Is it self-interest or public interest that dominates in public life? Rational-choice theory, political philosophy, and electoral research were all used to answer this question. Analysing existing literature, Professor Leif Lewin shows that predominant consensus emerged on this issue by the 1980s. This consensus states that people in politics are driven mostly by their self-interest and not by common good and society values. Although Professor Lewin is not testing existing views that ‘egoism rules’ on deep theoretical grounds, he strongly argues that empirical facts do not support such views and thus opens a new chapter in the debate on individuals’ rationality.

Combining research results and achievements of different research fields, mentioned above, the author adopts methodology never used before. Extensive literature review on studies of Western democracy provides a basis for analysis for many countries. Separate chapters of the book are devoted to the attitudes and actions of the electoral voters, politicians, and bureaucrats in power. This allows the author to make broad conclusions, which challenges predominant views. He concludes that in most cases people in politics are driven by broader social interests rather than their own short-term interests.

Multiculturalism and the welfare state: Theoretical reflections

David Miller

in Multiculturalism and the Welfare State: Recognition and Redistribution in Contemporary Democracies
This chapter argues that the adoption of MCPs, taken by itself, cannot be held responsible for the weakening of the redistributive impact of the welfare state in Western democracies. There are dangers, however, particularly in the case of immigration. This chapter distinguishes between multiculturalism as policy and multiculturalism as ideology, arguing that problems can emerge if the ‘discourse’ or ‘ideology’ of multiculturalism implies that immigrants can claim rights to an accommodation of their difference without accepting any corresponding civic responsibilities to adapt and integrate themselves. Such a view is deeply unpopular among Western electorates. It is therefore critical to pay careful attention to whether MCPs conform or not to citizens' everyday sense of fairness.

Closing Debate
Frank Hendriks

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: May 2010
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199572786.003.0010
Item type: chapter

The book tellingly ends with a democratic debate. In this closing debate the six characters that already figured in the opening debate are now challenging the author, referring to issues dealt with in previous chapters, as well as to issues deserving subsequent attention. It is argued that, although it is not impossible to combine democracy with good governance (in the sense of ‘good enough governance’ not in the sense of ‘flawless governance’), it will never be low-maintenance. It is argued that even without a universal thermometer that indicates when democracy is healthy, it is still worthwhile discussing the vitality of democracy in terms of its perceived effectiveness and legitimacy. It is concluded that the stakeholders in democracy should continue to challenge each other from different angles. The conclusion is that vital democracy is not unlike cycling. ‘To get anywhere, and not fall over, you need to generate your own movement and counter-movement.’

Politics in the Vernacular
Will Kymlicka

Published in print: 2001 Published Online: November 2003
DOI: 10.1093/0199240981.001.0001
Item type: book
This book explores the rights and situations of ethnocultural groups in Western democracies. It presents essays that share three major themes: the dialectic of nation building and minority rights, the gap between theory and practice of liberal democracies; and the effectiveness of emerging forms of nation-building and minority rights in Western democracies. The book is divided into four parts. Part I presents debates on the rights of ethnocultural minorities. Part II discusses the requirements for ethnocultural justices in a liberal democracy. Part III examines liberals’ misconceptions about nationalism. Part IV focuses on how democratic citizenship can be sustained.

Introduction
Will Kymlicka

in Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and Citizenship
Published in print: 2001 Published Online: November 2003
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter discusses the three major themes shared by the essays included in this volume. These are the dialectic of nation building and minority rights, the gap between theory and practice of liberal democracies; and the effectiveness of emerging forms of nation-building and minority rights in Western democracies. It then presents an overview of these essays.

