

Praise for *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, by Michael Graetz and Ian Shapiro

The Philadelphia Inquirer credited Graetz and Shapiro with having “dubbed [the estate taxes’] proposed elimination, scheduled for a vote today on the House floor, as the ‘Paris Hilton Benefit Act.’” E.J. Dionne’s article “The Paris Hilton Tax Cut” also credits Graetz and Shapiro with coining the phrase in the Washington Post.

Amity Shlaes called *Death by a Thousand Cuts* a “lively legislative chronicle” that is relevant not only in regards to the estate tax, but also because it “tells us something about the life and death of [political] parties,” in the Financial Times.

William Gale said “I highly recommend the book. It is a very insightful treatment of what happened the last several years and how we went from a situation where the estate tax was little known to a situation where the estate tax was not only a red-hot issue, but repeal of the estate tax became a dominant political view,” at Brookings.

Jack Beatty said *Death by a Thousand Cuts* is “a fascinating and appalling new book” that “abounds with detail, personalities, and reversals of fortune. The authors, who combine academic authority with insider knowledge about how Washington works, light up the entire legislative process through the prism of the estate-tax debate” in the Atlantic Monthly.

Mark Neil called Michael Graetz “a great mystery writer” and said that *Death by a Thousand Cuts* is “a great story” and “a very, very interesting book. Even if you are not terribly interested in income or estate taxing issues, the book is a wonderful read from a standpoint of understanding how the political process works. ... If you have a passive interest in politics, or business, or taxation, get a hold of the book *Death by a Thousand Cuts*. ... It was a great book. I just couldn’t put it down. ... It was very much a mystery story and fascinating,” on KBNP radio of Portland Oregon.

Joshua Glenn called Graetz and Shapiro’s proposed solution “a brilliant suggestion” in the Boston Globe.

David Cay Johnston said that “*Death by a Thousand Cuts* is an excellent autopsy of the ‘death tax.’ ... This book about the unlikely success of a small band of the anti-tax rich and their hired hands in attacking the estate tax, the most progressive element of the federal tax system, is public-policy reporting at its finest. But *Death by a Thousand Cuts* is much more. It is also an important manual on moral arguments in contemporary politics. And taxes are moral issues,” in the American Prospect.

David Runciman said that *Death by a Thousand Cuts* “is one of the most interesting books about politics, and power, and the way the world is going, that you are ever likely to read,” in the London Review of Books.

Karen C. Burke and Grayson M.C. McCouch said that “Graetz and Shapiro have written a remarkable book that deserves a wide audience. Their account of ‘the fight over

taxing inherited wealth' is notable not only for its sophisticated and penetrating analysis, but also for its scrupulous fairness. Despite the highly charged nature of their subject matter, Graetz and Shapiro manage to avoid imposing their own policy preferences and predilections, and different readers will undoubtedly draw different conclusions. No one who reads their book will ever look at the politics of tax reform in quite the same way again" in Tax Notes Today.

Burke and McCouch also said that "Graetz and Shapiro, drawing on their backgrounds in tax policy and political science, have undertaken a major research project, including interviews with many of the key players. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the workings of American politics in 'the age of polls, sound bites, think tanks, highly organized membership organizations, and single-issue coalitions.' The book is engaging, enlightening, and thought-provoking. Graetz and Shapiro's writing sparkles with subtle wit and their story moves with the fast pace of a best-selling thriller, but their message is deadly serious" in Tax Notes Today.

Thomas Mann said that Shapiro and Graetz "have written a wonderful book ... It's a marvelous read. Frankly, it's hard to believe it was written by two academics. It is light, it's lively, engaging, wise, sophisticated, and in my humble view, I believe they basically got the story right. I am convinced that this book will be widely read and that it will enter the pantheon of case studies that all of us use in teaching courses on Congress, the policy process, American politics, right up with 'The Dance of Legislation,' Eric Redman's book and 'Showdown at Gucci Gulch,'" at Brookings.

Elizabeth Bailey said "'Death By a Thousand Cuts' is an elegant exegesis of the broad-based political forces that were brought together to fight against a tax that affects only the richest 1% to 2%. While much of the book describes the maneuvering of lobbyists and lawmakers like Washington State's Jennifer Dunn, the book is fundamentally a tale of changing morals and values. ... There is a moral argument in favor of estate taxes that deserves to be heard above the clatter of the repeal juggernaut. This book is one of the first peeps in its defense," in the New York Sun.

Janet Novack said that "*Death By a Thousand Cuts, The Fight over Taxing Inherited Wealth* by Yale University Professor of Law Michael J. Graetz and Professor of Political Science Ian Shapiro, provides some insight into why you shouldn't put estate planning off waiting for a lasting compromise. The book details how advocates artfully framed repeal of the nation's most progressive tax as a matter of fairness," in Forbes Magazine.

Bill Frenzel said "it is a great book. It's an easy one to read. It's fun, and it's a wonderful case study now of congressional politics," at Brookings.

Barry A. Nelson said "*Death by a Thousand Cuts* is a must read for anyone practicing in any area of taxation," and that "Graetz and Shapiro should be applauded for their thorough analysis," in Estate Planning & Taxation.

John Shure said that Graetz and Shapiro have started “a new literary genre: tax policy/mystery,” in the Newark Star-Ledger.

Theodore Pollack said “‘Death by a Thousand Cuts’ is a timely and important book” that is “highly recommended.” The book “serves both as a valuable analysis of modern power politics related to estate tax legislation and in a larger context tax policy,” and “it provides an enlightening and insightful account of the American political and tax systems. It is certain to be required reading for many college political science and economics classes,” in the New York Law Journal.

John Aloysius Farrell calls *Death by a Thousand Cuts* “a nifty new book for those who want to know how Washington works” in the Denver Post.

The Labor Party News calls *Death by a Thousand Cuts* “Essential Reading.” “The authors challenge and debunk much of the conventional wisdom about power and politics in the United States today.”

Tom Herman says “‘Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Fight Over Taxing Inherited Wealth,’ gives an excellent summary of the main issues involved in the estate-tax controversy,” noting that Michael Graetz “is one of the nation's most respected tax-law authorities” in the Wall Street Journal.

Thomas J. Brady calls *Death by a Thousand Cuts* a “surprisingly lively book” in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Edmund Andrews calls *Death by a Thousand Cuts* an “entertaining account of the repeal movement” in the New York Times.

Death by a Thousand Cuts has a 5 star rating on BarnesandNobles.com and Amazon.com.