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When Responsive Competence Isn't Enough -- Congressional Budget Office: Wonks Protected by Congressional Committees -- The Government Accountability Office: Redefining but Maintaining Neutral Competence -- The Economic Research Service: Attacking Neutral Competence by Going Around the Rules -- The Four P's of Protecting Neutral Competence -- The State and Fate of Neutral Competence -- Bibliography -- Appendix.

Sommario/riassunto

This volume discusses the long term impacts of the Trump presidency on the federal bureaucracy. Drawing on the longstanding academic literature on neutral competence and interviews with the bureaucrats themselves, this book adds insight to the academic question of the role of bureaucrats in a democratic system after a four-year period in which their role has been questioned and threatened as never before. Focusing on the elite agencies of the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, as well as the Economic Research Service at the Department of Agriculture, the chapters evaluate individual experiences of members of each agency during the Trump presidency through the lens of the growing tension between politics and administration. Enlightening the role that bureaucrats play in American democracy in an era when polarization is on the rise and disputes over the role of the civil service are growing, this volume will be of interest to scholars and students in public policy, political science, and public administration as well as policymakers and members of the US federal government workforce.