Social and Political Trust in Established Democracies
Kenneth Newton

in Critical Citizens: Global Support for Democratic Government
Published in print: 1999 Published Online: November 2003
Item type: chapter

Deals with three main topics: the nature and origins of social trust and its importance in society; trends in social trust in Western societies (with some comparisons with less developed societies); and the relations between social and political trust, and their implications for theories of politics and society. In terms of the main concepts and measures of the book, and as outlined in the introductory chapter, social trust is a feature of the most basic level of community, while political trust refers primarily to attitudes about political institutions and leaders. The general assumption seems to be that social and political trust are closely linked,
perhaps different sides of the same coin—social trust is regarded as a strong determinant of, or influence upon, political support of various kinds, including support for the political community, confidence in institutions, and trust in political leaders. As a result it is believed that the accumulation of social capital, in the form of social trust, will also result in the accumulation of political capital. Presents theory and evidence questioning these assumptions; it includes evidence comparing social trust in communal and modern societies, and of political trust in early modern and contemporary democracies.

The Theory and Practice of Immigrant Multiculturalism
Will Kymlicka

in Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and Citizenship
Published in print: 2001 Published Online: November 2003
Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: chapter

The policies of Western democracies on immigrants have changed in the last 30 years from ‘assimilation’ to ‘multiculturalism.’ It is argued that most of these policies are justified in principle, and successful in practice. Multiculturalism is limited by the larger contexts of common public institutions and basic liberal-democratic principles. These limits form a coherent and defensible conception of immigrant integration.

The Way of the Humane Authority
Jiang Qing

in A Confucian Constitutional Order: How China's Ancient Past Can Shape Its Political Future
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: October 2017
Publisher: Princeton University Press
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses Western-style democracy. Although democracy—more specifically, a form of government that grants ultimate controlling power to democratically elected representatives—is built on the separation of powers, the separation is a matter of implementation rather than legitimization. In a democracy, legitimacy is based on the sovereignty of the people. However, the chapter objects to the idea that there is only one source of legitimacy; one political alternative is the Confucian Way of the Humane Authority. According to the Gongyang Commentary, political power must have three kinds of legitimacy—that
of heaven, earth, and the human—for it to be justified. All three forms of legitimacy must be in equilibrium, but the chapter notes that the equilibrium is not one of equality.

**American Multiculturalism in the International Arena**  
Will Kymlicka

in *Politics in the Vernacular: Nationalism, Multiculturalism, and Citizenship*

Published in print: 2001 Published Online: November 2003  
Publisher: Oxford University Press  
DOI: 10.1093/0199240981.003.0015  
Item type: chapter

The consensus on American multiculturalism centres around three claims: that some or other form of multiculturalism is unavoidable, that the appropriate form of multiculturalism must be fluid in its conception of groups and group boundaries, and that the biggest challenge to such a conception is the disadvantaged and stigmatised status of African-Americans. It is argued that these conceptions have been explained in ‘contrast’ to minority nationalism. This contrast confuses rather than clarifies debates on American multiculturalism, and inhibits efforts to understand minority nationalism in other countries.

**Democratic Legitimacy**  
Pierre Rosanvallon

Published in print: 2011 Published Online: October 2017  
Publisher: Princeton University Press  
DOI: 10.23943/princeton/9780691149486.001.0001  
Item type: book

It's a commonplace occurrence that citizens in Western democracies are disaffected with their political leaders and traditional democratic institutions. But this book argues that this crisis of confidence is partly a crisis of understanding. The book makes the case that the sources of democratic legitimacy have shifted and multiplied over the past thirty years and that we need to comprehend and make better use of these new sources of legitimacy in order to strengthen our political self-belief and commitment to democracy. Drawing on examples from France and the United States, the book notes that there has been a major expansion of independent commissions, NGOs, regulatory authorities, and watchdogs in recent decades. At the same time, constitutional courts have become more willing and able to challenge legislatures. These institutional developments, which serve the democratic values of impartiality and reflexivity, have been accompanied by a new attentiveness to what the book calls the value of proximity, as governing
structures have sought to find new spaces for minorities, the particular, and the local. To improve our democracies, we need to use these new sources of legitimacy more effectively and we need to incorporate them into our accounts of democratic government. This book is an original contribution to the vigorous international debate about democratic authority and legitimacy.

