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Handbook of Biology and Politics

Edited by Steven A. Peterson, Professor of Politics and Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg and Albert Somit, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, US

The study of biology and politics (or biopolitics) has gained considerable currency in recent years, as articles on the subject have appeared in mainstream journals and books on the subject have been well received. The literature has increased greatly since the 1960s and 1970s, when this specialization first made an appearance. This volume assesses the contributions of biology to political science. Chapters focus on general biological approaches to politics, biopolitical contributions to mainstream areas within political science, and linkages between biology and public policy. The volume provides readers with a comprehensive introduction to the subject.

'Stalwart biopolitics scholars Steven A. Peterson and Albert Somit continue their long-running contributions to the cause, this time by assembling, in a single jam-packed volume, dozens of timely, insightful, thought-provoking contributions from an A-list of researchers in this exciting, inter-disciplinary subfield.'

– John Hibbing, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, US

'Slowly but surely the social sciences are starting to realize that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection comes as a friend and supporter rather than as a foe and conqueror. This splendid collection, Handbook of Biology and Politics, edited by Steven A. Peterson and Albert Somit, shows that work in this field is rapidly moving towards maturity. At a time when, with reason, politics and its practitioners are judged and found sadly wanting, such a volume as this, looking at human nature in its fullest dimension and applying it to an understanding of the problems of society – reinvigorating the original project of Aristotle – is as provocatively stimulating as it is badly needed.'

– Michael Ruse, Florida State University, US



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