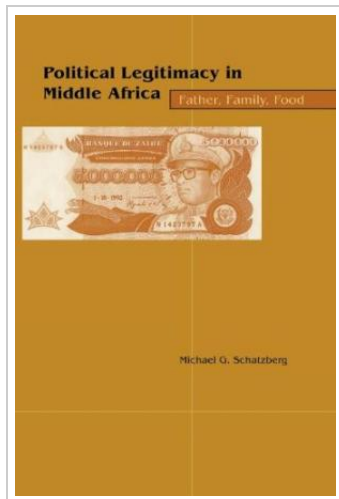




Political Legitimacy in Middle Africa: Father, Family, Food

By Michael G. Schatzberg

Indiana University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Political Legitimacy in Middle Africa: Father, Family, Food, Michael G. Schatzberg, This is "The Choice" outstanding academic title in 2003. Michael G. Schatzberg explores the cultural underpinnings of political legitimacy. He argues that all societies have a culturally-rooted template against which people come to understand the political legitimacy, or 'thinkability', of institutions, ideas, policies, and procedures. In this innovative work, Michael G. Schatzberg reads metaphors found in the popular press as an indicator of how Africans come to understand political legitimacy, political culture, and political philosophy. Examining daily newspapers, popular literature, and political and church documents from across middle Africa - from Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria to Cameroon, Congo/Zaire, Kenya, and Tanzania - Schatzberg finds widespread and deeply ingrained views of government and its relationship to its citizenry as parts of an idealized and extended family. By exploring the role of the father-chief as head of the family, Schatzberg considers how political power is distributed in Africa, or who 'eats' first. He addresses themes such as the role of the church, sorcery, soccer, and women within the paternalistic family-state; how punishments or rewards are meted out; and, the limits...

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