**Politics And Human Rights: An Essential Symbiosis**

Makau Wa Mutua

in *The Role of Law in International Politics: Essays in International Relations and International Law*

Published in print: 2001 Published Online: January 2010
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the works of the major authors of human rights discourse and argues that human rights and Western liberal democracy are close to a tautology. It explains that although the two concepts seem different viewed from a distance, one is in fact the universalized version of the other, an attempt at the diffusion and further development on the international level of the liberal political tradition. It argues that the human rights corpus, as a statement of ideals and values, and particularly the positive law of human rights, requires the reconstruction of States to reflect the structures and values of governance that derive from Western liberalism, especially the contemporary variations of liberal democracy practised in Western democracies. It clarifies that while these democracies differ in the content of the rights they guarantee and the organizational structures they take, they are nevertheless based on the same idea of constitutionalism.

**A Confucian Constitutional Order**

Jiang Qing

Daniel A. Bell and Ruiping Fan (eds)

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: October 2017
Item type: book

As China continues to transform itself, many assume that the nation will eventually move beyond communism and adopt a Western-style democracy. But could China develop a unique form of government based on its own distinct traditions? This book says yes. It sets out a vision for...
a Confucian constitutional order that offers a compelling alternative to both the status quo in China and to a Western-style liberal democracy. It is the most detailed and systematic work on Confucian constitutionalism to date. The book argues against the democratic view that the consent of the people is the main source of political legitimacy. Instead, it presents a comprehensive way to achieve humane authority based on three sources of political legitimacy, and it derives and defends a proposal for a tricameral legislature that would best represent the Confucian political ideal. The book also puts forward proposals for an institution that would curb the power of parliamentarians and for a symbolic monarch who would embody the historical and transgenerational identity of the state. In the latter section of the book, four leading liberal and socialist Chinese critics critically evaluate the book's theories and the author gives detailed responses to their views. The book provides a new standard for evaluating political progress in China and enriches the dialogue of possibilities available to this rapidly evolving nation.

Political Rights Under Stress in 21st Century Europe
Wojciech Sadurski (ed.)
Published in print: 2006 Published Online: March 2012
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199296033.001.0001
Publisher: Oxford University Press
This book looks at the stresses put upon Western liberal democracies by factors such as the increased threat of terrorism and the accession of the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It examines the phenomenon of ‘militant democracies’ as a response to these pressures and analyses issues such as party closures, political rights of minorities, and democratization. It focuses on highly topical and contentious areas of current interest in the light of September 11th and the London terrorist attacks.

Sidelined by the Soviet motherland
Sabine Dullin
in Men of Influence: Stalin's Diplomats in Europe, 1930-1939
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: March 2012
DOI: 10.3366/edinburgh/9780748622191.003.0007
Publisher: Edinburgh University Press
This book looks at the stresses put upon Western liberal democracies by factors such as the increased threat of terrorism and the accession of the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It examines the phenomenon of ‘militant democracies’ as a response to these pressures and analyses issues such as party closures, political rights of minorities, and democratization. It focuses on highly topical and contentious areas of current interest in the light of September 11th and the London terrorist attacks.

The Soviet Union had begun a programme of rearmament at the end of 1931. It was not, however, ready for war, and this was all the more true, since the purges had paradoxically decimated the ranks of the
general staff. The proposals for collective security put forward by Soviet diplomats in previous years seemed rather absurd given the ever-growing reticence of the Western democracies and the ever-growing power of Germany. This chapter tells the story of the demoralisation that affected Litvinov and those around him. When Litvinov was dismissed in May 1939, a further bridge was crossed in the rejection of the Western powers, which explosively came to a head with the signing of the Nazi–Soviet pact on 23 August.

