

THE MYTH OF DEMOCRATIC FAILURE



*Why
Political Institutions
Are Efficient*

DONALD WITTMAN

The Democratic Myth

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The Democratic Myth:

The Myth of the Democratic Peacekeeper Arturo C. Sotomayor, 2014-01-15 If democratic principles do not just rub off onto United Nations peacekeepers what positive or negative implications can be observed Winner of the Luciano Tomassini Latin American Relations Book Award of the Luciano Tomassini Latin American Relations The Myth of the Democratic Peacekeeper reevaluates how United Nations peacekeeping missions reform or fail to reform their participating members It investigates how such missions affect military organizations and civil military relations as countries transition to a more democratic system Two thirds of the UN s peacekeepers come from developing nations many of which are transitioning to democracy as well The assumption is that these blue helmet peacekeepers learn not only to appreciate democratic principles through their mission work but also to develop an international outlook and new ideas about conflict prevention Arturo C Sotomayor debunks this myth arguing that democratic practices don t just rub off on UN peacekeepers So what if any benefit accrues to these troops from emerging democracies In this richly detailed study of a decade s worth of research 2001 2010 on Argentine Brazilian and Uruguayan peacekeeping participation Sotomayor draws upon international socialization theory and civil military relations to understand how peacekeeping efforts impact participating armed forces He asks three questions Does peacekeeping reform military organizations Can peacekeeping socialize soldiers to become more liberalized and civilianized Does peacekeeping improve defense and foreign policy integration His evaluation of the three countries involvement in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti reinforces his final analysis that successful democratic transitions must include a military organization open to change and a civilian leadership that exercises its oversight responsibilities The Myth of the Democratic Peacekeeper contributes to international relations theory and to substantive issues in civil military relations and comparative politics It provides a novel argument about how peacekeeping works and further insight into how international factors affect domestic politics as well as how international institutions affect democratizing efforts The Myth of American Democracy Trenton Fervor, 2013-04 In his current work Trenton Fervor author of The Last Individual The Ascendancy of the Sociomaniacal Mindset delivers a critical exposition of democracy and its defects The Myth of American Democracy is an unapologetic critique of the American political system and an attempt to dismantle the mystique perpetuated to sanctify and sanction it Fervor entreats the reader to reexamine the notion of democracy and its attendant processes absent the sophistic demagoguery and to more closely consider the actual nature of the institution and the establishment behemoth which inhabits and advances it The reader is encouraged to confront the myth and deception which pervade the contemporary conception of democracy and to accept the reality that the democratic emperor is naked Democracy today is in truth fundamentally absurd its premise is that an ideologically coherent consistent and efficient social policy program can be constructed by formulating each aspect of the overall program through a process of majoritarian amalgamation of contradictory incongruent and confrontational views The Myth of American Democracy is an important

rebuttal of conventional democratic orthodoxy which will challenge readers to reevaluate their sympathies for the system This book is recommended reading for everyone who has wrestled with the troubling suspicion that there is something inherently dubious and defective about the democratic system **The Myth of Real Democracy and Other Myths of Modernity**

Brian V. Peck, 2011 One of the most savage critiques of Modernity ever written on so called Democracy in its many forms Meritocracy What is Truth Fact or Fiction the Mass Media and Individualism Meaning in essence that Socrates famous axiom is as relevant today as it was in the past which was according to Plato that the unexamined life is not worth living

Democratic Theory and Practice in Africa W. O. Oyugi, 1995 *Democracy and Myth in Russia and Eastern Europe* Alexander Wöll, Harald Wydra, 2007-10-18 This book explores democracy and democratization in Eastern Europe focusing on the influence of politically important literary and historical myths in pre communist and communist Eastern Europe and Russia **The Democratic Myth** Angela Atkin, 1998 **The Just War Myth** Andrew Fiala, 2008 As war continues to be a

primary topic in public debate Andrew Fiala in The Just War Myth critically examines the concept of just war arguing that actual wars never live up to the ideals of just war theory The book provides a historical overview of the just war idea and also turns a critical eye on current events including the idea of preemptive war the use of torture and the unreality of the Bush

