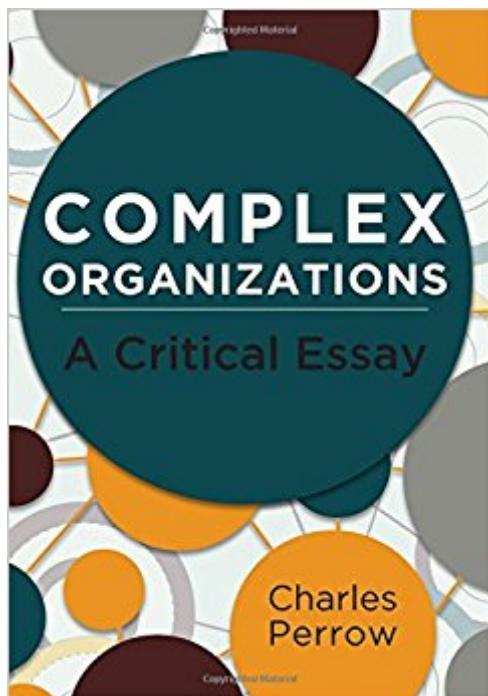


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Complex Organizations: A Critical Essay



Synopsis

A classic text in sociology, Complex Organizations provides a succinct overview of the principal schools of thought of organizational theories, placing each into critical, historical, and cultural context. Vividly written, with many specific, student-oriented examples, Complex Organizations offers a critical perspective on organizations, analyzing their impact on individuals, groups, and society as a whole. Charles Perrow's cogent examination of organizational theory has bridged the gap between two academic disciplines, sociology and business administration, and has won over readers (including many students) with its enthusiasm for the subject. Charles Perrow is professor emeritus of sociology at Yale University and visiting professor at Stanford University. His interests include the development of bureaucracy in the 19th century, protecting the nation's critical infrastructure, the prospects for democratic work organizations, and the origins of American capitalism. "In a very real sense, this book is in a class by itself. . . . It has achieved the status of a 'classic.' . . . There is no other single volume which provides such a thoughtful and incisive critique of organizational theory." -Robert Rothman, Professor Department of Sociology University of Delaware "As a work that has influenced the field, Complex Organizations is in a sparse, distinguished company. It is widely known and cited and is taken seriously as an articulate critique of much of its field. Its strength lies in its intelligence, its irreverence, and its author's reputation. There is much here, by way of analysis and critique that simply cannot be found in other texts." -Steven Kerr, Associate Dean School of Business Administration University of Southern California

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Echo Point Books & Media (June 16, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1626549028

ISBN-13: 978-1626549029

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.7 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #209,894 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #293 in Books > Business & Money > Processes & Infrastructure > Organizational Learning #5492 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology

Customer Reviews

I bought this in connection with a class for an advanced degree program, and I thought it was a valuable reading. I found myself being totally in sync with Perrow, however, his personal descriptions of university life are a little dated, with the pendulum currently swinging toward more administrative control. In my experience, those without an appreciation of or experience in higher education find it harder to be enthralled by Perrow's insights.

This was definitely a scholarly read. I enjoyed the challenge but feel that some of the info was lost in the overly worded chapters.

Its the cheapest sociology book I've ever had to purchase for a class. Requires a higher reading level then most textbooks.

Text books are usually boring.

This is an extremely beneficial reading for those who have a general knowledge base of Organizational Theory. Readers who do not have any organizational theory background may consider the book esoteric. Charles Perrow's critical analysis of organizational theory identifies the general evolution of models of organizational theory and respective influence on the field of organizational theory. The book cites several case examples to help create mental hooks for the basis of each model's origin. Perrow's "Complex Organizations" is dichotomized between the schools of sociology and administration. Organizational theory is not easy to digest but this book is very easy to read and digest in just a few sittings.

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