



During the 1970s, **DAVID SCHOENBROD** was a leader of the Natural Resources Defense Council, heading campaigns to get the lead out of gasoline, protect the environment in Puerto Rico, and protect New Yorkers from automotive air pollution. Now he is Trustee Professor of Law at New York Law School.

Schoenbrod has frequently contributed to the editorial pages of the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and other newspapers and periodicals. His books include *Power without Responsibility*, *Democracy by Decree*, *Saving Our Environment from Washington*, and *Breaking the Logjam*. He has a graduate degree in economics from Oxford (which he attended as a Marshall Scholar) and a law degree from Yale.



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"Who is responsible for broken government? Not the people who run it. David Schoenbrod vividly explains how Washington mutated from Democratic accountability to no accountability at all. *DC Confidential* will make you want to grab your pitchforks. This system can't be fixed. It must be rebuilt to honor the first principle of the American republic: human responsibility."

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"Otto von Bismarck once said, 'Never watch laws or sausages being made.'"

It is true that lawmaking is, and always has been, a messy and at times stomach-turning process. But that does not mean it has to be too dysfunctional to solve a society's major problems. David Schoenbrod takes us inside the sausage factory of Washington, pointing out with precision the five key ways problem solving is distorted to meet the needs of politicians and insiders. Most importantly, he offers some practical ideas to clean up the process and make it work better for all."

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DC CONFIDENTIAL



INSIDE THE FIVE TRICKS OF WASHINGTON
DAVID SCHOENBROD



DAVID SCHOENBROD

WITH FOREWORDS BY GOVERNOR HOWARD DEAN
AND SENATOR MIKE LEE

POLITICAL SCIENCE
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YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHY
OUR GOVERNMENT IN
WASHINGTON IS BROKEN,
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T.

You think it's broken because politicians curry favor with special interests and activists on the left or the right. There's something to that and it helps explain why these politicians can't find common ground, but it misses the root cause. A half century ago, elected officials in Congress and the White House figured out a new system for enacting laws and spending programs—one that lets them take the credit for promising good news while avoiding the blame for producing bad results. With five key tricks, politicians of both parties now avoid accounting to us for what the government actually does to us.

While most people understand that these politicians seem to pull rabbits out of hats, hardly anyone sees the sleights of hand by which they get away with their tricks. Otherwise, their tricks wouldn't work. *DC Confidential* exposes the sleights of hand. Once they are brought to light, we can stop the tricks, fix our broken government, and make Washington work for us once again.

This book explains the necessary reform and lays out an action plan to put it in place. Stopping the tricks would be a constructive, inclusive response to the anger that Americans from across the political spectrum feel toward what should be our government.