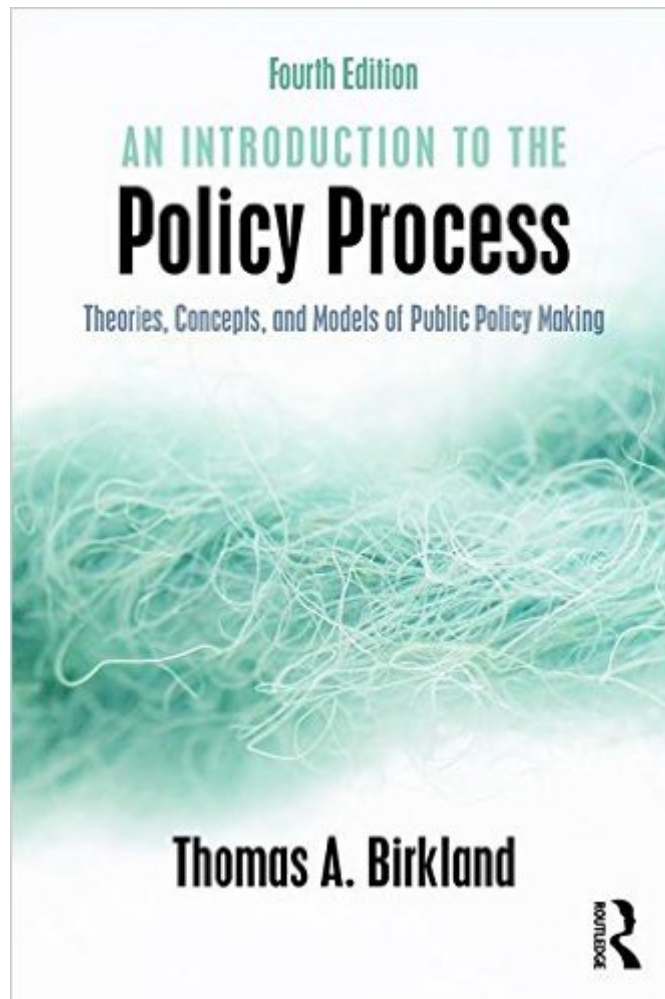


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# An Introduction To The Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, And Models Of Public Policy Making



## Synopsis

The fourth edition of this widely-used text relates theory to practice in the public policy process. In a clear, conversational style, author Tom Birkland conveys the best current thinking on the policy process with an emphasis on accessibility and synthesis. This new edition has been reorganized to better explain the role of policy analysis in the policy process. New to this edition:

- A new section on the role of policy analysis and policy analysts in the policy process.
- A revised and updated chapter surveying the social, economic, and demographic trends that are transforming the policy environment.
- Fully updated references to help the advanced reader locate the most important theoretical literature in policy process studies.
- New illustrations and an improved layout to clarify key ideas and stimulate classroom discussion.

The book makes generous use of visual aids and examples that link policy theory to the concrete experience of practitioners. It includes chapter-at-a-glance outlines, definitions of key terms, provocative review questions, recommended reading, and online materials for professors and students.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have used the third edition as a textbook before in my class on Policy Analysis. It has worked pretty well, too. Students are able to work with it and learn key elements about the policy process. The first part of this text examines the context in which public policy (decisions made by government to address problems) occurs. Among subjects covered: what we mean by public policy, the components of the policy making system, historical and structural elements on the process (I

always have felt that history is important in any consideration of political and policy matters), official and unofficial actors in the policy process. Next, the stages of the policy process are discussed--from problem definition to agenda setting to decision making and policy design to policy implementation and policy learning. A couple questions here: Why no discussion of program evaluation? Why no discussion of program termination in much detail? But I don't see these as major issues. I have assigned the third edition as a text and I will also do so for the fourth edition. The final chapter compares several theories of the policy process, to good effect. Overall, a fine text.

Book was needed for Public Policy class. Very vague.

good

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