Democracy and politics in a changing world

Growth and Survival: An Ecological Analysis of Court Reform in Urban China
Jonathan J. Kinkel
Cambridge University Press, 2022
Exploring the gap between disparate literature on Chinese courts and the legal profession, Kinkel offers a unique cross-disciplinary framework to comprehend the intricate realities of Chinese politics and society. This book fuses perspectives from social ecology, historical institutionalism, and empirical legal studies, to provide vital context for understanding the patterns of court reform amidst China’s rapid economic and social transformations.

Integrating Logics in the Governance of Emerging Technologies (Elements in Public Policy)
Derrick Mason Anderson
Cambridge University Press, 2022
A fresh perspective on the intricate governance of emerging technologies. This book unveils a ‘convergent paradigm’ of governance arising from the intricate interplay of government, industry, and civil actors. From the broad context of emerging technologies to the intricate landscape of nanotechnology, Anderson delves into governance challenges.

The Myth of Bureaucratic Neutrality: An Examination of Merit and Representation
Domonic A. Bearfield, Nicole Humphrey and Shannon Portillo
Routledge, 2022
This book challenges the notion of ‘bureaucratic neutrality,’ which was once acclaimed as a solution to combat political corruption during the Progressive era. While presented as a means to restore government legitimacy, the book argues that bureaucratic neutrality has, in fact, perpetuated inequity, particularly for marginalized communities.

Evolution of a Movement: Four Decades of California Environmental Justice Activism
Tracy E. Perkins
University of California Press, 2022
Amidst California’s reputation as an environmentally progressive state, the struggle for clean air, water, and healthy communities has been a long and arduous journey for environmental justice activists. Read their inspiring stories—from passionate protests during the 1980s and 1990s to a growing presence within the state capitol in later decades.

Degenerations of Democracy
Dilip P. Gaonkar, Craig Calhoun and Charles Taylor
Harvard University Press, 2022
In the face of mounting challenges, the authors analyze the erosion of democracy’s social foundations and call for a movement to reduce inequality, strengthen inclusive solidarity, empower citizens, and reclaim pursuit of the public good. This book sheds light on fundamental social and economic transformations that have undermined democratic principles, coupled with efforts by ruling elites to entrench their privileges and cultural distortions that pit individualistic freedom against equality and solidarity.

The Independent Voter
Thom Reilly, Omar H. Ali and Jacqueline S. Salit
Routledge, 2022
The authors of The Independent Voter delve into the rising influence of rejecting allegiance to any major party. With the number of independent voters and their impact on the rise, independents are reshaping the very foundations of political science and becoming the driving force in determining major election outcomes.

Terrortimes, Terrorscapes: Continuities of Space, Time, and Memory in Twentieth-Century War and Genocide
Volker Benkert and Michael Mayer
Purdue University Press, 2022
In this interdisciplinary volume delves into the connections between violence and collective memory, revealing how entangled notions of time and space have perpetuated a haunting continuum of violence across different conflicts, giving rise to what the authors term “terrortimes” and “terrorscapes.”