



Showdown at Gucci Gulch: Lawmakers, Lobbyists, and the Unlikely Triumph of Tax Reform

By Alan Murray

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The Tax Reform Act of 1986 was the single most sweeping change in the history of America's income tax. It was also the best political and economic story of its time. Here, in the anecdotal style of *The Making of the President*, two Wall Street Journal reporters provide the first complete picture of how this tax revolution went from an improbable dream to a widely hailed reality.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Birnbaum and Murray describe the passage of the 1986 tax reform act as the product of personal victories by Washington officials over the usually triumphant lobbyists of "Gucci Gulch" the hallways outside the congressional meeting rooms where expensive suits and shoes prevail. The authors, Washington correspondents for the Wall Street Journal, explain how liberals' and supply-siders' discontents combined to produce the key concepts. They skillfully portray the five main actors Bill Bradley, James Packwood, Dan Rostenkowski, James Baker, and Baker's deputy Richard Darman who succeeded against massive opposition with surprisingly little public support. Recommended for most libraries. BOMC featured alternate. Mark K.

Jones, Cincinnati, Ohio

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Review

"Even the hordes of Americans whose eyes glaze at the sight of a tax table will enjoy this remarkably lively account." -- The New York Times Book Review

"A riveting account of the political Process that produced the new [tax reform] law."

-- Fortune

"Messrs. Birnbaum and Murray... have written a splendidly readable book about America's recent tax reform." -- The Economist

"Showdown is a classic of its genre....It is illuminating and systematic enough to become a staple in political science courses, yet entertaining enough to be read this summer on the beach." -- Washington Post Book World

"Showdown at Gucci Gulch reads like a thriller, which it is, with a remarkable cast of characters and a payoff in billions."

-- David S. Broder, chief political reporter and columnist, Washington Post

From the Publisher

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"A superb piece of reporting on one of the most important pieces of legislation in years....A great case study of the political process." --The Washington Post

"Showdown at Gucci Gulch is likely to become the standard narrative of tax reform for years to come."--The Boston Globe

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Emma Lavigne:

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