Political Representation

Political representation lies at the core of modern politics. Democracies, with their vast numbers of citizens, could not operate without representative institutions. Yet relations between the democratic ideal and the everyday practice of political representation have never been well defined and remain the subject of vigorous debate among historians, political theorists, lawyers, and citizens. In this volume, an eminent group of scholars moves forward the debates about political representation on a number of fronts. Drawing on insights from political science, history, political theory, economics, and anthropology, the authors provide much-needed clarity to some of the most vexing questions about political representation. They also reveal new and enlightening perspectives on this fundamental political practice. Topics discussed include representation before democracy, political parties, minorities, electoral competition, and ideology. This volume is essential reading for anyone interested in the ideal and the reality of political representation.

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Political Representation

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IAN SHAPIRO, SUSAN C. STOKES, ELISABETH JEAN WOOD, AND ALEXANDER S. KIRSHNER

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Preface

This volume is one of seven books to grow out of the Yale Political Science Department’s initiative on Rethinking Political Order. It emerged from a conference on “Representation and Popular Rule” that was held at Yale in October of 2006. The other volumes in the series are Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics, edited by Ian Shapiro, Rogers Smith, and Tarek Masoud (Cambridge University Press, 2004); Rethinking Political Institutions: The Art of the State, edited by Ian Shapiro, Steven Skowronek, and Daniel Galvin (New York University Press, 2006); Identities, Affiliations, and Allegiances, edited by Seyla Benhabib, Ian Shapiro, and Danilo Petranovich (Cambridge University Press, 2007); Political Contingency: Studying the Unexpected, the Accidental, and the Unforeseen, edited by Ian Shapiro and Sonu Bedi (New York University Press, 2007); Divide and Deal: The Politics of Distribution in Democracies, edited by Ian Shapiro, Peter Swenson, and Daniela Donno (New York University Press, 2008); and Order, Conflict, and Violence, edited by Stathis Kalyvas, Ian Shapiro, and Tarek Masoud (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

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