Democracy, Accountability, and Representation

This book examines whether mechanisms of accountability characteristic of democratic systems are sufficient to induce the representatives to act in the best interest of the represented. The first part of the volume focuses on the role of elections, distinguishing different ways in which they may cause representation. The second part is devoted to the role of checks and balances, between the government and the parliament as well as between the government and the bureaucracy. The contributors to this volume, all leading scholars in the fields of American and comparative politics and political theory, address a variety of questions. Do elections induce governments to act in the interest of citizens? Are politicians in democracies accountable to voters in future elections? If so, does accountability induce politicians to represent citizens? Does accountability limit or enhance the scope of action of governments? Are governments that violate campaign mandates representative? Overall, the essays combine theoretical discussions, game-theoretic models, case studies, and statistical analyses, within a shared analytical approach and a standardized terminology. The empirical material is drawn from the well-established democracies as well as from new democracies.

Adam Przeworski is Professor of Politics at New York University and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has taught at scholarly institutions in Chile, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and Spain. Professor Przeworski's recent books include *Sustainable Democracy* (coauthor, Cambridge University Press, 1995), *Economic Reforms in New Democracies: A Social-Democratic Approach* (with Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira and José María Maravall, Cambridge University Press, 1993), and *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 1991).

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