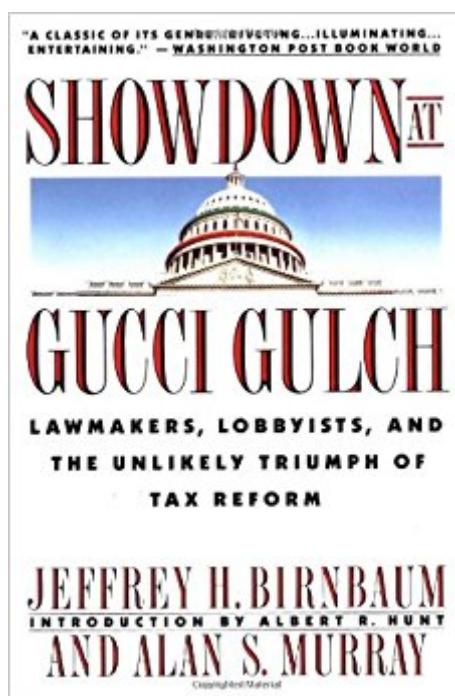


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# Showdown At Gucci Gulch: Lawmakers, Lobbyists, And The Unlikely Triumph Of Tax Reform



## Synopsis

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 was the single most sweeping change in the history of America's income tax. It was also the best political and economic story of its time. Here, in the anecdotal style of *The Making of the President*, two *Wall Street Journal* reporters provide the first complete picture of how this tax revolution went from an improbable dream to a widely hailed reality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Birnbaum and Murray describe the passage of the 1986 tax reform act as the product of personal victories by Washington officials over the usually triumphant lobbyists of "Gucci Gulch"the hallways outside the congressional meeting rooms where expensive suits and shoes prevail. The authors, Washington correspondents for the *Wall Street Journal* , explain how liberals' and supply-siders' discontents combined to produce the key concepts. They skillfully portray the five main actors Bill Bradley, James Packwood, Dan Rostenkowski, James Baker, and Baker's deputy Richard Darman who succeeded against massive opposition with surprisingly little public support. Recommended for most libraries. BOMC feaured alternate. Mark K. Jones, Cincinnati, OhioCopyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Even the hordes of Americans whose eyes glaze at the sight of a tax table will enjoy this remarkably lively account." -- *The New York Times Book Review*"A riveting account of the political Process that produced the new [tax reform] law."-- *Fortune*"Messrs. Birnbaum and Murray... have

written a splendidly readable book about America's recent tax reform." -- The Economist "Showdown is a classic of its genre....It is illuminating and systematic enough to become a staple in political science courses, yet entertaining enough to be read this summer on the beach." -- Washington Post Book World "Showdown at Gucci Gulch reads like a thriller, which it is, with a remarkable cast of characters and a payoff in billions." -- David S. Broder, chief political reporter and columnist, Washington Post

Context to the tax code, Congressional committees, Congressmen (well-known and lesser known), and lobbyists (who wear Gucci shoes). Unbiased, reputable investigative journalism. Presents the scope of conflicts, goals, and problems obtaining cooperation among the different political parties. Much insight given about lobbyists and their harsh impact on tax codes/laws, the economy, and people from the poor through the rich. Same issues applicable to today. Excellent resource for history majors and some political science students..[Edited to correct spelling error.]

This book documents the process/drama behind the astonishingly comprehensive mid-1980s overhaul of the US Income Tax system. The goals were to:- Simplify the tax system.- Reduce marginal rates.- Broaden the tax base. Those goals were accomplished. What is especially interesting reading this now (2012) is that our country really needs a similar effort to take place. To see our current dysfunctional congress arguing these issues, you might imagine that nothing resembling this is possible. But this book proves that it IS possible. It happened. It is quite interesting to find out exactly how.

This was a detailed, informative book that remains relevant despite the passage of time. It helped me understand the tradeoffs that cause legislation to be so convoluted - even one intended to simplify the tax code. A couple of minor objections - I found the text somewhat repetitive, and the authors tried a bit to hard to convey the drama. Despite those objections, however, I highly recommend this book.

Current events all over again. Understand what is involved in the 2017 tax code revision process as history is bound to repeat. Is is quite a complicated task and requires skillful management,

This book is a must read for anyone interested in the current tax reform debate. The writing is fresh, clear and incisive.

A useful examination of how tax reform became reality in 1986. Bipartisanship, compromise and good will (mostly). And in 2017?

Great book, if you're interested in learning about how our government works and how much the president has very little do to with laws being created. This book is not dry or boring, trust me, I'm not a reader

Tax nerds only

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