

# Democracy, Accountability, and Representation

This book examines whether mechanisms of accountability characteristic of democratic systems are sufficient to induce the representatives to act in the best interest of the represented. The first part of the volume focuses on the role of elections, distinguishing different ways in which they may cause representation. The second part is devoted to the role of checks and balances, between the government and the parliament as well as between the government and the bureaucracy. The contributors to this volume, all leading scholars in the fields of American and comparative politics and political theory, address a variety of questions. Do elections induce governments to act in the interest of citizens? Are politicians in democracies accountable to voters in future elections? If so, does accountability induce politicians to represent citizens? Does accountability limit or enhance the scope of action of governments? Are governments that violate campaign mandates representative? Overall, the essays combine theoretical discussions, game-theoretic models, case studies, and statistical analyses, within a shared analytical approach and a standardized terminology. The empirical material is drawn from the well-established democracies as well as from new democracies.

Adam Przeworski is Professor of Politics at New York University and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at scholarly institutions in Chile, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and Spain. Professor Przeworski's recent books include *Sustainable Democracy* (coauthor, Cambridge University Press, 1995), *Economic Reforms in New Democracies: A Social-Democratic Approach* (with Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira and José María Maravall, Cambridge University Press, 1993), and *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 1991).

Susan C. Stokes is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Executive Director of the Chicago Center on Democracy. Professor Stokes is editor of *Cultures in Conflict: Social Movements and the State in Peru*. She has also been published in numerous journals, such as *Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies*, and *Electoral Studies*, and serves as an editorial board member of *Politics and Society*.

Bernard Manin is Professor of Political Science at New York University, Research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and a member of the CREA (Centre de Recherche en Epistémologie Appliquée), Paris. He is the author of *The Principles of Representative Government* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), and the coauthor of *La social-démocratie ou le compromis* (Presses Universitaires de France, 1979) and *Le régime social-democrate* (Presses Universitaires de France, 1989).



# Cambridge Studies in the Theory of Democracy

#### General Editor

ADAM PRZEWORSKI New York University

"It is not current politics but democracy as a form of government that I seek to describe," James Bryce wrote in 1921. The goal of this series is to reinvigorate theoretical reflection about democracy by exposing it to the full range of historical experiences under which democracies have flourished or floundered. Our ambition is to understand what makes democracies work and endure. How do they promote normatively desirable and politically desired objectives, and how do they peacefully handle crises that occur when such objectives are not being fulfilled? We intend to ignore artificial divisions among different approaches, by drawing simultaneously on classical political theory, modern analytical methods, and comparative empirical research. We hope that our conclusions not only will offer some guidance for countries that are still in the process of developing democratic institutions, but also will provide a means of understanding the deficiencies of the well-established democratic systems.

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Edited by

Adam Przeworski
New York University

Susan C. Stokes
University of Chicago

Bernard Manin
New York University





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List of Contributors

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### Contributors

**José Antonio Cheibub**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

**Delmer D. Dunn**, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Georgia

**John Dunn**, Professor of Political Philosophy and Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge University

Jon Elster, Robert K. Merton Professor of Social Science, Department of Political Science, Columbia University

**James D. Fearon**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Stanford University

John Ferejohn, Carolyn S. G. Munro Professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Michael Laver, Professor of Government, Trinity College, Dublin

**Bernard Manin**, Professor, Department of Politics, New York University, and Directeur des Recherches at the Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques, Paris

**José María Maravall**, Professor, Universidad Complutense in Madrid, and Director, Instituto Juan March de Investigaciones Sociales

**Adam Przeworski**, Professor, Department of Politics, New York University

**Kenneth A. Shepsle**, George Dickson Markham Professor and Chair, Department of Government, Harvard University

**James A. Stimson**, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota

**Susan C. Stokes**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago

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