

Parliamentary Democracy

This is the most ambitious and comprehensive account of the institutions of democratic delegation in West European parliamentary democracies. An international team of contributors provides unprecedented cross-national investigations of West European political institutions from 1945 until the present day.

With a foreword by former Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, *Parliamentary Democracy in Crisis* brings together journalists, political scientists, and leading constitutional experts to analyse the parliamentary crisis of November 2008 and to discuss the nature of Canada's democracy.

This book gives a unique "insider's account" of the changes in governance that took place as Sierra Leone progressed from a British Colony with a self selected "legislature" to an Independent Nation with a democratically elected Parliament. It covers the period from 1944, when the authour started his career, to 1967 when a military take-over saw the dissolution of Parliament. In the position of Clerk to the various Legislatures in Sierra Leone the authour accummulated over twenty years of experience as an "insider" in the legislature and an independent witness of change. It is from this vantage position that the book outlines details of the events, processes and most of all the major personalities that shaped political governance in Sierra leone. This book is not the usual historical account of dates and events with arguments over roles

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and outcomes. Rather it is an insightful and detailed account of the motivation and strategies of the different stake-holders as they battled for change in governance. It outlines the cut-and-thrust of debate in the various legislatures, resulting in the increased democratisation of political governance. The 1944 Legislative Council of 21 members was made up mainly of European Government Officials and members appointed by the Governor. This was later enlarged to include more elected members, becoming a 57-member House of Representatives in 1951, with an elected Speaker. The stalwarts who pressed for change come alive in this book with all their political savvy and their idiosyncrisms which made them colourful figures in the process of change. The author portrays these main characters with empathy and fondness that reflect his role in serving and guiding legislators as well as his friendship cultivated with them over the years. The book comes alive with quotes from key players during critical debates on issues of profound national significance. Through these extensive quotes and the author's description of the personalities involved the book captures the wit and humour that helped to maintain decorum and mutual respect amongst legislatures at the most trying times. These men (there was only one woman legislator - Madame Ella Kablo-Gullama - throughout this period) were skilled at debates and parliamentary procedures, as they sought independence from Britain. Their task was clearly complicated by tensions and disparities between the "Colony people" and "Protectorate people," due in large part to the British strategy of "divide and rule" in its territories. The

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book provides us with lively insights into the personalities and contributions of pivotal figures, including 4 Governors, 2 Prime Ministers, 3 Speakers, and some of the most formidable opposition figures. Milton Margai who became the first Prime Minister and his brother Albert Margai who succeeded him; Siaka Stevens who later became the first President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Otto-During, Bankole Bright and Wallace-Johnson, household names in the history of Sierra Leone; all these names come alive in this book as personalities that changed the course of history in the country. In modern times Sierra Leone has become widely known for a series of military coups and an ugly civil war that caused extensive destruction, loss of life and reversal of the democratic process. This book reminds us of a time when the hottest battles were waged in the chambers of Parliament with weapons of wit, diplomacy, humour and skilled debate. The book suggests there were winners and losers on every issue and debate, but the winners tended to be magnanimous and losers always lived to fight another day. The authour does not seek to pass political judgement on these early legislators, beyond their stated positions and interests. Like a true civil servant S.V. Wright succeeds in a challenging task by painting a neutral portrait of these early political representatives and the key legislative processes they pursued in shaping the future of a natio

Contributed articles; with reference to India.

This book analyses nearly 100 original interviews with Members of the European Parliament

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from across the European Union who were active between 1979 and 2019. These interviews, preserved in the Historical Archives of the European Union at the European University Institute, capture the memories of the MEPs about their own roles and their assessment of what the parliament achieved in developing a European parliamentary democracy in the forty years following the first direct elections. The book offers a taste of the interviews in ten chapters, each of which corresponds to a specific theme presented in the archive: choosing the parliament, working inside the parliament machine, living inside the political groups, playing a part in major moments, influencing and shaping policy, scrutinizing and holding to account, making a mark beyond the EU, communicating the work of the parliament, keeping in touch with national societies, and looking to the future.