Doctrine **The Myth of Voter Fraud** Lorraine C. Minnite, 2011-03-15 Allegations that widespread voter fraud is threatening to the integrity of American elections and American democracy itself have intensified since the disputed 2000 presidential election The claim that elections are being stolen by illegal immigrants and unscrupulous voter registration activists and vote buyers has been used to persuade the public that voter malfeasance is of greater concern than structural inequities in the ways votes are gathered and tallied justifying ever tighter restrictions on access to the polls Yet that claim is a myth In The Myth of Voter Fraud Lorraine C Minnite presents the results of her meticulous search for evidence of voter fraud She concludes that while voting irregularities produced by the fragmented and complex nature of the electoral process in the United States are common incidents of deliberate voter fraud are actually quite rare Based on painstaking research aggregating and sifting through data from a variety of sources including public records requests to all fifty state governments and the U S Justice Department Minnite contends that voter fraud is in reality a politically constructed myth intended to further complicate the voting process and reduce voter turnout She refutes several high profile charges of alleged voter fraud such as the assertion that eight of the 9 11 hijackers were registered to vote and makes the question of voter fraud more precise by distinguishing fraud from the manifold ways in which electoral democracy can be distorted Effectively disentangling misunderstandings and deliberate distortions from reality The Myth of Voter Fraud provides rigorous empirical evidence for those fighting to make the electoral process more efficient more equitable and more democratic **The Case**

Against a Democratic State Gordon Graham, 2013-11-18 The history of the last two hundred years is a story of the immense and relentless growth of the State at the expense of other social institutions We are now so familiar and accepting

of the State's pre-eminence in all things that few think to question it and most suppose that democratic endorsement legitimizes it. The aim of this essay is to present a sustained and compelling argument against both presumptions. It contends that the gross imbalance of power in the modern State between ruler and ruled is sorely in need of justification and that democracy simply masks this need with an illusion of popular sovereignty. Although this is an essay in cultural criticism whose argument should be fully accessible to the general reader, it is written from within the European tradition of political philosophy from Plato to Rawls.

Gordon Graham is Regius Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Education Myths Jay P. Greene, 2005-08-04 How can we fix America's floundering public schools? The conventional wisdom says that schools need a lot more money, that poor and immigrant children can't do as well as most American kids, that high stakes tests just produce teaching to the test, and that vouchers do little to help students while undermining our democracy. But what if the conventional wisdom is wrong? In *Education Myths: What Special Interest Groups Want You to Believe About Our Schools And Why It Isn't So*, Jay Greene and the researchers at the Manhattan Institute have gathered the evidence to show that much of what people believe about education policy is little more than a series of myths. Greene takes on the conventional wisdom and closely examines eighteen myths advanced by the special interest groups dominating public education. In addition to the money myth, the class size myth, and the teacher pay myth, Greene debunks the special education myth (special ed programs burden public schools), the certification myth (certified or more experienced teachers are more effective in the classroom), the graduation myth (nearly all students graduate from high school), the draining myth (choice harms public schools), the segregation myth (private schools are more racially segregated), and several more. Greene's reasoned and accessible approach identifies the myth and then refutes it with relevant and reliable facts and figures, including the education establishment's own research. He believes our schools can be fixed and concludes the book with important recommendations that will achieve measurable and affordable success. This is essential reading for all those interested in quality public education and a wake-up call for undemanding taxpayers.

Earthborn Democracy Ali Aslam, David W. McIvor, Joel Alden Schlosser, 2024-09-10 Ecological crises threaten all forms of life on earth. Democracy too is endangered as popular discontent, elite malfeasance, and unresponsive institutions imperil its survival. Present political concepts have proven inadequate to meeting these challenges, and their inadequacies are themselves symptoms of the failures of prevailing political, cultural, and ecological stories and practices. This book offers a new vision of ecological and participatory democratic life for a time of crisis. Identifying myth and ritual as key resources for contemporary politics, *Earthborn Democracy* excavates practices and narratives that illustrate the interdependence necessary to inspire ecological renewal. It tells stories of multispecies agency and egalitarian political organization across history, from ancient Mesopotamia and the precolonial Americas to contemporary social movements emphasizing Indigenous traditions and resistance. Resonating across these practices and stories, past and present, is a belief that we are all human, as well as nonhuman.

