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Book Review: Bush on the Home Front, by John D. Graham

Michael A. Genovese

Loyola Marymount University, mgenovese@lmu.edu

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Graham, John D. **Bush on the home front: domestic policy triumphs and setbacks.** Indiana, 2010. 425p ISBN 9780253354365, \$75.00; ISBN 9780253222152 pbk, \$27.95.

A former administrator in George W. Bush's Office of Management and Budget and the current dean of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Graham was a Bush policy insider and knows a great deal about the administration's domestic policy successes and failures. He discusses a variety of domestic initiatives, arguing that Bush was a more effective president in domestic policy than is believed. He claims his book "has supplied a wealth of evidence that Bush was also a bold and activist president on traditional domestic issues. In light of the partisan divide in the Congress and Bush's limited political standing throughout most of his presidency, it is remarkable how ambitious he was and how much of his domestic agenda was enacted and implemented, whether by legislative or executive actions, and yet these accomplishments, by and large, have not been recognized." This view may be a bit overstated, yet Graham makes a compelling case that Bush was more active and more successful in the domestic arena than most people believe. Thorough, well documented, only slightly partisan, this book is a valuable contribution to understanding a controversial, consequential president.

—M. A. Genovese, *Loyola Marymount University*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.