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The Devils We Know: Us And Them In America's Raucous Political Culture.

By Morone, James A.

University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 2014. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 264 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. POLITICAL SCIENCE. Is there an American culture? Certainly, says James Morone. Americans are fighting over it now. They have been fighting over it since the first Puritan stepped ashore. Americans hate government (no national health insurance!) and call for more of it (lock em up!). They prize democracy (power to the people) and scramble to restrict it (the electoral college in the 21st century?). They celebrate opportunity—but only for some (don't let those people in!). Americans proclaim liberty then wrestle over which kind—positive (freedom from want) or negative (no new taxes!)? In this volume Morone offers his own answer to the conundrum of American political culture: It is a perpetual work in progress. Immigrants arrive, excluded groups demand power, and each generation injects new ethnicities, races, religions, ideas, foods, entertainments, sins, and body types into the national mix. The challengers—the devils we know—keep inventing new answers to the nation's fundamental question: Who are we? "How good it is to have this collection of bracing essays by one of the most imaginative scholars of the American experience. Ranging across a wide range of ideas,...



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Reviews

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