earthborn and this can serve as the basis for reimagining democracy Allying visionary political theory with environmental activism Earthborn Democracy provides a foundation and a guide for collective action in pursuit of earthly flourishing

Argentina's Right-Wing Universe During the Democratic Period (1983-2023) Gisela Pereyra Doval, Gastón Souroujon, 2023-12-01 Argentina's Right Wing Universe During the Democratic Period provides a comprehensive analysis of the course of right wing politics in the country in the last 40 years In 1983 after the fall of a violent military regime Argentina began the longest period of democratic stability in its history 40 years marked by economic institutional social and political crises This book examines the trajectory of the different right wing organisations and ideological developments during these years seeking to understand both the distinctions and the continuities that lie beneath its metamorphoses Argentina has always acted as a laboratory in which to appreciate how the major problems and questions that concern those who have studied the right wing in recent decades are translated into a particular political culture In an international scenario marked by the social and political growth of different right wing movements some of which pose a threat to liberal democracies the study of the Argentine case can provide greater clarity and a different perspective on problems that transcend this specific national case This book will be of interest to scholars of Argentinian and Latin American politics and history as well as specialists on the comparative politics of the radical right

Soul of a Democrat Thomas B. Reston, 2018-05-29 In 2016 the Democratic Party lost control of every branch of government Countless explanations and excuses have been offered but in this heartfelt evocative book longtime Democratic activist Thomas B Reston illuminates the true cause the Party has lost its soul In Reston's view the Party has abandoned any unifying idealistic message Instead of crafting policies and platforms that appeal to the nation as a whole Democrats target specific blocs of voters and change their talking points accordingly This divisive approach will not end well for Democrats or the country as a whole If they want to remain competitive on the national stage Reston argues Democrats need a coherent blunt set of American ideals The good news is they already have one In *Soul of a Democrat* Reston takes us on a journey through the history of the Party with thumbnail portraits of its most important figures illuminating the core ideals and principles they fought for Thomas Jefferson founded the Democratic Party to lift up the people as a whole by empowering each individual citizen Andrew Jackson committed the party to always fight for outsiders Woodrow Wilson insisted on a progressive respect for ideas William Jennings Bryan introduced the altruistic Social Gospel Franklin D Roosevelt promised economic security for all Lyndon B Johnson championed the ongoing struggle for civil rights These Democratic statesmen knew that a successful party needs strong idealistic roots an understandable message and an emphatic focus on the purpose of what it is doing instead of on the mechanics Reston's concise and elegant book shows modern Democrats how to learn from their own past and once again become The Party of The People

Making Democratic Theory Democratic Stephen Turner, George Mazur, 2023-03-03 This book addressees a timely and fundamental problematic the gap between the aims that people attempt to realize democratically and the law and administrative practices

that actually result The chapters explain the realities that administration poses for democratic theory Topics include the political value of accountability the antinomic character of political values the relation between ultimate ends and the intermediate ends that are sought by constitutions and a reconsideration of the meaning of the rule of law itself The essays are inspired by the demystifying realism of Max Weber and Hans Kelsen including explications of their views on law constitutions and the rule of law The book will be of interest to social and political theorists philosophers of law and legal theorists and for discussions of democratic theory the administrative state constitutionalism and justice as well as to readers of Weber and Kelsen **Myth of National Defense: Essays on the Theory and History of Security Production, The** ,

Radical Democracy and Populism Leonardo Fiorespino, 2022-03-02 This book offers an extensive comparative analysis of populism and radical democratic theories tracing the line dividing the respective conceptions of people and popular sovereignty Whereas populism is often said to intertwine with democracy in some way the contention of this book is that it significantly departs from democratic theory and practice and belongs to a distinct conceptual space It cannot be made to overlap for instance with illiberal democracy the democratic myth a crude electoral majoritarianism nor can it amount to hiding undemocratic policies into properly democratic justifications These positions frequent as they are in the literature are contested on the grounds of the dividing line identified which starts unfolding at the level of the conception of the people i e of the sovereign presupposed by populists and democrats This book is of great interest to scholars involved in the study of democratic theory contemporary challenges to democracy and the recent upsurge of populist discourse as it helps better understand populism as a political phenomenon and more adequately defines it as a self standing concept in political theory

