



## The Stakes of Regulation

Perspectives on 'Bread, Politics and Political Economy' Forty Years Later

Steven L. Kaplan

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**An extended critical engagement with the author's own pathbreaking work since 1976, dealing with the fraught question of regulation from the 18th century to today.**

"The Stakes of Regulation', with its often drôle, always limpid and sometimes mordantly polemical style, is a dazzling toolbox on the ways of doing history, an epistemological reflection on how to gain access to the past, and a fresh reading of some of the major issues of eighteenth-century history." —Arnaud Orain, University of Paris 8

"A spectacular achievement. Steven Kaplan leverages forty years of historical scholarship to revitalize our understanding of the political economy of that most sacred of French foodstuffs: bread. 'Stakes of Regulation' brilliantly illuminates the tensions between liberty and equality that fractured eighteenth-century France. A must-read for anyone interested in the first modern debate on regulation." —Michael Kwass, Johns Hopkins University

"This is a masterful critical reflection on the scholarship of the past four decades dealing with issues Kaplan raised in his classic 'Bread, Politics and Political Economy', which introduced us to what he felicitously calls the Economic Enlightenment. Mingling the social with the cultural and political, he shows brilliantly how the battle of liberalism emerged for the first time stridently in the France of Louis XV, and persists even today." —Gilles Postel-Vinay, Paris School of Economics

This engaging work functions as extended critical essay in dialogue with the republication of 'Bread, Politics and Political Economy' (1976), focused on 18th-century France, dealing with the fraught question of regulation in its multiples guises: economic, social, political, cultural and psychological.

### Readership

This book will be of interest to scholars, graduate students and advanced undergraduates in the history, anthropology, sociology and economics.

### Contents

Introduction; 1. (Re-)Thinking Regulation: Police, Prices, Markets; 2. Agriculture and the French Economy of the Old Regime; 3. Collective Action and Its Actors: The Moral Economy and the Market, the People and the Elites, Disorder and Order; 4. The Parlements in the Age of Economic Enlightenment; 5. Kings and Ministers: Politics and Policies, Finance and Subsistence; 6. The New Historiography of Political Economy; 7. Famine, Dearth, and Food (In-)Security; Afterword; Index

### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Steven L. Kaplan is the Goldwin Smith Professor of European History, emeritus at Cornell University.

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