Contents

Contributors vii

Chapter 1 Reaching for a New Deal: Ambitious Governance, Economic Meltdown, and Polarized Politics 1
Theda Skocpol and Lawrence R. Jacobs

PART I Legislative Landmarks 51

Chapter 2 Hard-Fought Legacy: Obama, Congressional Democrats, and the Struggle for Comprehensive Health Care Reform 53
Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol

Chapter 3 Eliminating the Market Middle-Man: Redirecting and Expanding Support for College Students 105
Suzanne Mettler

Chapter 4 The Contest of Lobbies and Disciplines: Financial Politics and Regulatory Reform 139
Daniel Carpenter

PART II Change through Regulation and Administrative Action 189

Chapter 5 The Unsurprising Failure of Labor Law Reform and the Turn to Administrative Action 191
Dorian T. Warren
Chapter 6  Surprising Momentum: Spurring Education Reform in States and Localities  230  
Lorraine M. McDonnell

PART III  Failed Bargains and Intensifying Conflict  271

Chapter 7  Obama’s Immigration Reform: A Tough Sell for a Grand Bargain  273  
John D. Skrentny

Chapter 8  Cold Front: How the Recession Stalled Obama’s Clean-Energy Agenda  321  
Judith A. Layzer

Chapter 9  Paying America’s Way: The Fraught Politics of Taxes, Investments, and Budgetary Responsibility  386  
Andrea Louise Campbell

Index  423