

"A masterpiece of wisdom and wit... Tom Hazlett's narrative is comprehensive, incisive, and characteristically hilarious." — Vernon L. Smith, 2002 Nobel Laureate in Economics

"Given the exciting promise of today's technology, how did we end up hamstrung by such a backward regulatory regime? Mr. Hazlett provides a fascinating history." -- *Wall Street Journal*

"U.S. spectrum guru Tom Hazlett... has written a spectrum thriller." -- *Policy Tracker*

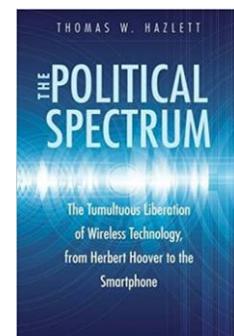
THOMAS WINSLOW HAZLETT

The Political Spectrum

The Tumultuous Liberation of Wireless Technology, from Herbert Hoover to the Smartphone

Yale University Press * Hardcover -- May 23, 2017

#1 Best Seller



From the former chief economist of the FCC, a remarkable history of the U.S. government's regulation of the airwaves

Popular legend has it that before the Federal Radio Commission was established in 1927, the radio spectrum was in chaos, with broadcasting stations blasting powerful signals to drown out rivals. In this fascinating and entertaining history, Thomas Winslow Hazlett, a distinguished scholar in law and economics, debunks the idea that the U.S. government stepped in to impose necessary order. Instead, regulators blocked competition at the behest of incumbent interests and, for nearly a century, have suppressed innovation while quashing out-of-the-mainstream viewpoints.

Hazlett details how spectrum officials produced a "vast wasteland" that they publicly criticized but privately protected. The story twists and turns, as farsighted visionaries—and the march of science—rise to challenge the old regime. Over decades, reforms to liberate the radio spectrum have generated explosive progress, ushering in the "smartphone revolution," ubiquitous social media, and the amazing wireless world now emerging. Still, the author argues, the battle is not even half won.

"Few understand spectrum, and yet few things are more important to our networked future. Tom Hazlett covers it all superbly. A monumental work." -- Gerald Faulhaber, Wharton School

"A masterful book written in an agreeably informal and non-technical style, this is essential reading for anyone interested in spectrum allocation, from Marconi to the Internet." -- H.E. Frech III, U.C. Santa Barbara

"Thomas Hazlett... Hazlett has done an extraordinary service demonstrating the harm of government-managed spectrum." — Lawrence Lessig, *The Future of Ideas*

"With the skill of a TV detective, Hazlett reveals how... the FCC has wielded its power both intentionally and recklessly... restricting competition and all but the most mainstream content." – Larry Downes, *Washington Post*



Thomas Hazlett is Hugh H. Macaulay Endowed Chair in Economics at Clemson University. He has previously held faculty positions at U.C. Davis, George Mason University, and the Wharton School, and served as Chief Economist of the FCC. He has written widely in economics journals and law reviews, and for such popular outlets as the *Wall Street Journal*, *N.Y. Times*, *Slate*, *The Economist*, *Reason*, *The New Republic*, *Business Week*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Barron's* and the *Financial Times*.