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Lieberman, Evan S. **Boundaries of contagion: how ethnic politics have shaped government responses to AIDS.** Princeton, 2009. 345p bibl index afp; ISBN 9780691140193 pbk, \$24.95; ISBN 9780691132860, \$65.00. **Outstanding Title!** Reviewed in 2010feb CHOICE.

Lieberman (Princeton Univ.) examines the politics of AIDS policy in the late-20th and early-21st centuries through a mix of archival work, official statistics, interviews, and secondary sources. While acknowledging the role of other causal influences, he argues that the strength of ethnic boundaries play a central role in determining the scope and size of government responses to the AIDS epidemic. Where ethnic boundaries are more rigid and salient, the politics of blame and fear are more likely to limit government's policy response. The impact of ethnic boundaries relative to other factors is examined via a multilevel analysis. Lieberman begins by comparing Brazil and South Africa and then folds in comparisons with India. Next, he explores intranational variation in AIDS policy among states in India. Finally, he conducts a quantitative examination of the determinants of AIDS policy in over 70 countries from Africa, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere. Lieberman's methodologically eclectic study constitutes the most thorough cross-national examination of the politics of AIDS to date. It should be essential reading for people interested in the politics of AIDS, public health, and public policy making more generally. **Summing Up:** Essential. Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, and research collections. -- *C. H. Blake, James Madison University*

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