

**INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT  
RESEARCH, SERVICE MONOGRAPHS OF  
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
NO. 7: THE FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION, ITS HISTORY, ACTIVITIES  
AND ORGANIZATION, PP. 1-76**

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**W. STULL HOLT**

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**THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
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Washington, D. C.

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**INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT RESEARCH**

**SERVICE MONOGRAPHS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
No. 7**

# **THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

**ITS HISTORY, ACTIVITIES  
AND ORGANIZATION**

**BY  
W. STULL HOLT**



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## FOREWORD

The first essential to efficient administration of any enterprise is full knowledge of its present make-up and operation. Without full and complete information before them, as to existing organization, personnel, plant, and methods of operation and control, neither legislators nor administrators can properly perform their functions.

The greater the work, the more varied the activities engaged in, and the more complex the organization employed, and more imperative becomes the necessity that this information shall be available—and available in such a form that it can readily be utilized.

Of all undertakings, none in the United States, and few, if any, in the world, approach in magnitude, complexity, and importance that of the national government of the United States. As President Taft expressed it in his message to Congress of January 17, 1912, in referring to the inquiry being made under his direction into the efficiency and economy of the methods of prosecuting public business, the activities of the national government "are almost as varied as those of the entire business world. The operations of the government affect the interest of every person living within the jurisdiction of the United States. Its organization embraces stations and centers of work located in every city and in many local subdivisions of the country. Its gross expenditures amount to billions annually. Including the personnel of the military and naval establishments, more than half a million persons are required to do the work imposed by law upon the executive branch of the government.

"This vast organization has never been studied in detail as one piece of administrative mechanism. Never have the foundations been laid for a thorough consideration of the relations of all its parts. No comprehensive effort has been made to list its multifarious activities or to group them in such a way as to present a clear picture of what the government is doing. Never has a complete description been given of the agencies through which these activities are performed. At