Politics and Partnerships: The Role of Voluntary Associations in America's Political Past and Present

Elisabeth Stephanie Clemens Doug Guthrie


Reviewed by Dr. Michael McQuarrie, Lecturer in History, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Politics and Partnerships: The Role of Voluntary Associations in America's Political Past and Present, edited by Elisabeth S. Clemens and Doug Guthrie, is a comprehensive and thought-provoking exploration of the role of voluntary associations in shaping American political culture. The book is divided into three parts: "Introduction," "Politics and Partnerships," and "Conclusion," each contributing to a deeper understanding of the subject.

The "Introduction" sets the stage, introducing the readers to the topic of voluntary associations and their impact on American political life. The "Politics and Partnerships" section delves into the role of voluntary associations in various aspects of American political culture, including government, business, society, and political parties. The "Conclusion" offers a summary of the key themes and conclusions drawn from the research.

Clemens and Guthrie argue that voluntary associations have played a crucial role in shaping American political culture, from the Puritans to the present day. They highlight how these associations have acted as engines of innovation in political and civic life, providing a critical perspective on the role of voluntary associations in America's political past and present.

Overall, "Politics and Partnerships: The Role of Voluntary Associations in America's Political Past and Present" is a well-researched and insightful work that is highly recommended for students, scholars, and anyone interested in the history of voluntary associations and their impact on American political culture.