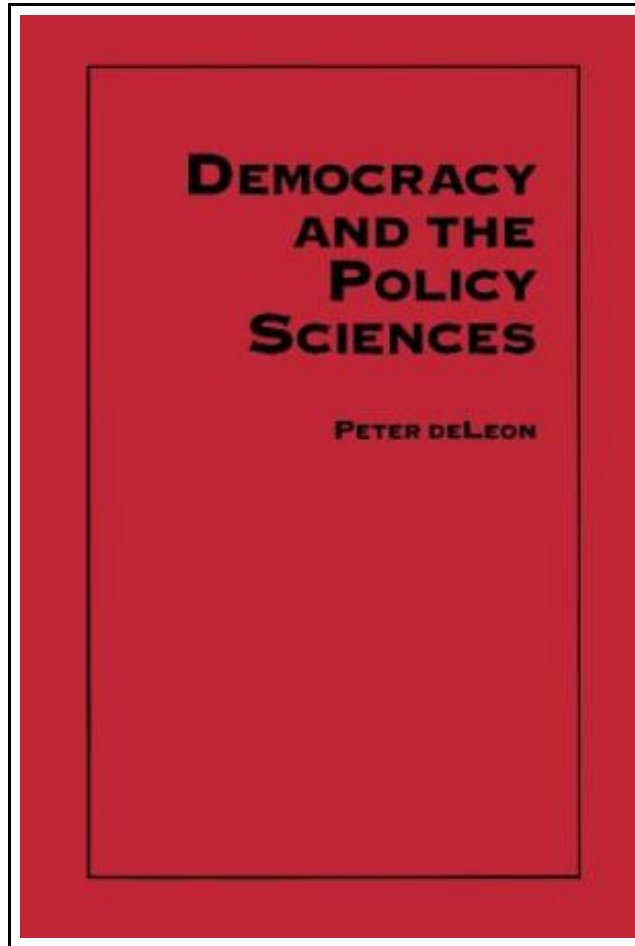


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Reviews

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DEMOCRACY AND THE POLICY SCIENCES



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State University of New York Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 176 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.4in. Examines how a more democratic, participatory policy analysis could be conceptualized in theory and administered in practice. As originally proposed by Harold Lasswell, the policy sciences were dedicated to democratic governance. But today they are far removed from the democratic process and do little to promote the American democratic system. This book examines how in the context of American history and the development of the policy sciences, a more democratic, participatory policy analysis could be conceptualized in theory and administered in practice. Peter deLeon argues that for the policy sciences to move toward democracy, they must accept a new analytic paradigm that draws heavily on critical thinking and the writing of post-positivism. To further that end, he presents a minipopulist procedure that will allow more citizen participation without hamstringing the processes of government. I read this book with enthusiasm and enjoyed its review of what's wrong with traditional policy analysis. The author sets out to answer the important question of why the policy analysis process should incorporate more public participation, despite the obvious reasons why such participation might seriously complicate any given policy process. His theoretical framework reexamines the great and enduring division in American thought between the Madisonian (representative) and Tocquevillean (participatory) visions of democracy and then uses this distinction to evaluate the current role of professional elites in the policy process. This creates a rationale for participatory policy analysis and leads to the conclusion that the policy sciences need to reflect greater verisimilitude and empathy. -- Marie Danziger, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University The book does a good job setting up--using a wide range of sources--the key issues concerning the relation of the policy sciences to democracy. This relationship is...



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