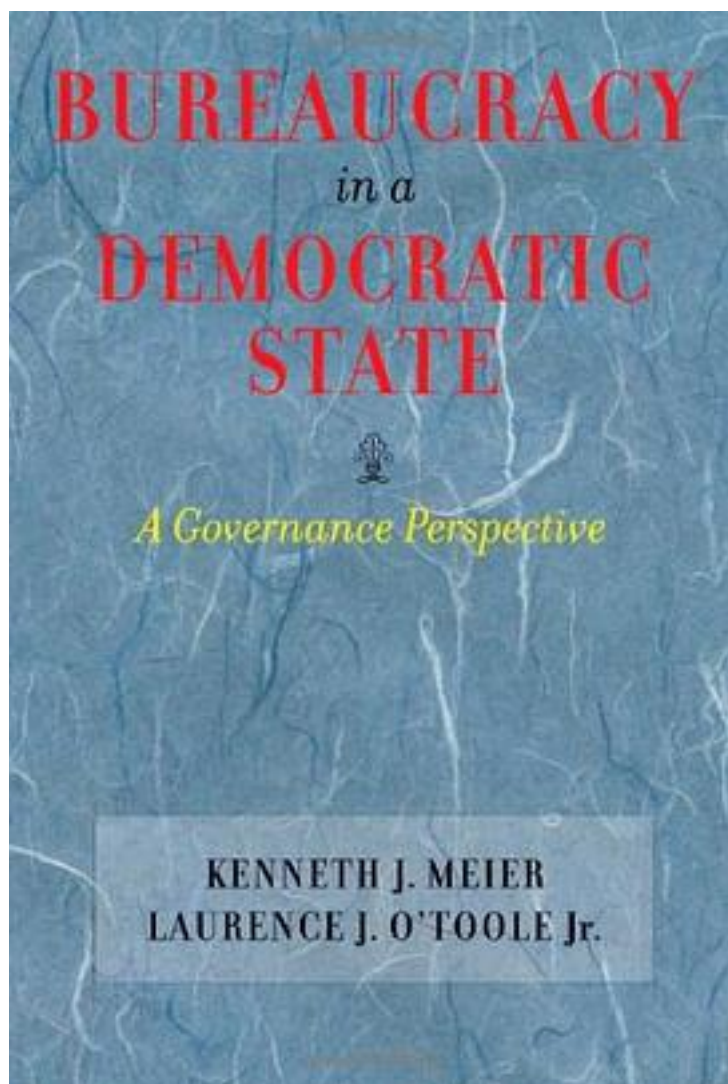


# Bureaucracy in a Democratic State



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Here, Kenneth J. Meier and Laurence J. O'Toole Jr. present a timely analysis of working democracy, arguing that bureaucracy—often considered antithetical to fundamental democratic principles—can actually promote democracy.

Drawing from both the empirical work of political scientists and the qualitative work of public administration scholars, the authors employ a "governance approach" that considers broad, institutionally complex systems of governance as well as the nitty-gritty details of bureaucracy management. They examine the results of bureaucratic and political interactions in specific government settings, locally and nationally, to determine whether bureaucratic systems strengthen or weaken the connections between public preferences and actual policies. They find that bureaucracies are part of complex intergovernmental and interorganizational networks that limit a single bureaucracy's institutional control over the implementation of public policy. Further, they conclude that top-down political control of bureaucracy has only modest impact on the activities of bureaucracy in the U.S. and that shared values and commitments to democratic norms, along with political control, produce a bureaucracy that is responsive to the American people.

### 作者介绍:

Kenneth J. Meier is the Charles H. Gregory Chair in Liberal Arts in the Department of Political Science at Texas A & M University and the director of the Project for Equity, Representation, and Governance. He is also a professor of public management at Cardiff University in Wales. Laurence J. O'Toole Jr. is the Margaret Hughes and Robert T. Golembiewski Professor and Head of the Department of Public Administration at the School of Public Administration and International Affairs, University of Georgia. Both are editors of the Johns Hopkins University Press Series in Governance and Public Management.

### 目录:

[Bureaucracy in a Democratic State\\_ 下载链接1](#)

## 标签

政治学

官僚政治

## 评论

美国官僚体系实证研究。强调效率的所谓新公共管理及强调顶层民煮监督的政治学理论，均缺少对官僚体系中不同利益代表及集团收益后果的研究，也往往对官僚体制想象过分狭隘，忽略了官僚体制与其他社会组织共同影响决策的网络效应及组织之间的博弈战略。通过对美国案例的深入研究，挖掘出不同的官僚集团和社会组织在同一个决策领域内如何博弈及相互利用网络资源，在本来既定的决策目标下形成多个指向的决策后果。联邦制下地方分权只会加剧不会减少官僚系统自主权，甚至一州内决策由于市长民选、委员会指派及社会组织干预的关系，地方单位上的官僚系统自主权仍然强大，甚至在美国特殊的种族背景下还要受到当权者种族背景的影响。举出了一个德州教育部门推行计划协助考试成绩提高的案例，由于教委会中西裔人居多，故西裔族群地区推行最得力，黑人则垫底。

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