

The Political Value of Time

Waiting periods and deadlines are so ubiquitous that we often take them for granted. Yet they form a critical part of any democratic architecture. When a precise moment or amount of time is given political importance, we ought to understand why this is so. *The Political Value of Time* explores the idea of time within democratic theory and practice. Elizabeth F. Cohen demonstrates how political procedures use quantities of time to confer and deny citizenship rights. Using specific dates and deadlines, states carve boundaries around a citizenry. As time is assigned a form of political value, it is deployed to transact over rights. Cohen concludes with a normative analysis of the ways in which the devaluation of some people's political time constitutes a widely overlooked form of injustice. This book shows readers how and why they need to think about time if they want to understand politics.

Elizabeth F. Cohen is Associate Professor of Political Science at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is the author of *Semi-Citizenship in Democratic Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), and her scholarship has featured in *Citizenship Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Ethics and International Affairs*. In addition, she publishes op-eds in newspapers, including the *Washington Post* and *Politico*.

The Political Value of Time

Citizenship, Duration, and Democratic Justice

ELIZABETH F. COHEN



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*For my father, Ira J. Cohen, who supplies our family with an
abundance of mirth, merriment, and metaphors.*

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