The Democratic Wish James A. Morone, 1998-01-01 This prize winning book reinterprets more than 200 years of American political history as the interplay between the public's dread of government power and its yearning for communal democracy James Morone argues that Americans will never solve their collective problems as long as they instinctively fear all public power as a threat to liberty This revised edition includes a new final chapter about contemporary populism government bashing and democratic wishes Winner of the 1991 Gladys M Kammerer Award The Democratic Wish merits the highest compliments one can accord a public policy book It spotlights a problem that can no longer be evaded And it makes you think Alan Tonelson New York Times Book Review Morone writes with flair and passion The fact that he puts forth a provocative argument and provides concise histories of labor civil rights and health care politics makes this book especially useful for teaching American politics R Shep Melnick Journal of Interdisciplinary History Morone's contribution to our understanding of state building is substantial and profound John S Dryzek American Political Science Review This stimulating reinterpretation of American political history will interest both scholars concerned about the past and citizens concerned about the future Arthur Schlesinger Jr This is a persuasive illuminating study in American political ideas and the disappointments of reform Dean McSweeney American Politics Review *The Myth of the Welfare State* Jack D.

Douglas,2017-09-29 The Myth of the Welfare State is a basic and sweeping explanation of the rise and fall of great powers and of the profound impacts of these megastates on ordinary lives Its central theme is the rise of bureaucratic collectivization in American society It is Douglas s conviction which he supports with a wealth of detail that statist bureaucracies produce stagnation often exacerbated by inflation which in turn produces the waning of state power Douglas has his own set of isms that require concerted attention mass mediated rationalism scientism technologism credentialism and expertism People who make policies have little if any awareness of the actual way social processes evolve agricultural policy is set by people who know little of farming arid manufacturing policy is set by people who have never set foot on a factory floor In light of this soaring average ignorance it is little wonder that policy making has Alice in Wonderland characteristics and effects Douglas sees the notion of a welfare state as a contradiction in terms its widespread insinuation into the culture is made possible by its weak mythological form and benign sounding characteristics In fact welfare states in whatever form they appear have failed in their purpose to redistribute income or increase real wealth The megastates are the source of social instability and economic downturn They grow like a tidal drift They start out to correct the historical grievances of the laissez faire states only to increase the problems they seek to correct In this the welfare state is a weakened form of the totalitarian state producing similarly unhappy results Professor Douglas has produced a work of anti policy arguing that freedom leavened by an ordinary sense of self interest and social concern can overcome the shortfalls of the megastates and their myth making self serving propensities

Myths and Politics in Western Societies John Girling,2024-11-01 In an intriguing and provocative book an important thesis An important addition to libraries serving both academic and general readers Choice

Ideology of Democratic Athens Matteo Barbato,2020-05-28 The debate on Athenian democratic ideology has long been polarised around two extremes A Marxist tradition views ideology as a cover up for Athens internal divisions Another tradition sometimes referred to as culturalist interprets it neutrally as the fixed set of ideas shared by the members of the Athenian community

Unveiling the Power of Verbal Artistry: An Emotional Sojourn through **The Democratic Myth**

In some sort of inundated with screens and the cacophony of immediate interaction, the profound power and emotional resonance of verbal art frequently diminish in to obscurity, eclipsed by the regular barrage of sound and distractions. However, situated within the lyrical pages of **The Democratic Myth**, a charming perform of literary elegance that impulses with natural thoughts, lies an memorable journey waiting to be embarked upon. Written by way of a virtuoso wordsmith, that enchanting opus books viewers on a psychological odyssey, lightly revealing the latent possible and profound impact stuck within the intricate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative analysis, we will embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key subjects, dissect their captivating publishing style, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impression it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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