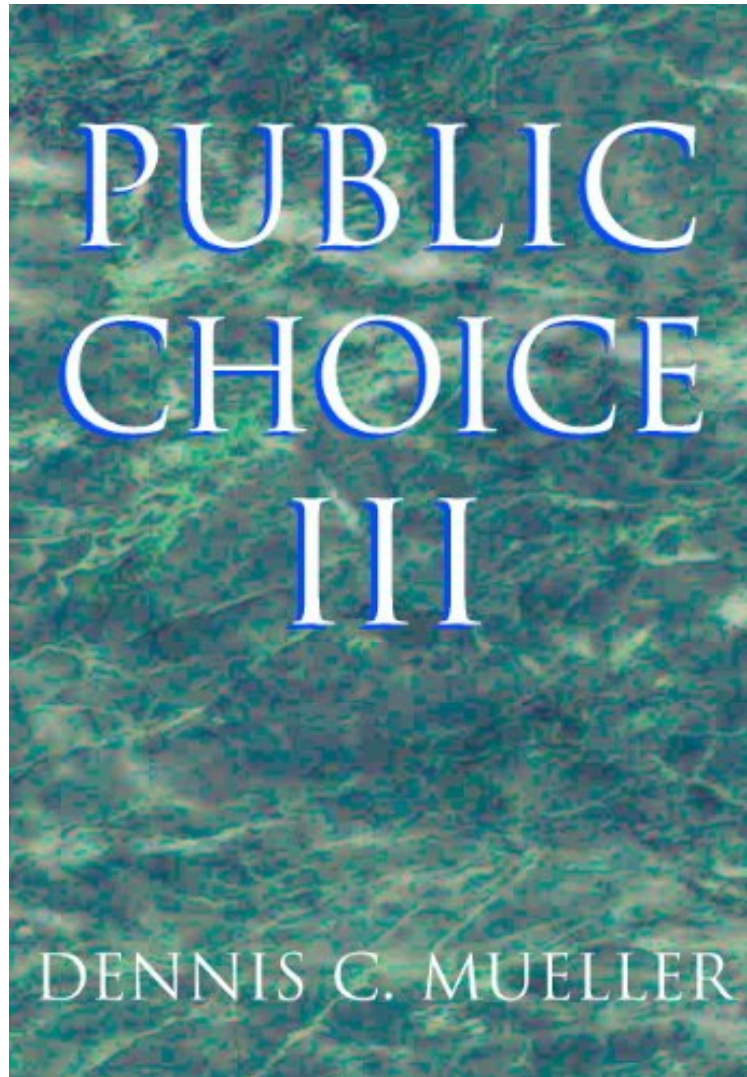


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Public Choice III

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Dennis C. Mueller : Public Choice III before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Public Choice III:

53 of 53 people found the following review helpful. Good Review Text on Rat-Choice Politics and Public ChoiceBy Jeffrey M. CavanaughThis is a great book! As a political-science graduate student I've been exposed to a great deal of game-theory and rat-choice in my seminar classes, but, unfortunately, it has come in the form of numerous papers, piles of books, and several classes that did not build off of one another. I was left with the feeling that it was a very, very important subject, but it was presented in a manner that left me, as a student, with an incomplete picture of the topic and the breadth of work that has gone on in this field.Mueller's achievements in this volume have been three:1. Coherent presentation of the theory of public choice / rational politics.2. Discussion of the most important empirical

work that has gone on in this field in a unified fashion that leads one naturally into further inquiry in this area.³ Logically organizes and presents the material in a way that reinforces concepts, logic, and thinking in the book. These three things make this book a great review or introductory text to the field of public choice / rational politics that should be on the "must have" list of every serious student of politics and economics. Moreover, not being terribly skilled at mathematics myself, the material is presented both through intuitive written discussions, fairly simplistic "example" equations that are pretty easy to follow if you've had a "principles" microecon course with calculus, and, which I greatly appreciate, a fair amount of graphs. Moreover, the bibliography that the book draws on is very, very extensive...meaning that it has the additional utility of being a handy jumping off point if you're doing research in this area. My only complaint, and this is a minor one, is that I would like a bit more math in the book either at the end of each chapter or in an appendix that works out, step-by-step, some of the additional concepts he runs over that aren't dealt with mathematically in the main text of the chapters themselves. This, at least in my opinion, is an excellent book for the graduate student interested in learning about public choice / rational politics.

This book represents a considerable revision and expansion of *Public Choice II* (1989). Six new chapters have been added, and several chapters from the previous edition have been extensively revised. The discussion of empirical work in public choice has been greatly expanded. As in the previous editions, all of the major topics of public choice are covered. These include: why the state exists, voting rules, federalism, the theory of clubs, two-party and multiparty electoral systems, rent seeking, bureaucracy, interest groups, dictatorship, the size of government, voter participation, and political business cycles. Normative issues in public choice are also examined including a normative analysis of the simple majority rule, Bergson-Samuelson social welfare functions, the Arrow and Sen impossibility theorems, Rawls's social contract theory and the constitutional political economy of Buchanan and Tullock.

"No student or teacher of public choice and no researcher working at the intersection of economics and politics can afford to not have a copy of *Public Choice III* within easy reach. *Public Choice* About the Author Dennis C. Mueller is professor emeritus of economics at the University of Vienna. His main research interests are public choice, industrial economics, and constitutional political economy. He is the author of many articles and several books, including *Public Choice III* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), *The Corporation* (2003), and *Constitutional Democracy* (1996). Mueller is a past president of the U.S. and European Public Choice Societies, the Southern Economic Association, the Industrial Organization Society, the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics, and the International Joseph A. Schumpeter Society.