



# State of Innovation: The U.S. Government's Role in Technology Development

*By Fred L. Block, Matthew R. Keller*

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The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression has generated a fundamental re-evaluation of the free-market policies that have dominated American politics for three decades. State of Innovation brings together critical essays looking at the 'innovation industry' in the context of the current crisis. The book shows how government programs and policies have underpinned technological innovation in the US economy over the last four decades, despite the strength of 'free market' political rhetoric. The contributors provide new insights into where innovations come from and how governments can support a dynamic innovation economy as the US recovers from a profound economic crisis. State of Innovation outlines a 21st century policy paradigm that will foster cutting-edge innovation which remains accountable to the public.

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**State of Innovation: The U.S. Government's Role in Technology Development** By Fred L. Block, Matthew R. Keller **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1221491 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Paradigm Publishers
- Published on: 2011-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 6.25" w x .75" l, 1.09 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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#### Review

The term 'industrial policy' remains a bugaboo in the United States, even though as this book documents the federal government is one of the world's most activist when it comes to industrial support. The true value of this book resides in the case narratives it presents on a range of successful and unsuccessful public programs. The book is a treasure trove of ideas on how to make the strategic collaboration between private and public work better. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the state of the U.S. economy and its future prospects. - - Dani Rodrik, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University From blockbuster pharmaceutical drugs to jet turbines to microchips, the U.S. government has directly supported some of the key technological drivers of the global economy. The reality, illuminated by this superb collection of case studies, is that America's industrial might is in no small measure a consequence of sustained state investments. State of Innovation strikes a blow against our collective amnesia and free market nostalgias. -- Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger, co-authors, Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility Block and Keller dispel the widespread fantasy that governments merely maintain markets as playing fields. This important collection gets inside the reality and leads us toward a sophisticated understanding of market dynamics. -- Nicole Woolsey Biggart, University of California--Davis

#### About the Author

**Fred Block** is an economic and political sociologist at the University of California, Davis. His books include, *The Origins of International Economic Disorder* (California) and *Postindustrial Possibilities* (California). He has been studying U.S. innovation policies since 2006 with support from the Ford Foundation.

**Matthew R. Keller** is an Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University. His research explores shifts in dominant intellectual and political trends and their relation to government organization and policy. One strand of his current work investigates innovation policies and dynamics; a second explores how governments respond to episodes of collective violence.

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