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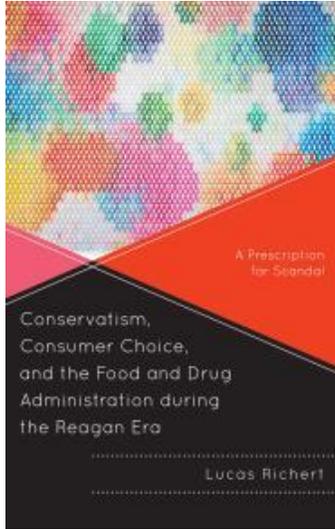
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Conservatism, Consumer Choice, and the Food and Drug Administration during the Reagan Era

A Prescription for Scandal

By Lucas Richert

WINNER of the Arthur Miller Institute First Book Prize



ABOUT THE BOOK

“The effect of presidential and interest-group politics on public agencies has been a fundamental problem in public administration for more than a century. This new book, a case study of the Food and Drug Administration during the 1980s, is an effort to show how President Ronald Reagan’s budget and regulatory policies impacted the FDA’s effectiveness in protecting the public and in supporting the creation of new pharmaceuticals. This period was also the time of the beginning of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the rapid growth of generic drugs. Richert suggests that many of the FDA’s difficulties in the 1980s and beyond can be traced to the Reagan administration’s budget cutting, Congress’s expansion of the agency’s range of responsibilities, and political pressures from HIV/AIDS advocates and makers of generic drugs....Readers will reach different conclusions

regarding the book’s success in establishing the causal connections between Reaganism and the FDA’s problems, but the book makes a strong case that the FDA does not operate in a political vacuum. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduate collections and above.” — *CHOICE*

“Lucas Richert’s book ably reviews the place of the FDA in the modern regulatory order, and helps make the agency’s struggles comprehensible. Richert shows that our system of drug approval and regulation cannot be understood in simple back-and-white terms. Instead, a host of competing interests pull the FDA in all sorts of directions.”— **Joseph F. Spillane**, University of Florida

“Lucas Richert’s compelling and nuanced perspective exposes the limits of the deregulatory ethos of the Reagan era and demonstrates the persistence of an institutional identity that has balanced the imperatives of consumer safety against those of pharmaceutical innovation. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the recent history of pharmaceutical regulation and for policymakers engaged in the making of pharmaceutical policy.” — **Dominique Tobbell**, University of Minnesota

“A thoughtful and accessible narrative history that situates the FDA in the partisan and ideological politics of the long Reagan era.” — **David Herzberg**, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lucas Richert is lecturer in history at the University of Strathclyde.

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