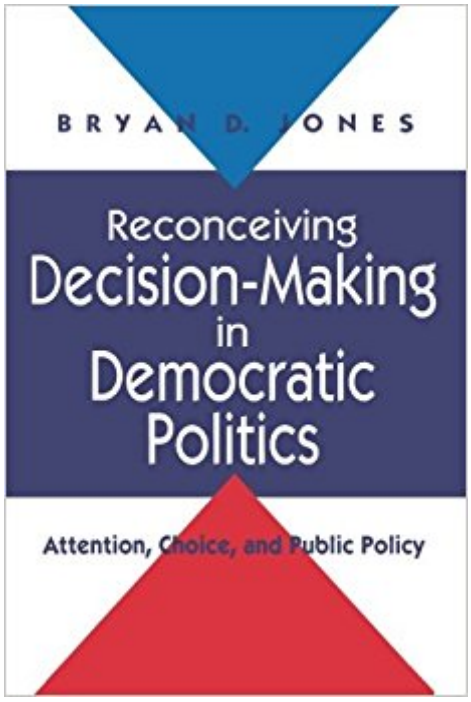
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Reconceiving Decision-Making In Democratic Politics: Attention, Choice, And Public Policy (American Politics & Political Economy (Paperback))



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Most models of political decision-making maintain that individual preferences remain relatively constant. Why, then, are there often sudden abrupt changes in public opinion on political issues? Or total reversals by politicians on specific issues? Bryan D. Jones answers these questions by innovatively connecting insights from cognitive science and rational choice theory to political life.Individuals and political systems alike, Jones argues, tend to be attentive to only one issue at a time. Using numerous examples from elections, public opinion polls, congressional deliberations, and of bureaucratic decision-making, he shows how shifting attentiveness can and does alter choices and political outcomesÃ¢â ¬â •even when underlying preferences remain relatively fixed. An individual, for example, may initially decide to vote for a candidate because of her stand on spending but change his vote when he learns of her position on abortion, never really balancing the two options.

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Most models of political decision-making maintain that individual preferences remain relatively constant. Why, then, are there often abrupt changes in public opinion on political issues? Or total reversals in congressional support for specific legislation, as recently happened with the voting on the Superconducting Supercollider? Bryan D. Jones answers these questions by innovatively connecting insights from cognitive science and rational choice theory to political life. Individuals and

political systems alike, Jones argues, tend to be attentive to only one issue at a time. Using numerous examples from elections, public opinion polls, congressional deliberations, and bureaucratic decision-making, he shows how shifting attentiveness can and does alter choices and political outcomes - even when underlying preferences remain relatively fixed. An individual, for example, may initially decide to vote for a candidate because of her stand on spending but change his vote when he learns of her position on abortion, never really balancing the two options. Equally applicable to policy-making and agenda-building processes on the national level, Jones's new model of decision-making represents a significant advance in our understanding of political behavior. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Bryan D. Jones is the J. J. Ã¢â ¬Å“JakeÃ¢â ¬Â• Pickle RegentÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Chair in Congressional Studies in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin. Together, they are the authors of several books, including, most recently, Agendas and Instability in American Politics, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

Very hard to understand, I had to read it a couple of times to understand the content. I only got it because one of my school classes required it.

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