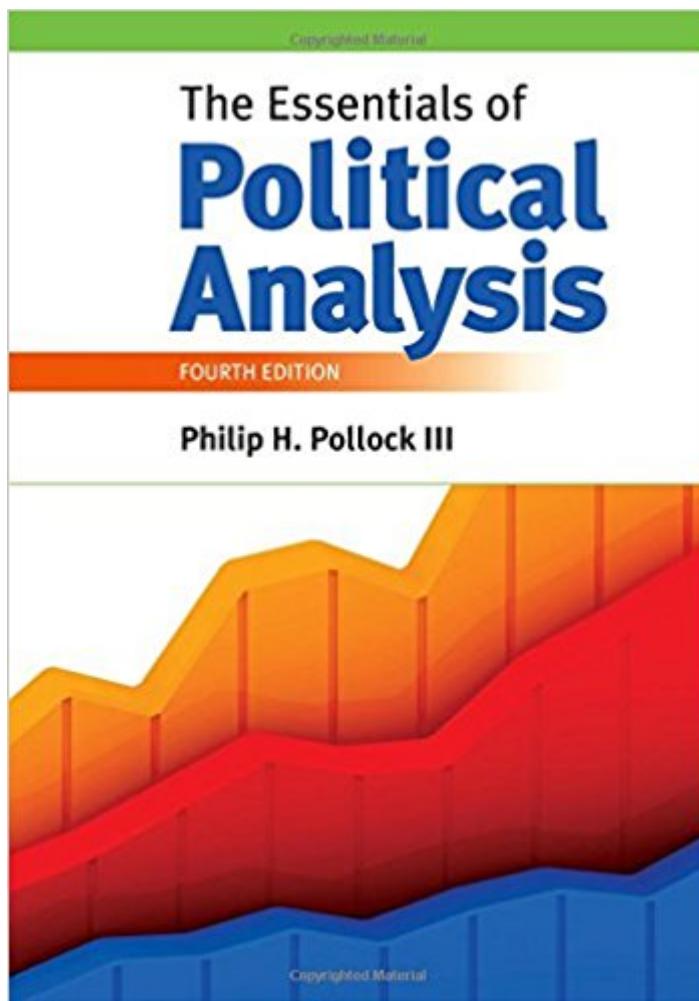


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The Essentials Of Political Analysis



Synopsis

Political science students need to get comfortable using the tools of political analysis. For stats-phobic undergrads, the research methods course need not need be nerve wracking, especially with Pollock's bestselling text to help them along the way. His brief, accessible guide walks students through the basics - measuring concepts, formulating and testing hypotheses, describing variables - while using key terms, chapter-opening objectives, 80 tables and figures, and class-tested exercises to get them using and applying their new skills. The new fourth edition features enhanced treatment of research design and logic controlled comparison and illustrates complex relationships with more accessible examples. A completely revised rubric further helps students identify these complex relationships in their own research.

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Customer Reviews

Philip H. Pollock III is professor of political science at the University of Central Florida. He has taught courses in research methods at the undergraduate and graduate levels for nearly 30 years. His main research interests are American public opinion, voting behavior, techniques of quantitative analysis, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. His recent research has been on the effectiveness of Internet-based instruction. Pollock's research has appeared in the American Journal of Political Science, Social Science Quarterly, and British Journal of Political Science. Recent scholarly publications include articles in Political Research Quarterly, the Journal of Political Science Education, and PS: Political Science and Politics.

Let me start by saying I am not a statistician or student of such. I find the subject boring and frankly, I am not gifted in any course with numbers. Therefore, I do not want to be critical in an area that I am poorly educated and gifted in. However, I purchased the book to try and learn a few simple concepts that can be directed towards my administrative skills. It served it's purpose but I found it too much for me by way of language and exercises. If you are already familiar with and understand statistics methods, you will likely really relate to this. However, if you are not, I would try and find a political analysis book that uses less statistical balance. Again though, the book is written for those who understand statistics and that was my fault!

This book provides exactly what the title promises...all the statistics essentials a political scientist needs. It's intended as a textbook so it's not a chatty broad overview but rather an in depth introduction to the statistical tools for analyzing political and social science data. However the author does a nice job of making the material accessible and understandable without being dry. While it teaches math it's not a math book...I'm very happy with my purchase. My only "criticism" is that there is no answer key for the end of chapter exercises...In trying to find answers to the exercises I contacted the author and he kindly offered to help with any answers or concepts!!!! So I give this book and its author 5 stars!!

With the amount of statistics that are continuously thrown our way on a daily basis, it is good to have a solid knowledge about what a legitimate statistic looks like, what its purpose is, and how it is created. This book does a splendid job of providing just such a knowledge.

Sometimes the book made concepts seem a lot more complex than they really were. The other books and my instructor did so much more simply.

On dark, stormy nights when I get to feeling sorry for myself, or when I think I deserve some sort of masochistic punishment, I retrieve this book from the furthest, blackest corners of my closet and indulge myself in the painful sorrow that is Political Analysis. A few hours later, in exhausted soul-wrenching torment, I chuck it back to Hell (excuse me, my closet) and try to pretend that such a life-numbing text never existed. I try to pretend that this brightly covered package of depression never blighted this earth. It never works. In all seriousness, this book is perfectly fine. It's extremely boring (and I'm a poli sci major who actually digs this stuff!) and dry and vaguely odious, but it's

survivable. I suppose the knowledge and information it provides is what's most important--and in truth, it provides plenty of both-- but it's like trying to swim in a vat of cold oatmeal. You just get stuck in the same spot and what you imagined would be a refreshing read is suddenly and most simplistically described as "gross". I still wake up crying sometimes, terrified by the thought that it's lingering passages will never leave me...

Learned a lot from the professor and this book. Very elementary, but super clear and informative.

Great!

Good for my class.

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