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Power Plays: Critical Events In The Institutionalization Of The Tennessee Valley Authority (S U N Y Series In The Sociology Of Work And Organizations) (Suny Series, Sociology Of Work)



Synopsis

Identifies the importance of New Deal conflicts, policy networks politics, and ruthless domination as critical events in the creation and early development of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Book Information

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The author puts forth an important thesis organizations are better understood as contested political struggles than as objects sui generis and makes it stick in the empirical discussion. David Strang, Cornell University The author does a good job of pointing to the weaknesses of the current version of institutional organization theory. He pays meticulous attention to the historical record. The work is a compelling statement of an action oriented organization theory. Wolfgang Bielefeld, University of Texas""The author puts forth an important thesis--organizations are better understood as contested political struggles than as objects sui generis--and makes it stick in the empirical discussion." -- David Strang, Cornell University "The author does a good job of pointing to the weaknesses of the current version of 'institutional' organization theory. He pays meticulous attention to the historical record. The work is a compelling statement of an 'action' oriented organization theory."-- Wolfgang Bielefeld, University of Texas at Dallas

Power Plays provides a conflict model of organizational behavior based on a historical reanalysis of the creation and early development of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) from its origins as a

World War I munitions plant to its consolidation as the largest electric utility in the United States. It also examines Philip Selznick's classic work, *TVA and the Grass Roots*. The book shows how the interactions among the Depression, New Deal politics, the promise of electricity, and diverse ideologies with the strategic and tactical maneuvers of a policy network explain the institutionalization of the TVA.

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