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**Review of *Rural Development in the United States: Connecting Theory, Practice, and Possibilities* by William A. Galston and Karen J. Baehler**

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**Rural Development in the United States: Connecting Theory, Practice, and Possibilities.** William A. Galston and Karen J. Baehler. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1995. xiii+353 pp. Notes, bibliography, and index. \$32.00 paper (ISBN 1-55963-326-3).

William Galston and Karen Baehler provide an excellent comprehensive overview of rural development policy and approaches. Their book is enriched by Galston's perspective as a Clinton White House domestic policy advisor and the Who's Who of rural development experts who reviewed and contributed to it.

Part one offers a progressive, expansive panorama of rural development in the United States in the 1990s. Particularly fine is the first chapter's review of critical trends and policy choices. The balance of the work is a textbook approach to seven fundamental sectors within the rural economy: natural resources, manufacturing, services, tourism, the elderly, high technology, and telecommunications. By providing consistent organization and numerous summary lists of conclusions, insights, and observations, the authors have produced a highly serviceable reference guide.

Overall, Galston's and Baehler's effort summarizes earlier research and writings. An excellent bibliography provides a useful review of rural development challenges and opportunities. The writing is clear and to the point, the analysis current and consistent with contemporary perspectives.

There are few new insights or findings, however. Although significant innovations are occurring throughout rural America, too few stories about them appear in the book's 353 pages of analysis and overview. Rural Americans are reinventing their communities, economies, and societies. There is real progress and considerable stagnation and failure. The writing reflects a vision too removed from rural development's day to day challenges. A little

more time in rural communities might have provided richer insights into the current realities and development challenges in rural America today.

Good literature on rural development policy seems sparse. This book should be part of any rural development researcher's or policymaker's library. The Aspen Institute, the Ford Foundation, and Island Press have performed an essential service in helping to make *Rural Development* and a number of other important works possible. **Don Macke**, *Nebraska Rural Development Commission, Lincoln*.