

Excerpts from book reviews of

*Half-Life of Policy Rationales:  
How New Technology Affects Old Policy Issues*

Edited by Fred E. Foldvary and Daniel B. Klein  
New York University Press, 2003

***Knowledge, Technology, & Policy (Winter 2004):*** “Whether you are interested in the role of government and markets, or the role of technology in society, or in specific policy areas, *Half-Life* makes for stimulating reading. Technology advances far more rapidly than most government institutions are capable of responding. Foldvary and Klein should be commended for bringing together disparate policy areas under one roof, and assessing the role of technology in promoting choice, freedom, and prosperity.”

-- Joel Schwartz

***Journal of Economic Literature (June 2004):*** “The intersection of technology change and policy provides an interesting and important topic. I think this book would be especially valuable for upper division courses as a launching point for term papers. Any one of the technological developments described therein would be worthy of further study and analysis, by both students and policymakers, and the collected papers offer dozens.”

-- Chad Shirley

***The Independent Review (Winter 2005):*** “The *Half-Life of Policy Rationales* is one clever book. Nothing in recent years on the economics of new technology comes close.”

-- Bryan Caplan

***Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries (September 2003):*** “The authors contend that government policies do become obsolete and persuasively argue that policy rationales must change over time to meet changing circumstances. . . . Contributors apply this same type of argument to downtown parking, air pollution from autos, regulation of the Internet, postal services, and the protection of endangered species. A useful volume for those interested in the rationales for regulations and other government policies.”

-- B. P. Keating

***Markets & Morality (vol 6, no. 2):*** “This book collects thirteen original essays by different authors that are generally bound together by the theme that technological advancements are reducing the need for public sector invention in the economy. The

book makes stimulating reading for at least two reasons. First, it focuses the reader on the roles of the state versus the roles of the market, where “versus” is often meant quite literally. Second, there is a thrill in seeing/imagining the power of the market to handle problems that, at first glance, seem outside its purview.”

-- W. Robert Reed