

Preferential Policies: An International Perspective

By Thomas Sowell



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In this cogent, crucial, and vitally important book, economist Thomas Sowell examines on a global scale the preferential policies of governments as diverse as those of India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Israel, Malaysia, Nigeria, and the United States. By substituting fact for rhetoric, Sowell makes an invaluable contribution to our seeing the world as it really is.



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In this volume, Sowell (senior fellow, Hoover Inst.) conducts a cross-cultural analysis of government-mandated preferential policies. His sweep includes programs which have been implemented in developed and undeveloped countries for minority and majority segments of the population. Two things are certain: Sowell will be criticized for casting too wide a net, and his conclusions will generate controversy and discussion. Among his findings are that preferential policies often disproportionately aid the relatively most fortunate in a targeted group; that "temporary" preferential policies usually expand the scope of their coverage and become permanent; and that fraudulent claims are endemic to such efforts. Most importantly, Sowell contends that these problems occur because the programs themselves are designed for political expediency rather than long-term societal change. Scheduled to be serialized in Commentary magazine, this book is recommended for all political/social science collections.

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