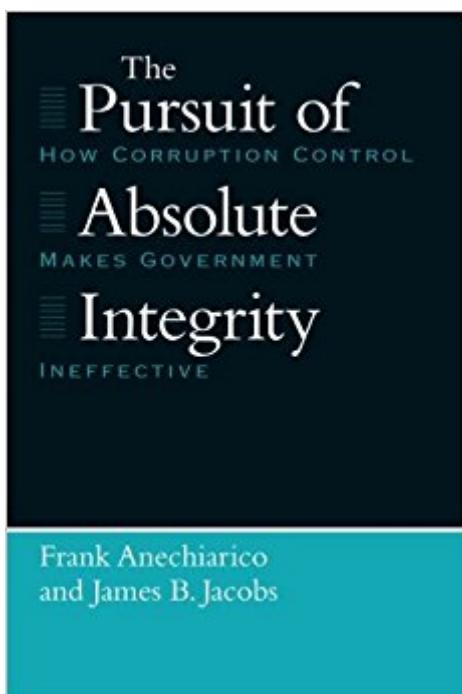


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The Pursuit Of Absolute Integrity: How Corruption Control Makes Government Ineffective (Studies In Crime And Justice)



Synopsis

In this comprehensive and controversial case study of anticorruption efforts, Frank Anechiarico and James B. Jacobs show how the proliferating regulations and oversight mechanisms designed to prevent or root out corruption seriously undermine our ability to govern. By constraining decision makers' discretion, shaping priorities, and causing delays, corruption control—no less than corruption itself—has contributed to the contemporary crisis in public administration."Anechiarico and Jacobs . . . have pushed aside the claims and posturing by officials and reformers and revealed a critical need to reevaluate just what we have and are doing to public servants, and to the public, in the name of anti-corruption."—Citylaw"A timely and very useful addition to the new debate over corruption and reform."—Michael Johnston, American Political Science Review

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Customer Reviews

Anticorruption reforms provide excellent political cover for public officials, but do they really reduce corruption? And do the benefits outweigh the costs? In this comprehensive and controversial case study of anticorruption efforts, Frank Anechiarico and James B. Jacobs show how the proliferating regulations and oversight mechanisms designed to prevent or root out corruption seriously undermine our ability to govern. Using anticorruption efforts in New York City to illustrate their argument, Anechiarico and Jacobs demonstrate the costly inefficiencies of pursuing absolute

integrity. By proliferating dysfunctions, constraining decision makers' discretion, shaping priorities, and causing delays, corruption control - no less than corruption itself - has contributed to the contemporary crisis in public administration. This book begins a new and vital discourse on how to free public administration from burdensome corruption controls without sacrificing government integrity. It will interest scholars in political science, sociology, public administration, policy studies, and criminology.

Well written and a thoughtful approach to control versus fraud, too many controls are more expensive than the frauds in might prevent.

This is an excellent book. Its academic / sociological approach may put off some lay readers, but that would be too bad. The subject, and the message, are both very important. In many ways, this book is similar to "The Appearance of Impropriety: How the Ethics Wars Have Undermined American Government, Business and Society," but although this book is somewhat less accessible to general readers it is certainly stronger from a social-science standpoint. An excellent book, well worth reading for anyone interested in why repeated efforts to stamp out political corruption have borne such mixed (at best) results.

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