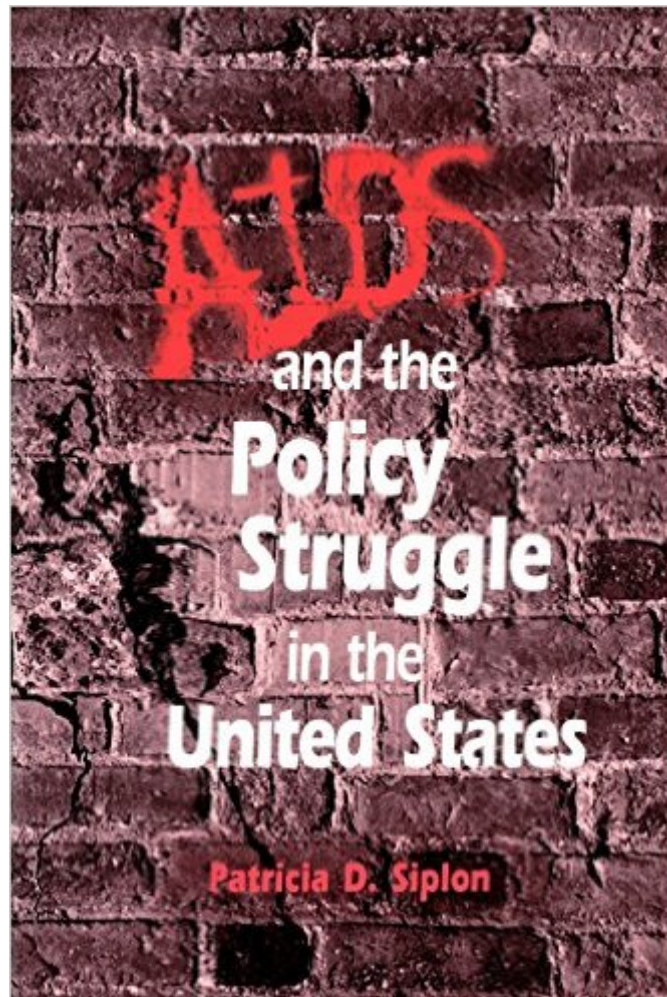


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AIDS And The Policy Struggle In The United States



Synopsis

Lucid and compellingly written, Patricia Siplon has immersed herself in the history and ongoing firestorms of how AIDS policies are influenced, fought over, and enacted in the United States. *AIDS and the Policy Struggle in the United States* is equally as engrossing and as revealing in its own way as *And the Band Played On*. With an initial chapter that clearly follows the tangled historical string from the first realizations of a medical emergency to today's overwhelming worldwide epidemical crisis, she goes on to look at how medical treatments have changed and grown; how blood policies were formed; how value-based debates raged and continue to rage over prevention; how communities developed to first respond to the crisis, and later organized to fight for health care; and finally-now that AIDS is recognized for the global crisis it is-how foreign policy is being shaped. Invaluable for activists and anyone involved in fighting for the humane treatment of people with HIV/AIDS around the world, this is also an important and insightful guide to the how and what of public policy as it is fashioned out of the clay of U.S. democratic institutions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Below is a copy of my review of this book, which was published in the September 2003 issue of "Perspectives on Politics," a publication of the American Political Science Association.-- Raymond A. Smith, Columbia University Given the public policy significance of the AIDS epidemic, surprisingly few book-length treatments of AIDS policymaking in the U.S. have been published. Indeed, the Library of Congress lists only 35 books under its principal heading for this issue (AIDS(Disease) -

Government Policy - United States), many of which are legal guides or government publications. More remarkable still is that "AIDS and the Policy Struggle in the United States" is only the third book under this heading to have been published since the 1996 introduction of the combination antiretroviral treatments that drastically cut AIDS mortality and revolutionized the policy arena. Fortunately, Patricia Siplon's lucid and engaging new book makes significant, if selective, advances in filling in the gaps in this literature. The volume opens with an overview of the emergence of AIDS in the early 1980s, which presented the initial policy dilemma of funding research into the causes and consequences of the then-new disease syndrome. Siplon then provides individual chapters on five major policy areas, each highlighting a different dimension of the policymaking process: medical treatment (the issue of "policy definition"); blood policy ("the task of regulation"), HIV prevention ("the problem of competing values"), the Ryan White CARE Act ("the problems of distributive politics"), and foreign aid for AIDS programs ("the policy dilemma of membership").

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