Immanuel C. Y. Hsü

in China without mao: The Search for a New Order
Published in print: 1990 Published Online: October 2011
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195060560.003.0007
Item type: chapter

The cultural impact of the open-door policy went far beyond anything the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership had imagined, causing the conservative ideologues to decry the invasion of Western “bourgeois liberalism” as foreign “spiritual pollution.” The workings of Western democracy and the freedom of its people made a deep impression on Chinese visitors to the West. University students, in particular, felt a social responsibility to be the vanguard of such change. China, from 1986 to 1988, was experiencing the growing pains of rapid economic development and the agony of changing values. Society was buffeted by student unrest, ideological confusion, a leadership crisis, widespread corruption, high inflation, and a loss of a clear sense of direction. Yet, within the depths of the chaos and turbulence, some promise of regeneration and a better future were dimly discernible.

Armed Capitalism
Gianni Vattimo and Santiago Zabala

in Hermeneutic Communism: From Heidegger to Marx
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: November 2015
DOI: 10.7312/columbia/9780231158039.003.0002
doi.columbia/9780231158039.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter demonstrates how framed democracy's liberal, financial, and security measures regulate one another in order both to conserve our current “lack of emergencies” and to impose necessary emergencies.
Framed democracy has become the completion of science's liberal ideal of an objectivity able to avoid alterations, shocks, and disruptions. If Western capitalist democracies are excessively armed, this is the case not only in order to conserve their dominion in the world but also because they no longer have any definite opponent. As we have seen in the past decades, the establishment of democratic free-market capitalist states was not only violent but also ineffective, considering the dissatisfaction that most Western citizens declare today. These dissatisfactions have reached such levels that the institutions designed to detect social discontent are no longer limited to the United Nations, but have expanded to states' ministries of defense.

The Changing of the Guard
John Lee

in Shakespeare’s Hamlet and the Controversies of Self

New Historicists argue that by changing the notion of man, the notion of what the critical kingdom should be is changed. Cultural Materialists go much further: pointing to the circular relationship between the subject and the actual kingdom, contemporary ‘Western Liberal democracy’, they argue that by exposing the ‘individual’ (the essentialist notion of man) as a false ideology they can change the state; capitalism, paternalism, and militarism can all be overturned. For Cultural Materialists, asking ‘Who's there?’ is the prelude to a wholesale changing of the guard.

New Approaches
William W. Lewis

in The Power of Productivity: Wealth, Poverty, and the Threat to Global Stability

This chapter reviews paths to economic development for poor countries. The previous chapters have shown two development paths that have worked—those of the Western democracies and the path of Japan and Korea. The Western democracies have achieved very high GDPs per capita by following a high-productivity path. Both Japan and Korea have
followed a high labor and capital input path. However, it is shown that these paths are out of reach for most poor countries. The various ways that countries might overcome these problems are discussed.

Introduction

Pippa Norris

in Why American Elections Are Flawed (and How to Fix Them)

Published in print: 2017 Published Online: September 2017
DOI: 10.7591/cornell/9781501713408.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter begins with a brief discussion of the pervasive problems in the American electoral process. It then describes the Electoral Integrity Project (EIP). Established in 2012, the EIP is an independent project with a research team based at Harvard and Sydney universities that provides independent evidence from a rolling expert survey to document these problems and monitor how elections vary worldwide. According to expert estimates developed by EIP, the 2012 and 2014 elections in the United States were the worst among all Western democracies. Without reform, these problems risk damaging the legitimacy of American elections—further weakening public confidence in the major political parties, Congress, and the US government, depressing voter turnout, and exacerbating the risks of contentious outcomes fought through court appeals and public protests. An overview of the subsequent chapters is also presented.

Why Are the People Fighting?

Burnett Bolloten

in The Spanish Civil War: Revolution and Counterrevolution

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: May 2016
Item type: chapter

This chapter notes the increasing dissatisfaction of the proletariat with the Negrín government, citing its actions as counter to the spirit of the Revolution and the social changes that they had fought for. The Negrín administration, in keeping with its policy of courting the Western democracies, had attempted to conciliate foreign capital. The government also attempted to decollectivize and nationalize a few Spanish enterprises, return other firms to their original owners, and even militarize the war industry. Although restitutions were few,
the resulting propaganda was widespread, as the working class grew increasingly frustrated with a system that seemed to mirror that of the pre-Revolutionary days.