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# About This Journal

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**T**his journal is a response to the extraordinary growth in the scope and detail of government regulation. Surely this phenomenon is one of the two or three most significant political facts of our times. Yet, because the extension of regulation is piecemeal, the sources and targets diverse, the language complex and often opaque, and the volume overwhelming, much of this activity escapes public notice and therefore public debate. Partly in consequence, old regulatory agencies and programs remain and new ones are frequently launched with little analysis of the problems being addressed, of costs and possible side effects, and of alternative methods for achieving the same ends.

While there are specialized periodicals that discuss a thousand other subjects, there is no journal devoted to examining the policy implications of the regulations that affect our public and private endeavors and to discussing this subject in a readable style. *Regulation* is designed to fill that gap.

We define our subject broadly to include regulatory activity of all kinds—legislative, judicial, and administrative—whether directed at economic, political, social, or cultural affairs. The immediate purpose is to provide information and analysis about specific issues. The longer-range purpose is to foster an analytical approach to regulation, so that policy choices in this area will proceed in fuller awareness of the available options and the consequences for American society as a whole.

In seeking authoritativeness and diversity, we shall draw upon a wide community of academicians and experts, including the scholars and fellows of the American Enterprise Institute. The judgments reflected in the articles we print, in the analytical notes in “Perspectives,” and in the summaries in “Readings” are, of course, those of the contributing scholars and editors, not of AEI, its officers, or advisory panels.

The editors of this journal recognize that, in a complex industrial society, a substantial measure of regulation may be necessary. We are committed, nonetheless, to the ideal that this regulation should be sensible, cost-efficient, and as unburdensome as the nature of its objectives will allow. In the coming years, we hope to advance that ideal by stimulating informed public discussion.

*Anne Brunsdale*