



# Beyond Politics: The Roots of Government Failure

*By Randy T. Simmons*



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Providing students of economics, politics, and policy with a concise explanation of public choice, markets, property, and political and economic processes, this record identifies what kinds of actions are beyond the ability of government. Combining public choice with studies of the value of property rights, markets, and institutions, this account produces a much different picture of modern political economy than the one accepted by mainstream political scientists and welfare economists. It demonstrates that when citizens request that their governments do more than it is possible, net benefits are reduced, costs are increased, and wealth and freedom are diminished. Solutions are also suggested with the goal to improve the lot of those who should be the ultimate sovereigns in a democracy: the citizens.



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## **Beyond Politics: The Roots of Government Failure** By Randy T. Simmons Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #950036 in Books
- Published on: 2011-09-01
- Released on: 2011-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .90" w x 6.00" l, 1.27 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 376 pages



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#### Review

“Throughout the world, publics are looking for a new conception of government and its role. Happily, there is a whole new theory that fills the bill called ‘public choice,’ and which is clearly and persuasively presented in the excellent book, *Beyond Politics*.” —Robert L. Bartley, late editor, *Wall Street Journal*

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“*Beyond Politics* is so well written and interesting that it appeals even to those, like me, who may disagree with several of its arguments.” —Mancur Olson, Jr., late professor of economics, University of Maryland

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#### About the Author

**Randy T. Simmons** is a senior fellow at the Independent Institute, the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics, the director of the Institute of Political Economy at Utah State University, and the former mayor of Providence, Utah. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Utah League of Cities and Towns as well as a member of the Utah Governor's Privatization Commission. He is the author of several books, including *The Political Economy of Culture and Norms*. He lives in Providence, Utah. **Gordon Tullock** is a former professor of law and economics at George Mason University and the author of numerous books,

including *The Calculus of Consent*. In 1996 he was elected to the American Political Science Review Hall of Fame.

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