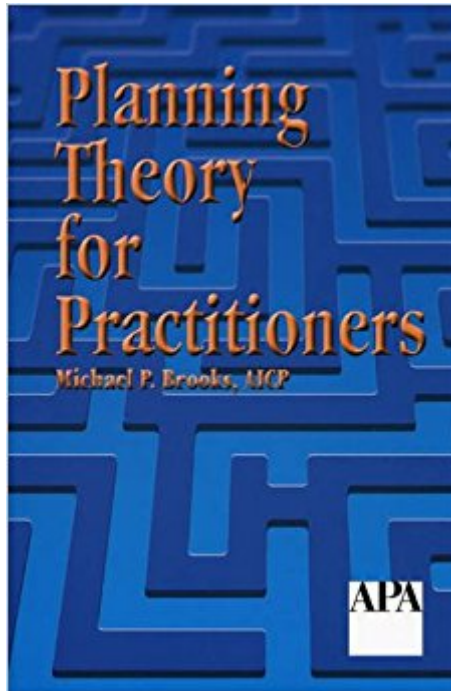




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# Planning Theory For Practitioners



## Synopsis

This book is recommended reading for planners preparing to take the AICP exam. In this new book, the author bridges the gap between theory and practice. The author describes an original approach-Feedback Strategy-that builds on the strengths of previous planning theories with one big difference: it not only acknowledges but welcomes politics-the bogeyman of real-world planning. Don't hold your nose or look the other way, the author advises planners, but use politics to your own advantage. The author admits that most of the time planning theory doesn't have much to do with planning practice. These ideas rooted in the planner's real world are different. This strategy employs everyday political processes to advance planning, trusts planners' personal values and professional ethics, and depends on their ability to help clients articulate a vision. This volume will encourage not only veteran planners searching for a fresh approach, but also students and recent graduates dismayed by the gap between academic theory and actual practice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

it is fine. Book required for a class.... what more can I say. It is as described...

EXCELENT!!! CONCEPTUOS AND PRACTICAL; VERY WELL WRITTEN; I shall incorporate it into my course of "Strategic Planinging" at the Post Graduate Section of the UNI (National Engineering University) MSc. Program at Lima-Peru in its School of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Got my book on time, I chose one-day shipping because I needed the book fast, guaranteed the delivery on time and I am very impressed. This book is a very good introduction for planning theory. If it wasn't a required text, there is no way I would be reading it. I feel like the author could have made his point without as many words or concept, for every paragraph you read, you have to research a term or concept used. Some of which I should know, but can't remember because it was since my undergrad days.

Just what the professor ordered!

Great!

Insightful. But not wordy or too 'Intellectual'. Rather simple writing talking about complex realities.

Great for the basic theories in urban planning

Like most great inventions, the planning profession emerged because government couldn't adequately meet the needs in the growth and development of societies. This phenomenon left people helpless and seeking alternatives, especially minorities. Planning necessity became the mother of invention. Planning grew as a profession in spite of the state, not because of it. It is fascinating to study and witness, with modern hindsight, the evolution of the planning profession squirm its way through the confines of the 20th century American political system. However, as an anarchist, that is where the buck stops for me. I have no interest in pursuing a planning approach that requires my ideas to be forced on others through policy recommendations. If you need to force your ideas onto someone, then your ideas must not be very good. The very definition of the government is coercive. Government is defined as a group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, or other form of political community (Government, Merriam's online). The keyword in that definition is "control" which implies that there is a group of people who have a special privilege in society. And whom is that privilege granted by? I do not remember consenting to a supposed social contract called "the constitution of the United States of America" whereby I agree to be ruled. Therefore, I and many others, had no choice in the matter. With this in mind, a more accurate definition of the state would be one employed by Rothbard (1974) as an "organization in society which attempts to maintain a monopoly of the use of force and violence in a given territorial

area; in particular, it is the only organization in society that obtains its revenue not by voluntary contribution or payment for services rendered but by coercion [through law]. How does this relate to planning? Brooks, like many planners, overlook planning as a revolutionary and alternative act. He only reviews the history and routes that planners have taken to try to fix the Leviathan from the inside. Why on earth would a planner want to employ the use of force to have their ideas accepted? The insistence on seeking solutions through political action makes Brook's book more of a survival guide for new planners in the political arena. Even still, Brook's advice may be useful for some because there are few alternatives for job placement in the monopolized planning profession. You either work for government or you work for a pseudo-private, rent-seeking, corporate consulting firm. Lovely!

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