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0521023610 - Corporate Power, American Democracy, and the Automobile Industry

Stan Luger

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CORPORATE POWER, AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, AND THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

This book offers a critical history of government policy toward the U.S. automobile industry in order to assess the impact of the large corporation on American democracy. It offers the first book-length treatment of the power of the nation's largest industry. Drawing together the main policy issues affecting the automobile industry over the past forty years – occupant safety, emissions, fuel economy, and trade – the work examines how the industry established its hegemony over the public perception of vehicle safety to inhibit federal regulation and the battle for federal regulation, which succeeded in toppling this hegemony in 1966; the subsequent efforts to include pollution emissions and fuel economy under federal mandates in the 1970s; the industry's resurgence of influence in the 1980s; and the mixed pattern of influence in the 1990s. The analysis seeks to uncover those factors that enhance corporate political influence and those that constrain corporate power, allowing for public interest forces to be successful.

Stan Luger is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Northern Colorado. He received his Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Professor Luger has published articles in the *Journal of Policy History*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Environmental History Review*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, and *In These Times*, as well as contributed a book chapter to the collection of essays *Trade Unions and Public Policy*.

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