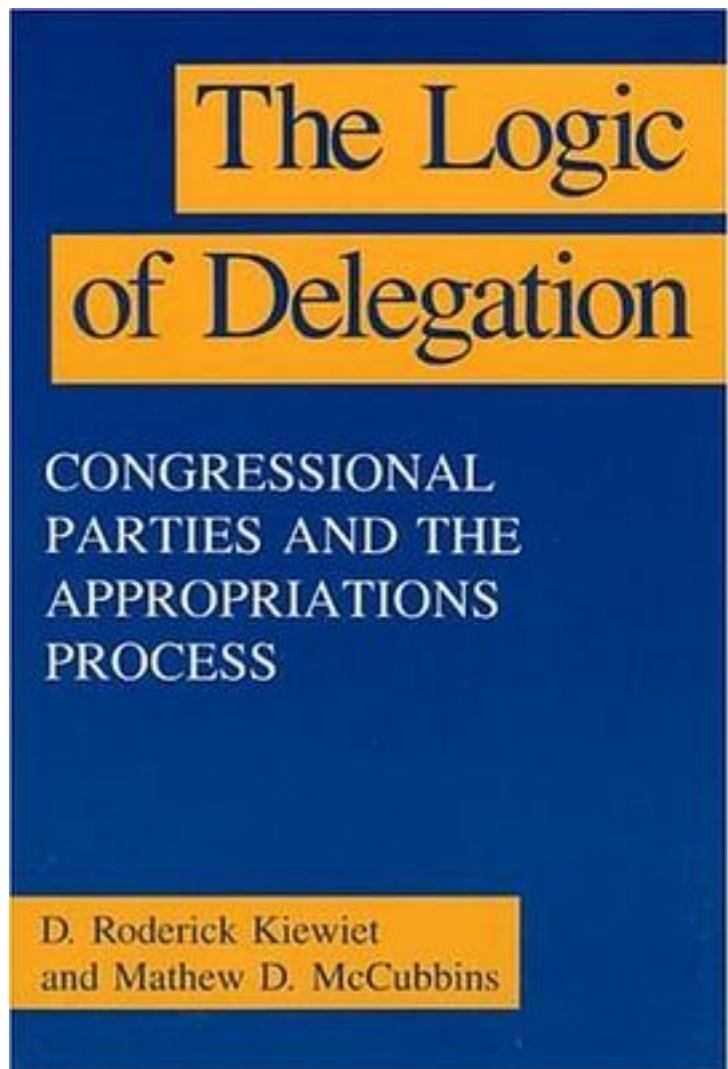


The Logic of Delegation



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Why do majority congressional parties seem unable to act as an effective policy-making force? They routinely delegate their power to others--internally to standing committees and subcommittees within each chamber, externally to the president and to the bureaucracy. Conventional wisdom in political science insists that such delegation leads inevitably to abdication--usually by degrees, sometimes precipitously, but always completely.

In "The Logic of Delegation," however, D. Roderick Kiewiet and Mathew D. McCubbins persuasively argue that political scientists have paid far too much attention to what congressional parties can't do. The authors draw on economic and management theory to demonstrate that the effectiveness of delegation is determined not by how much authority is delegated but rather by how well it is delegated.

In the context of the appropriations process, the authors show how congressional parties employ committees, subcommittees, and executive agencies to accomplish policy goals. This innovative study will force a complete rethinking of classic issues in American politics: the "autonomy" of congressional committees; the reality of runaway federal bureaucracy; and the supposed dominance of the presidency in legislative-executive relations.

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评论

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非常好的一部著作，在理性选择制度主义的研究作品之中也算是承前启后具有里程碑式的作品。当然一般人们会想起McCubbins的另一部著作Legislative Leviathan 2007。但是反过来说，从91年的这部著作的出版到90年代理性选择制度主义的实证研究的大爆发，此书的业绩也是功不可没的。作为课程阅读材料，买来认真读一下还是受益匪浅的。此书的开头部分感觉写作风格相当晦涩难读。后面的分析部分感觉就好很多了。就这一点来说也是可以学习一下的

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