questions, revisits his prior inquiry on the 'health' of economic politics. But, in doing so, he also extends his discussion to incorporate many new findings in macro political economy. These additional results enhance our understanding of how and how well representative government performs. What is more, this book reflects the author's qualities: clear in exposition and sober in outlook. Very few social scientists have his scholarly breadth to engage the varied literatures from different disciplines - and even fewer could have written a contribution like this.'

Jim Granato, University of Houston About the Author William Keech is Research Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Political Science at Duke University. Keech is the author of numerous books, including the first edition of *Economic Politics in the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), and his articles have appeared in academic journals such as the *American Political Science*, *Public Choice*, and the *American Economic*. Most of his academic career has been at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Carnegie Mellon University. He has been president of the Southern Political Science Association and a member of the Council of the American Political Science Association. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.