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Dave Castle is Professor of Political Science at Lamar University. Prior to joining the Lamar faculty in 1985 he received B.A. and M.A. degrees (History and Political Science) from Marshall University, and the Ph.D. (Political Science) from the University of Rochester. He was previously Legislative Research Associate in the Virginia state legislature, where he worked on coal mine health and safety issues. He has authored or co-authored more than 35 journal articles and other publications, and received the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award. His political commentary has appeared on *C-SPAN*, and in the *Charleston (SC) Post-Courier*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *National Journal*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Jackson (TN) Sun*, *USA Today*, and *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, as well as local newspapers in Southeast Texas.