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Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work

By Gerry Stoker



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Achieving mass democracy was the great triumph of the last century. Learning to live with it will be the greatest achievement of this one. Stoker suggests that democracy must create a new politics, making it as easy as possible for as many people to participate. **Winner of the Political Studies Association Book of the Year Prize 2006**



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Editorial Review

Review

"An impressive overview of the growing popular disenchantment with democratic politics across the advanced world which offers much thoughtful reflection about its deeper roots. Gerry Stoker's provocative central argument--that the underlying problem is not alienation from democracy, but naïveté about politics itself--warrants the attention of anyone concerned about the future of political life. His conclusion that we need to create a new 'politics for amateurs' is the right challenge for us all."--Robert D. Putnam, Harvard University

"Readable, informative and insightful...dispels many misconceptions about what politics is and should be. His sober optimism, backed up by careful consideration of a wide range of evidence, provides a valuable corrective to the relentless negativity and cynicism towards politics peddled in so much of the media."--Andrew Gamble, University of Sheffield

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'[W]ritten in a very accessible and engaging style... Professor Stoker's book makes a very powerful argument [and one] very illuminating of the true meaning and functioning of politics' - Steven Van de Walle, *Local Government Studies*

'This is a very good book...the strength of *Why Politics Matters* is the breadth of the author's concerns, the humanity and measured judgements that inform his analysis, and, above all, his willingness to declare that the customer is not only not always right but also prone to more than a little hypocrisy in writing off those who do currently get their hands dirty...I will be content if everyone coming to study politics at university would read this admirable and approachable text.' - Dr Tim Bale, *Representation*

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From the Back Cover

In an era of burgeoning anti-politics, public perceptions of politics and politicians appear increasingly marred by either indifference or cynicism. Yet with democratic regimes triumphing as the dominant form of governance globally, it is perhaps surprising that citizens worldwide seem disinclined to engage with and

participate in political activity.

The second edition of this prize-winning text once again explores the reasons behind this discrepancy. Drawing on the author's original research and extensive experience of the field, it gives an original theoretical take on the roots of anti-politics and also outlines a number of possibilities for reform with the aim of improving public participation in all contemporary democracies. In doing so, Stoker's highly discerning account covers focal questions in the study of politics, including what politics actually is, why it is omnipresent, and why, from wealth distribution to environmental impacts, no one is untouched by political activity.

Thoroughly updated and revised throughout, the second edition of *Why Politics Matters* is the perfect introduction for students with an interest in the importance of political debate and participation.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Gaines:

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Gregory Mackenzie:

The book *Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very acceptable to you. The book *Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work* is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Jaime Howell:

Often the book *Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work* has a lot details on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

Casey Timmons:

Within this era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top list in your reading list is Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking right up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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