

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics

Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics

Democracy is widely accepted today as the most suitable form of government. But what is democracy, and does it always produce good government? Democracy is often associated with the existence of competitive elections. But theory and experience suggest that these are not sufficient for democracy to function reasonably well. In this book, a number of experts from North America and Europe use a rational choice approach to understand the foundations of democracy – what makes democracy successful, and why. They consider diverse problems of democratic governance such as the importance of morals or virtue in political life, negative advertising, the role of social capital and civil society in sustaining democracy, the constitutional and cultural prerequisites of democracy, and the interaction of democracy and markets.

Albert Breton is Professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of Toronto. He is author of *Competitive Governments* (1996) and *The Economic Theory of Representative Government* (1974), as well as numerous articles in professional and scholarly journals. Professor Breton has served as president of the Canadian Economic Association and is an officer of the Order of Canada.

Gianluigi Galeotti is Professor of Public Finance at the Università di Roma (La Sapienza), coeditor of several books, and author of numerous articles in professional and scholarly journals. He has previously taught at the Universities of Pisa and Perugia.

Pierre Salmon is Professor of Economics at the Université de Bourgogne. He is the author of numerous articles and coauthor of *Méthodologie Economique* (1985). He formerly taught at the Universitiés of Rennes and Paris and at the European University in Florence.

Ronald Wintrobe is Professor of Economics at the University of Western Ontario. He coauthored with Albert Breton *The Logic of Bureaucratic Conduct* (1982), and he is the author of *The Political Economy of Dictatorship* (1998), as well as numerous articles in professional and scholarly journals.

Professors Breton, Galeotti, Salmon, and Wintrobe previously coedited *The Competitive State* (1991), *Preferences and Democracy* (1993), *Nationalism and Rationality* (1995), *Understanding Democracy* (1997), and *Political Extremism and Rationality* (2002). Professors Galeotti, Salmon, and Wintrobe also coedited *Competition and Structure: The Political Economy of Collective Decision: Essays in Honor of Albert Breton* (2000).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics

Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics

Edited by

ALBERT BRETON

University of Toronto

GIANLUIGI GALEOTTI

Università di Roma (La Sapienza)

PIERRE SALMON

Université de Bourgogne

RONALD WINTROBE

University of Western Ontario



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics
Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521184281

© Villa Colombella Group 2003

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2003
First paperback edition 2010

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Rational foundations of democratic politics / edited by Albert Breton . . . [et al.].
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-82254-8

1. Democracy. I. Breton, Albert.

JC423 .R3234 2003

321.8-dc21 2002191145

ISBN 978-0-521-82254-1 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-18428-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics
Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page vii</i>
1 Introduction	1
<i>Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon, and Ronald Wintrobe</i>	
PART ONE SOME PROBLEMS WITH DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TRENDS IN THEIR EVOLUTION	
2 Demobilized and Demoralized: Negative Ads and Loosening Bonds	15
<i>Michael C. Munger</i>	
3 Turning “Citizens” into “Consumers”: Economic Growth and the Level of Public Discourse	30
<i>Stergios Skaperdas</i>	
4 Economic and Cultural Prerequisites for Democracy	44
<i>Roger D. Congleton</i>	
5 Civil Society and the Contemporary Social Order	68
<i>Frédérique Chaumont-Chancelier</i>	
PART TWO MORALS IN POLITICS	
6 When Does Altruism Overcome the Intransitivity of Income Redistribution?	93
<i>Donald Wittman</i>	
7 Democratic Resilience and the Necessity of Virtue	101
<i>Alan Hamlin</i>	
PART THREE SOCIAL CAPITAL	
8 The Optimal Level of Solidarity	125
<i>Ronald Wintrobe</i>	

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics
Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
9	The Bonds of Democratic Politics – An Economic Perspective <i>Stefan Voigt</i>	147
PART FOUR THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTIONS		
10	Voting Rules: A Constitutional Quandary <i>Gianluigi Galeotti</i>	177
11	Citizens’ Sovereignty, Constitutional Commitments, and Renegotiation: Original versus Continuing Agreement <i>Viktor J. Vanberg</i>	198
12	Constitutional Rules and Competitive Politics: Their Effects on Secessionism <i>Albert Breton and Pierre Salmon</i>	222
	<i>Index</i>	247

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-18428-1 - Rational Foundations of Democratic Politics

Edited by Albert Breton, Gianluigi Galeotti, Pierre Salmon and Ronald Wintrobe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

Albert Breton, Department of Economics, University of Toronto

Frédérique Chaumont-Chancelier, Centre d'Analyse Economique, Université d'Aix-Marseille III

Roger D. Congleton, Center for Public Choice, George Mason University

Gianluigi Galeotti, Università di Roma, La Sapienza

Alan Hamlin, Department of Economics, University of Southampton

Michael C. Munger, Department of Political Science, Duke University

Pierre Salmon, Faculté de Science Economique, Université de Bourgogne

Stergios Skaperdas, Department of Economics, University of California at Irvine

Viktor J. Vanberg, Department of Economics, University of Freiburg

Stefan Voigt, Department of Economics, University of Kassel

Ronald Wintrobe, Department of Economics, University of Western Ontario

Donald Wittman, University of California at Santa Cruz