

# A GOVERNMENT OUT OF SIGHT

*The Mystery of National Authority  
in Nineteenth-Century America*

**Brian Balogh**

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*"Brian Balogh recasts our understanding of the role of government in the United States. His ambitious and elegant interpretation changes the plot line of American history, replacing fantasies of ungoverned freedom and iconoclastic reformers with a deeper story, cutting against some of the most enduring myths of American history."*

—Edward L. Ayers, University of Richmond

How big a role should the American government play? Should it be shelling out billions for public works and other projects? Is such government involvement unprecedented? Many historians assume the US government of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to be hands-off; quintessentially laissez faire. Politicians and analysts who champion such a style of government even regard it as a sort of golden age.

In **A GOVERNMENT OUT OF SIGHT**, (Cambridge University Press; May 21), **Brian Balogh** deconstructs this view, demonstrating that in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, even those who argued for a small, nonintrusive central government demanded that the national government expand its authority to meet the nation's challenges. Balogh identifies government programs and subsidies from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that survive even today, revising our understanding of the ways in which Americans turned to the national government throughout this period.

**A GOVERNMENT OUT OF SIGHT** fundamentally alters our perspective on American political development in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, shedding light on contemporary debates between progressives and conservatives about the proper size of government and government programs.

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**Brian Balogh** is co-host of the nationally-syndicated radio show *BackStory with the American History Guys*, Chair of the Governing America in a Global Era program at the University of Virginia, and co-Director of the Miller Center Fellowships in Public Affairs.

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## **BRIAN BALOGH IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.**

To arrange for a review copy of **THE A GOVERNMENT OUT OF SIGHT** or to schedule an interview with Brian Balogh, please contact:

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