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978-0-521-12584-0 - The Political System Matters: Social Psychology and Voting Behavior
in Sweden and the United States

Donald Granberg and Soren Holmberg

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European Monographs in Social Psychology

The political system matters

Social psychology and voting behavior in Sweden and the United States

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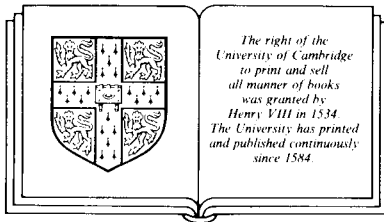
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Acknowledgements

This book is the result of interdisciplinary collaboration between an American social psychologist and a Swedish political scientist. The bulk of the analyses and writing occurred during two years when we worked together in Sweden. During the first (1982–83), Donald Granberg was on a sabbatical leave from the University of Missouri and also the recipient of a fellowship from the Svenska Institutet. During the second (1986–87), Donald Granberg was on a research leave granted by the Research Council and the Provost's office of the University of Missouri. It is not easy to see how this book could have been done without such support, so we feel very grateful for the opportunity afforded us.

Overall, our work can best be seen as an effort to understand the operation of social psychological processes within two democratic – yet very different – political systems. Among the goals of democracy are to give citizens a sense of control and efficacy, to resolve conflicts in a nonviolent manner, to create justice, and to facilitate the solution of ever-changing and emerging problems faced by societies. Understanding how democracies work and comprehending the potential of voters and how individual citizens function within democracies is a big order. Our hope is that our analyses make at least a small contribution toward that objective.

For the many analyses to be reported, we depended heavily on the advice and assistance of Mikael Gilljam, Peter Esaiasson, Maria Oskarson, Hans Nordlöf, and Iris Alfredsson of the Department of Political Science at the University of Göteborg. So great was our dependence in that regard that it is doubtful that we will ever be able to reciprocate adequately. So to these helpful and light-hearted souls, we offer our sincere and deeply felt thanks.

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