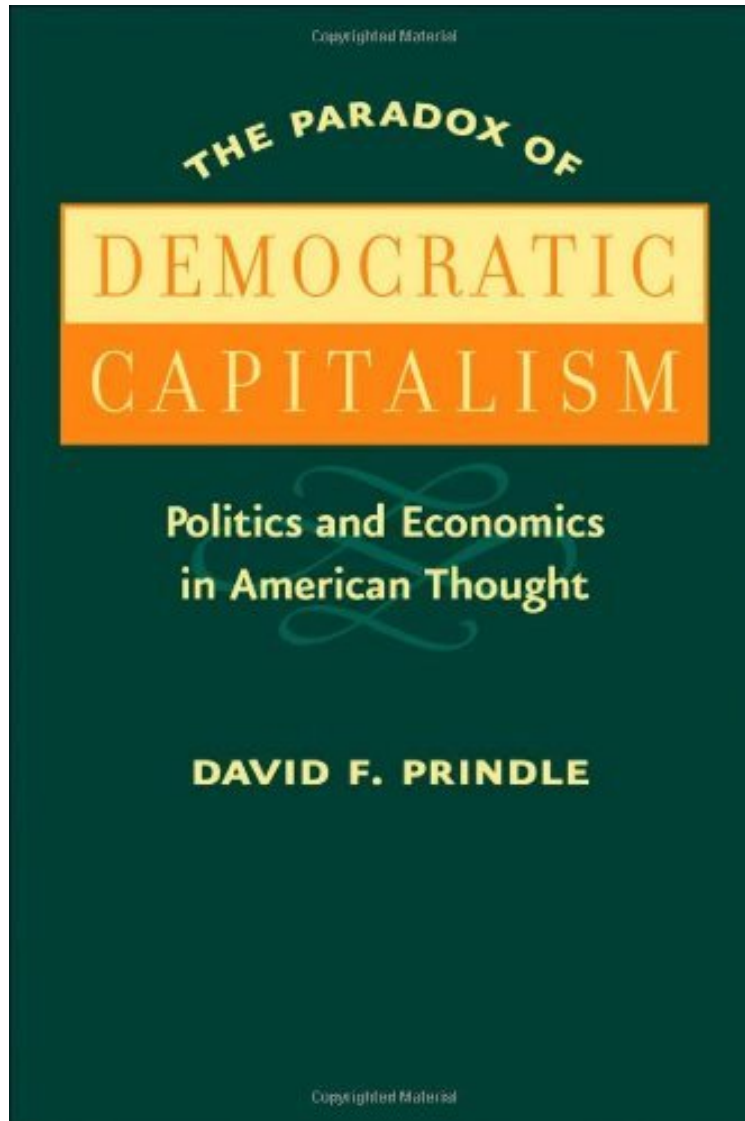


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# The Paradox of Democratic Capitalism: Politics and Economics in American Thought

*David F. Prindle*

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**David F. Prindle : The Paradox of Democratic Capitalism: Politics and Economics in American Thought** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Paradox of Democratic Capitalism: Politics and Economics in American Thought:

A truly interdisciplinary enterprise, The Paradox of Democratic Capitalism examines the interplay of ideas about

politics, economics, and law in American society from the pre-revolutionary era to the eve of the September 11 attacks. David F. Prindle argues that while the United States was founded on liberalism, there is constant tension between two ideals of the liberal tradition: capitalism and democracy. Tracing the rise of natural law doctrine from neoclassical economics, Prindle examines the influence of economic development in late medieval society on the emergence of classical liberalism in early America and likens that influence to the impact of orthodox economics on contemporary American society. Prindle also evaluates political, economic, and legal ideas through the lens of his own beliefs. He warns against the emerging extremes of liberal ideology in contemporary American politics, where the right's definition of capitalism excludes interference from democratic publics and the left's definition of democracy excludes a market-based economy.

"My hat's off to David Prindle. This work is graceful, authoritative, insightful, synthetic, shrewd, magisterial, and fun to read. Prindle leaps over the wall separating economics, politics, and legal thinking, writing a synthetic history that traces these three themes and?crucially?the many ways they have interacted with each other. An astonishingly ambitious and powerful study." (James Morone, Brown University)"By the time I got to the last chapter, I already liked the book... very worthwhile for scholars... will be interesting and informative for many readers." (Randall G. Holcombe Public Choice)"Overall this is an excellent book that offers authoritative and new insights into the history of American thought." (Rachel Turner Political Studies )About the AuthorDavid F. Prindle is a professor of government at the University of Texas at Austin.