Parliamentary democracy is the most common regime type in the contemporary political world, but the quality of governance depends on effective parliamentary oversight and strong political parties. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have traditionally been strongholds of parliamentary democracy. In recent years, however, critics have suggested that new challenges such as weakened popular attachment, the advent of cartel parties, the judicialization of politics, and European integration have threatened the institutions of parliamentary democracy in the Nordic region. This volume examines these claims and their implications. The authors find that the Nordic states have moved away from their previous resemblance to a Westminster model toward a form of parliamentary democracy with more separation-of-powers features—a Madisonian model. These features are evident both in vertical power relations (e.g., relations with the European Union) and horizontal ones (e.g., increasingly independent courts and central banks). Yet these developments are far from

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uniform and demonstrate that there may be different responses to the political challenges faced by contemporary Western democracies.

This extensively illustrated book provides a historical overview of Scottish buildings of government and assembly from the Middle Ages to the present day, setting Scotland's new parliament in the broader context of the nation's architectural and social history.

Insightful analyses of recent reforms to parliamentary institutions and governance in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Parliamentary government combines stability and dynamism. Its continuity is rooted in enduring principles such as citizen representation and accountability to the legislature. But parliamentary systems have evolved in response to changes in the societies they govern and in citizens' views about democratic practices. In *Reforming Parliamentary Democracy* the authors demonstrate how, in their respective countries, parliamentary governments have combined stability with the capacity to adapt to such changes. They provide insightful analyses of recent reforms to parliamentary institutions and governance in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

"Zimbabwe possesses one of the most impressive and well-organised legislatures in the Southern African region. On the surface, it would appear that the in the Southern African region. On the surface, it would appear that the multifaceted functions in the interest of the citizens of that country. Serious investigation of the workings of this august institution, however, reveals that it is little more than a rubber stamp of whatever the executive and ruling political party wish to do. Indeed, to the executive, parliament

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is more of a necessary nuisance than an essential partner in the governance of Zimbabwe."--Executive summary (p. 1).

This book investigates the ethical challenges the Internet presents to contemporary parliamentary democracy in Europe and how these challenges are being addressed. It compares four European parliaments in Europe - British, European, Portuguese and Swedish - using both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The need for good governance is obvious and universal. Good governance requires good laws, alert administration and an efficient system of trial and punishment. What can be the measures of good governance? These, inter alia, may include existence of good laws and their transparent operation, lower per capita cost of governance, availability of reliable infrastructure, efficient law and order situation and high level of human development index. The focus of this book is on corruption, i.e. misuse of public money and state power. This book describes how the parliamentary form of democracy in India is functioning. The various ills we are witnessing in this country have originated or escalated for the reason that the parliamentary form of democracy supports their growth. The book examines various issues including reservations, population control, external loans and budget deficits and other problems due to lack of political will. The book attempts to answer some of the well-known questions like how much government do we need, problems of Presidential form of government, sustainability of communism and usefulness of the party system.

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The Book Gives An Academic, Political And Professional Glimpse Of The Indian Parliamentary Democracy In Function, Its Travails And Achievement. This Is Done Along With The Analysis Of Constitutional Provisions, Judicial Interpretations And The Developed Conventions, Precedents And Practices. The Book Is Both For General Reading And For Use By Intelligentsia. It Shall Be Attractive And Useful To The Active Politicians, Members Of The Houses Of Parliament Or State Legislatures, Political Parties, Lawyers, Journalists And Scholars Of Law, Constitutional History Or Political Science. The Book Has Examined In Detail The Topical Aspects Of Parliamentary Democracy In India, Detailing The Precedents, Controversies Which Had Arisen From Time To Time And The Working Solutions Found Or Alternately Amendments Made To The Constitution. Broadly The Book Discusses: " What Parliamentary Democracy Means In India" Cabinet System For Democracy In India" Broad Features Of Indian Political Parties In Parliament" Problems And Solutions Of Party Splits And Defections" Hung Parliament And Formation Of Government" President S Rule And Problems In States In Emergency" The Conduct Of Parliamentary Proceedings" Free And Fair Elections; The Election Commission Of India The Roles Of The President Of India, Prime Minister And Of The Speaker Or The Chairman Of The House Are Significant For Success Of Democracy. The Impartial, Free And Fair Conduct Of Elections Are Equally Indispensable. An Attempt Has Been Made In The Book To Include Maximum Possible Leading Political Events Of The Time As Precedents Which Have Gradually

