

THE CHAOS OF CONVERGENCE:

A Study of the Process of Decay, Change, and Transformation Within the Telephone Policy
Subsystem of the United States.

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This dissertation was developed as two distinct themes within one final study. The first theme is located within Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. These two chapters examine the nature of both policy analysis and organizational theory in terms of their development within the American versions of Public Administration and Political Science. I conclude that the distinctions that have been created between the two areas of research are false, and that within the basic structure of American political theory both policy development and administrative implementation are a single unified endeavor. I then propose that Anthony Giddens Theory of Structuration offers both policy analysis and organizational theory a meta-theory that would allow for both areas of research to be reconnected. Various policy and organizational analysis models are examined, and alterations in these models are suggested to comply with the basic concepts of Giddens Theory of Structuration. A final model of analysis is presented which incorporates elements from these various models, and allows for the examination of the overall operation of a policy subsystem in terms of both policy analysis and organizational theory.

The second theme is located within Chapters 4 through 10. The analytical model that was created in the first theme is applied it to a specific policy subsystem, namely the wire-based telecommunications industry of the United States. The relationship between the industry and government is examined from its original inception to the implementation of the Telecommunications Deregulation Act of 1996. Seven distinct periods of development are analyzed. Each period of analysis seeks to locate the basic underlying structural principles forming the foundations for decisions in both the private and public sectors, and the processes for adaptation and adjustment. The examination of the processes engaged in the various periods supports the conclusion reached in the original analytical model, namely that political and administrative interaction are in fact linked, forming a unified process. A single underlying structural principle is located that has formed the basis for the policy subsystems existence, namely the concept of Compound Federalism as originally envisioned by the Republic's Founding Fathers.

This work is dedicated to the memory and spirit of Norton Long.

"Sir, Hell is Paved With Good Intentions"

Samuel Johnson

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Table of Contents

Title	i
Abstract	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Contents	vi
Introduction	1
Section 1: The Nature of Policy Analysis in the United States in the United States	5
Chapter 1: Literature Review	6
Chapter 2: Methodology	64
Section 2: The Telephone Policy Subsystem of the United States	93
Chapter 3: The Telegraph	95
Chapter 4: 1875 to 1880	113
Chapter 5: 1889 to 1894	145
Chapter 6: 1894 to 1914	167
Chapter 7: 1914 to 1934	207
Chapter 8: 1934 to 1984	238
Chapter 9: 1984 to 1996	313
Chapter 10: Legacy	472
Section 3: Conclusion	500
Chapter 11: Study Critique	501
Bibliography	512
Vita	546