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BALANCING ACT

Washington's
Troubled
Path
to a
Balanced
Budget

George Hager & Eric Pianin

With a New Preface and Afterword to the Vintage Edition

Originally published under the title *Mirage*

Balancing Act Washingtons Troubled Path To A Balanced Budget

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Balancing Act Washingtons Troubled Path To A Balanced Budget:

Balancing Act George Hager, 1998-09-29 A compelling book on budget balancing past and present Not only is it a useful historical reference work but it is amazingly relevant to today's headlines Business Week Why did it take twenty five years to balance the federal budget And why did that goal seem politically impossible up until the last possible moment Why hasn't the nation achieved a single budget surplus since 1969 Why did the first Republican Congress since the 1950s fail so miserably to redeem its most important promise to voters In **Balancing Act** George Hager and Eric Pianin two of the country's top political journalists provide fascinating answers The question of the deficit is the reigning obsession of modern politics Never simply a quarrel over numbers the deficit has always been a moral issue as well as a fiscal one a bitter fight to the political death over competing ideas about the right to shape the nation's values and to proclaim publicly what those values are Bringing key political players like Newt Gingrich Bill Clinton Ronald Reagan and George Mitchell vividly to life Hager and Pianin provide a gripping and revealing look at what goes on behind the closed doors of Capitol Hill Vivid provocative rich in anecdote and drama **Balancing Act** is a useful primer on the history of deficit spending Los Angeles Times **The Survivor** John F. Harris, 2006-10-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER The definitive account of one of the most accomplished controversial and polarizing figures in American history Bill Clinton is the most arresting leader of his generation He transformed American politics and his eight years as president spawned arguments that continue to resonate For all that has been written about this singular personality including Clinton's own massive autobiography there has been no comprehensive nonpartisan overview of the Clinton presidency Few writers are as qualified and equipped to tackle this vast subject as the award winning veteran Washington Post correspondent John F Harris who covered Clinton for six of his eight years in office as long as any reporter for a major newspaper In **The Survivor** Harris frames the historical debate about President William Jefferson Clinton by revealing the inner workings of the Clinton White House and providing the first objective analysis of Clinton's leadership and its consequences Harris shows Clinton entering the Oval Office in 1993 primed to make history But with the Cold War recently concluded and the country coming off a nearly uninterrupted generation of Republican presidents the new president's entry into this maelstrom of events was tumultuous His troubles were exacerbated by the habits personal contacts and the management style he had developed in his years as governor of Arkansas Clinton's enthusiasm and temper were legendary and he and Hillary Rodham Clinton whose ambitions and ordeals also fill these pages arrived filled with mistrust about many of the characters who greeted them in the permanent Washington that often holds the reins in the nation's capital Showing surprising doggedness and a deep set desire to govern from the middle Clinton repeatedly rose to the challenges eventually winning over or running over political adversaries on both sides of the aisle sometimes facing as much skepticism from fellow Democrats as from his Republican foes But as Harris shows in his accounts of political debacles such as the attempted overhaul of health care Clinton's frustrations in the war against terrorism and the

numerous personal controversies that time and again threatened to consume his presidency Bill Clinton could never manage to outrun his tendency to favor conciliation over clarity or his own destructive appetites The Survivor is the best kind of history a book filled with major revelations the tense dynamic of the Clinton inner circle and Clinton's professional symbiosis with Al Gore to the imprint of Clinton's immense personality on domestic and foreign affairs as well as the minor details that leaven all great political narratives This long awaited synthesis of the dominant themes events and personalities of the Clinton years will stand as the authoritative and lasting work on the Clinton Presidency

The 21st-Century Voter Guido H. Stempel III, Thomas K. Hargrove, 2015-12-14 This comprehensive reference covers all aspects of politics and voting from elections and campaigns to major political figures and parties to the role of media and major activist groups As America's population changes so do its political trends This insightful resource captures the evolution of American politics and elections in the 21st century explaining the identities and roles of lobbyists activists politicians and voters Featuring contributions from distinguished researchers and academics in the areas of political science social science and journalism this encyclopedia explores the contemporary political landscape offering an opportunity to compare and contrast related decisions events and statistical information from the recent past Informative background essays explore all aspects of voting related politics and policy evolving electoral trends and the issues that account for those changes and the impact of the ever changing composition of America's population on polling and elections This work incorporates the results of the 2012 elections thus providing important insights into modern voting trends and their meaning for the future of the United States

