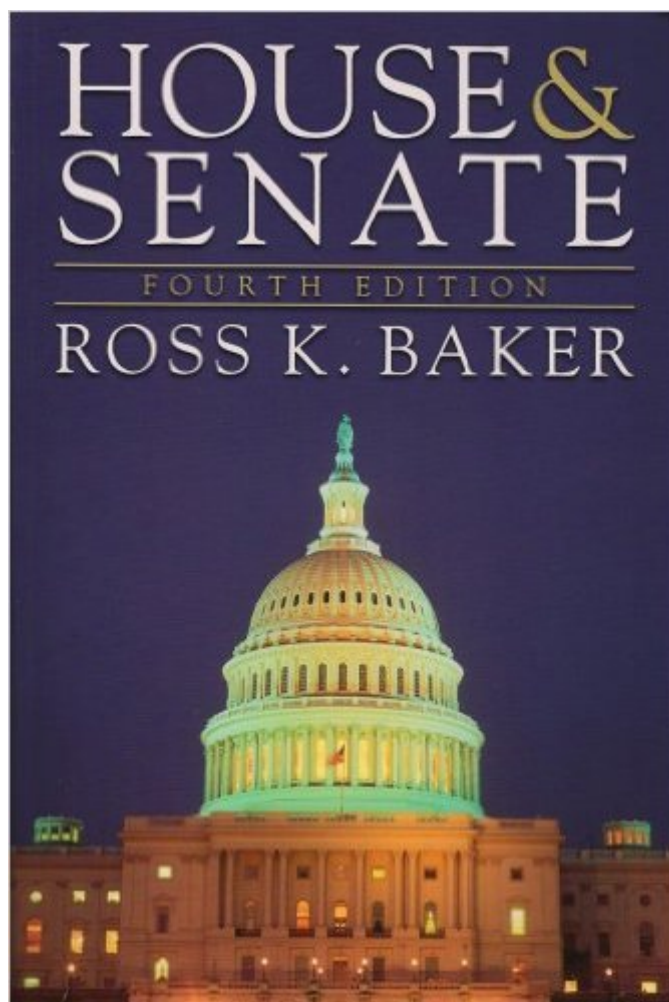


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House & Senate, Fourth Edition



Synopsis

Drawing on interviews with United States senators who previously served in the House of Representatives as well as journalists and staff members, this volume provides a portrait of the two American Houses of Congress. It describes the important distinctions that separate the House and the Senate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had the distinct pleasure of taking Congressional Politics with Professor Baker in the Spring of 2005. While reading this book is not quite as good as sitting in one of his lectures, it comes very close. House and Senate is a remarkable look at the two distinct branches of the United States Congress. Baker discusses not only the differences between the two houses but the reasons that these differences exist. He relies not only on the accounts of Senators who used to serve as Representatives but on his own experiences working for members of both houses. Baker's extensive knowledge of the inner workings of Congress make him uniquely qualified to write this book.

This is a great addition to my library of books. Very informative about the two chambers of Congress. Book presents material in an easy to follow way that keeps the reader interested in the subject.

Mr. Baker uses his experiences in the Senate to make his book interesting and entertaining, as well as factually accurate. He compares the two legislative houses with great detail, all the time enhancing each houses's "personality" and that of its members. It is, perhaps, one of the finest books in its class.

Baker makes one rather basic but essential point in his book discussing the differences between the two chambers of Congress: the small size of the Senate compared to the House makes it a distinct, more generalist, and more elite body. Journalists understand this, lobbyists understand this, and congressmen themselves understand this, argues Baker. His argument is convincing, even if he relies too heavily at times on senators who previously served in the House. Yes, these individuals are uniquely qualified to discuss the processes and the interaction of members, but are they not also pre-disposed to consider the Senate a more prestigious body? This is a minor quibble. In all, House and Senate will teach the reader about the distinctions between the two bodies. In doing so, it tells the layman much about how the legislative branch of government really works.

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