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Synthesised And Developed The Parliamentary Democracy Of British Model Into A Totally Indigenous System.

This title was first published in 2001. With the collapse of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe, the legitimacy of one-party, and often one-person rule in other parts of the world has been fundamentally challenged. It appears that for the first time parliamentary democracy has become the universally accepted model to adopt or to be perfected. Newer democracies have started to build the institutions and capacity necessary to sustain democracy, while established democracies continue to refine their democracy, sometimes introducing full-scale reforms. This book examines whether elements of the perfect democracy can be identified and how democratic structures and practices can be improved.

The Will of the People is an incisive, in-depth look at Winston Churchill's lifelong commitment to parliamentary democracy. First elected at twenty-five, Churchill was still in the House of Commons sixty-four years later. By far the largest part of his life – of his working days and nights – was spent in the cut and thrust of debate in the service of the people, whose instrument he believed Parliament to be. "I am a child of the House of Commons," he told a joint session of the US Congress in December 1941. "I was brought up in my father's house to believe in democracy. Trust the people – that was his message..." Throughout his career, Churchill did his utmost to ensure that Parliament was effective and that it was not undermined by either adversarial party politics or by elected members who sought to manipulate it. Even the defeat of the Conservative Party in the General Election of 1945, which ended his wartime premiership, in no way altered his faith in parliamentary democracy. "It is the will of the people," he told a small gathering of friends and family the day after the results were

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announced. And he meant it. Reflecting on the importance of the Second World War as a means of restoring democracy, Churchill told the House of Commons: “At the bottom of all the tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into the little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper – no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of that point.” Today’s readers will readily compare Churchill’s regard for democracy and the importance of that “little man” with the attitudes of contemporary leaders, and of those who seek leadership.

This book offers a compelling and persuasive framework for understanding the German constitutional system. It argues that it can only be fully understood as a dual structure combining two layers with little in common. The first layer is the basic administrative institutional structure, comprised of federal institutions. The second layer is that of parliamentary democracy. It is the interplay between the two, as mediated by the chancellery, the major political parties and the Federal Constitutional Court, which lies at the heart of the German constitutional arrangement. This innovative hybrid perspective allows for a better understanding of the current challenges of parliamentary government and its potential long-term development. An updated translation of its impactful German edition, this provides one of the most brilliant introductions to governmental systems of one of the world's most influential states.

Reforming Parliamentary Democracy McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP

This book investigates the ethical challenges the internet presents to contemporary parliamentary democracy in Europe and how these challenges are

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being addressed. It fills an important gap: current literature until now has largely focused on the study of internet usage by politicians and institutions. With the ever widening scope of participation in internet-based communication, there are widely differing views on its potential social, economic and political impact, and whether parliamentary democracy will be strengthened or weakened in the information age. Key questions include: To what extent is the internet being used in parliamentary political communication (the ethics of behaviour)? Should there be any institutional control and monitoring of parliamentarians' use of the internet (the ethics of code of conduct)? What impact does the internet have upon the principle of trust and transparency in the context of parliamentary democracy (the ethics of accountability)? The book compares four European parliaments: the British, European, Portuguese and Swedish Parliaments, using both quantitative methods (questionnaires and survey of websites) and qualitative methods (workshops and face-to-face interviews with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff). This book was previously published as a special issue of the Journal of Legislative Studies.

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