

Small Change: Money, Political Parties, and Campaign Finance Reform

Raymond J. La Raja

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Raymond J. La Raja : Small Change: Money, Political Parties, and Campaign Finance Reform before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Small Change: Money, Political Parties, and Campaign Finance Reform:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Public Interest Perspective vs. Rational Choice TheoryBy RAY1345I think that this is a great book. I did an independent study course that required this book and it is very rich

on the historical perspectives of the party politics and campaign finance. I wish that La Raja would take on the growth of campaign finance in the age of information and the 21st century media. that would be a perfect book to cap this argument. The perspective of the book takes on the commonly believe theory that Campaign Finance reforms came from scandals that led to public outcry. instead of agreeing with the public-interest perspective, La Raja daringly sets up the argument of his book to support Rational Choice Theory preservative and makes the argument that the historical account shows that politicians have used Campaign finance as a vehicle for cutting down the resources necessary for the opposition party and in effect, winning elections. Even the BCRA (McCain- Feingold Act) was shown to be because republicans had caught on to the soft money ways of making campaigns... I think the only problems is that he believes one or the other, instead, I argue that La Raja should broaden his perspective. instead of inviting one way of thinking and narrowing public interest perspective to a series of events. make the case that rational choice and public interest are both evident given that nature of the event and cause for reform. the main concern is that he evaluates the book with the scope that once a scandal has happened it is out of the peoples minds, whereas, a new scandal has shown no support for reform. I argue that he needs to view scandals as compounding, building on each other and creating a case precedent for the now back to back regulations and reforms in campaigns that America is seeing today.

All democracies face the dilemma of how to pay for politics. Money fuels the campaigns that inform and mobilize voters. But private political contributions raise the specter of undue influence, or, worse, political corruption. This book reviews the history of America's efforts at federal campaign finance reform.

About the Author Raymond J. La Raja is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.