Political Science Research Methods: Exploring America At A Crossroads Cal Clark, 2013-08-28 The principal goal of this textbook is to provide clear and elementary descriptions of the major statistical techniques used in political and social science research The book is built on two basic assumptions First that it is possible to explain social science statistics in a simple and straightforward manner so that students with a minimal background in math can understand even fairly advanced techniques such as multiple and logistic regression Second that undergraduate and even graduate students have less trouble in understanding specific techniques than in interpreting what statistical results mean substantively Consequently the book stresses the interpretation of research findings In essence the book argues that political science research is like piecing a jigsaw puzzle together Pieces of information statistical and non statistical must be assembled and interpreted both logically and creatively The text is organized in a unique manner using the various techniques being discussed to analyze the current state of the United States as it seemingly stands at a crossroads in both its political orientations and socioeconomic nature To make the statistical interpretation more meaningful and easier to understand the results throughout the book are integrated by their focus upon two central questions related to the theme of America at a Crossroads Are Americans conservative or liberal in their political beliefs How do economic and social outcomes in America compare to those in other developed democracies

Women at the Polls Cal Clark, Janet Clark, 2009-03-26 Since 1980 most elections in the United States have

been marked by a gender gap in which women are more supportive of Democratic candidates than men by nearly ten percentage points. *Women at the Polls* finds that this gender gap is quite extensive as it exists in almost all demographic groups and as it is based on similar differences in the political attitudes of women and men over a wide array of issues. This suggests that women are becoming an important constituency in U.S. politics. *American Labor, Congress, and the Welfare State, 1935-2010* Tracy Roof, 2011-05-23 An examination of labor unions and the American legislative process that explains how this came to be and what it means for American workers. Discusses the interplay between unions and Congress showing the effects of each on the other how the relationship has evolved and the resulting political outcomes. Exploration of unions Congress and the political process challenges conventional explanations for organized labor's political failings. From publisher description. **Public Opinion in Alabama** Cal Clark, Don-Terry Veal, 2010-11-19 The attitudes of individual citizens play a central role in a democracy. In the United States today the two major parties are each associated with a broad set of policy positions representing the conservative and liberal political ideologies. The two major parties are becoming increasingly polarized on these ideologies between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats. This book provides an in-depth examination of public opinion in a single American state, Alabama, to see whether the public opinion of general citizens follows this stereotype of ideological and partisan polarization. Alabama public opinion is analyzed on a fairly wide range of issues including the quality of public officials, constitutional reform, the role of government in terms of taxes and overall spending, education, health care, religion in public life, crime, and immigration. Alabama is generally perceived as staunchly conservative politically and as a reliably red Republican state in national elections. Yet public opinion in Alabama is considerably more nuanced and complex than this stereotype in two distinct aspects. First, Alabamians are certainly conservative on many issues but they are also liberal on a significant number of others. Second, the issue positions of the state's citizens are shaped by three different dynamics in terms of what factors influence specific attitudes. Furthermore, a brief analysis of public opinion in the entire United States finds similar patterns. Thus the current polarization in party politics does not necessarily reflect public opinion in its entirety, suggesting a need to transcend the competing conservative and liberal orthodoxies. **National Journal**, 1998 [Issues and Controversies on File](#), 2001 *Fiscal Policy and Management in East Asia* Takatoshi Ito, Andrew K. Rose, 2009-02-15 Managing fiscal policy, the revenues and spending of an individual nation is among the most challenging tasks facing governments. Wealthy countries are constrained by complex regulation and taxation policies while developing nations often face high inflation and trade taxes. In this volume, esteemed economists Takatoshi Ito and Andrew K. Rose, along with other leading experts, examine the problems and challenges facing public finance in East Asian developing countries as well as the United States and Japan. *Fiscal Policy and Management in East Asia* explores the inefficient tax systems of many developing countries, the relationship between public and private sector economic behavior, and the pressing issue of future obligations that governments have undertaken to provide pensions and

health care for their citizens Featuring both overviews and analyses of the countries discussed this book will be of value to economists and policymakers seeking to understand fiscal policy in a global context

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