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THE PROFESSIONS AND GOVERNMENT



CORINNE LATHROP GILB

An illuminating study of the private government—executive, legislative, judicial—of the American professions, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, law, education, architecture, science and engineering, library work, accounting, pharmacy, and social work

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Hidden Hierarchies *The Professions and Government*

CORINNE LATHROP GILB

This original and provocative study of American professions reveals a powerful network of private government underlying the public government. It is the first history of the American professions.

The professions discussed include medicine, dentistry, nursing, law, education, architecture, engineering, accounting, social work, and library work. Performing many of the functions of government through executive, legislative, and judicial action, such groups as the American Medical Association, the American Library Association, and the American Bar Association protect their members, provide welfare and security, set standards for performance, and punish offenders—much as the medieval guilds did. They have succeeded in improving the often tarnished public image of the professions through vigorous control over and discipline of their members and by intensive campaigns for prestige.

Corinne Lathrop Gilb analyzes the methods—democratic or oligarchic—of these hidden hierarchies and their implications for public government, particularly in such activities as lobbying in state legislatures and Congress. She finds that the private governments tend to maintain the status quo and to militate against progress within the professions themselves and against the introduction and acceptance of new professions by American society.

An important book for all who belong to a profession and for all interested in the politics of institutions.

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