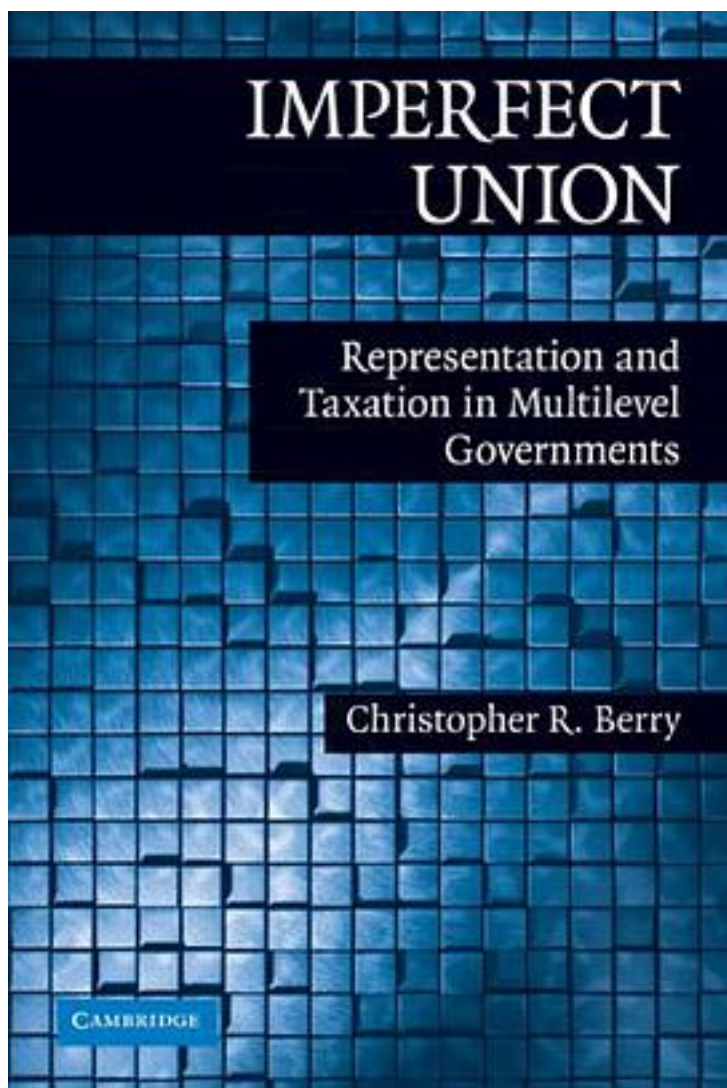


Imperfect Union



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著者:Berry, Christopher

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Imperfect Union offers the first political theory of special purpose jurisdictions, which constitute the most common form of local government in the United States today. Collectively, special purpose governments have more civilian employees than the federal government and spend more than all city governments combined. The proliferation of special purpose jurisdictions has fundamentally altered the nature of representation and taxation in local government. Citizens today are commonly represented by dozens - in some cases hundreds - of local officials in multiple layers of government. As a result, political participation in local elections is low and special interest groups associated with each function exert disproportionate influence. With multiple special-interest governments tapping the same tax base, the local tax base takes on the character of a common-pool resource, leading to familiar problems of overexploitation. Strong political parties can often mitigate the common-pool problem by informally coordinating the policies of multiple overlapping governments.

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标签

政治学

学术

美国政治

评论

5星。美国有很多地方我们国家值得学习，但是其地方政府体系需要批判性地看待，他们自己在这方面做的不是特别好。这本书是极佳的了解美国地方政治体系的书籍，很系统，同时分析性很强，是一部非常优秀的政治学研究作品。光第一章就能看出作者的功力了——这是关于一个国家的研究，但是被巧妙地（也十分正确地）放置在了一个重要的学术文献中，突出了其贡献。这是少有的不把美国政治研究写成是仅仅针对美国一国情况的优秀作品，作者发展了一套适用于一大类国家的理论，仅把美国作为实证检验的环境。理论不复杂，而且写得非常巧妙，对于完全不懂博弈论的读者来说也非常友好，对完全不懂统计方法的人也写了非常直观的解释。我唯一不太满意的是第六章，关于地方政党的部分，我觉得作者那部分有逻辑漏洞。但整体来看是非常优秀的作品！

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书评

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