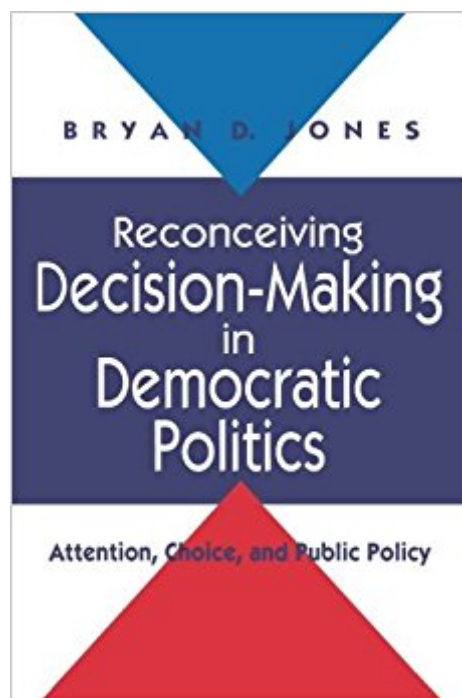




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# Reconceiving Decision-Making In Democratic Politics: Attention, Choice, And Public Policy (American Politics & Political Economy (Paperback))



## Synopsis

Most models of political decision-making maintain that individual preferences remain relatively constant. Why, then, are there often sudden abrupt changes in public opinion on political issues? Or total reversals by politicians on specific issues? Bryan D. Jones answers these questions by innovatively connecting insights from cognitive science and rational choice theory to political life. Individuals and political systems alike, Jones argues, tend to be attentive to only one issue at a time. Using numerous examples from elections, public opinion polls, congressional deliberations, and of bureaucratic decision-making, he shows how shifting attentiveness can and does alter choices and political outcomesâeven when underlying preferences remain relatively fixed. An individual, for example, may initially decide to vote for a candidate because of her stand on spending but change his vote when he learns of her position on abortion, never really balancing the two options.

## Book Information

Series: American Politics & Political Economy (Paperback)

Paperback: 285 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (March 15, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226406512

ISBN-13: 978-0226406510

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #627,877 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #181 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Propaganda & Political Psychology #461 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Leadership #1916 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Political

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Most models of political decision-making maintain that individual preferences remain relatively constant. Why, then, are there often abrupt changes in public opinion on political issues? Or total reversals in congressional support for specific legislation, as recently happened with the voting on the Superconducting Supercollider? Bryan D. Jones answers these questions by innovatively connecting insights from cognitive science and rational choice theory to political life. Individuals and

political systems alike, Jones argues, tend to be attentive to only one issue at a time. Using numerous examples from elections, public opinion polls, congressional deliberations, and bureaucratic decision-making, he shows how shifting attentiveness can and does alter choices and political outcomes - even when underlying preferences remain relatively fixed. An individual, for example, may initially decide to vote for a candidate because of her stand on spending but change his vote when he learns of her position on abortion, never really balancing the two options. Equally applicable to policy-making and agenda-building processes on the national level, Jones's new model of decision-making represents a significant advance in our understanding of political behavior. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Bryan D. Jones is the J. J. â œJakeâ • Pickle Regentâ ™s Chair in Congressional Studies in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin. Together, they are the authors of several books, including, most recently, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

Very hard to understand, I had to read it a couple of times to understand the content. I only got it because one of my school classes required it.

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