Mollenkopf

A Phoenix in the Ashes

The Rise and Fall of the Koch Coalition in New York City Politics

In the years following its near-bankruptcy in 1976 until the end of the 1980s, New York City came to epitomize the debt-driven, deal-oriented, economic boom of the Reagan era. Exploring the interplay between social structural change and political power during this period, John Mollenkopf asks why a city with a large minority population and a long tradition of liberalism elected a conservative mayor who promoted real-estate development and belittled minority activists. Through a careful analysis of voting patterns, political strategies of various interest groups, and policy trends, he explains how Mayor Edward Koch created a powerful political coalition and why it ultimately failed.

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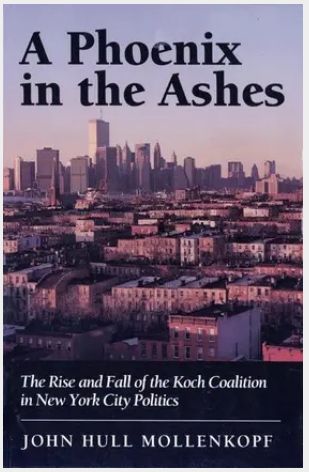

77,00 €
77,00 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780691036731
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-0-691-03673-1
Verlag: Princeton University Press
Erscheinungstermin: 12.09.1994
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 1994
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 547 g
Seiten: 280
Format (B x H): 156 x 234 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)