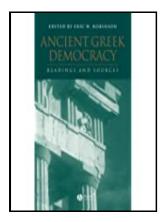
Whats wrong with democracy? - from Athenian practice to American worship

University of California Press - What's Wrong with Democracy? : From Athenian Practice to American Worship (Paperback)



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Athenian democracy

Unlike most recent volumes on Athenian democracy, which hold up Athens as a model of democratic practice, Samons's work is a hard-hitting critique of practically every significant aspect of democratic practice in Athens. In this daring reassessment of classical Athenian democracy and its significance for the United States today, Loren J. I hope to suggest that the vote—especially in an environment with few social restraints or civic responsibilities—represents a threat to, as much as an instrument of, justice.

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Historians or classicists already familiar with Athenian government may wish to jump immediately to the discussion of voting and election in chapter 2.

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As strange as it may seem to moderns, Aristotle considered election to be an oligarchic or aristocratic element in government.

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Precisely for that reason Professor Samons offers a bold and unbridled look at the nature and history of democracies, ancient and modern. Samons provides ample justification for our founding fathers' distrust of democracy, a form of government they scomed precisely because of their familiarity with classical Athens. From reader reviews: Terry Tyrrell: Do you have something that that suits you such as book? Challenging many basic assumptions about the character and success of Athenian democracy, What's Wrong with Democracy? The assembly had four main functions: it made executive pronouncements decrees, such as deciding to go to war or granting citizenship to a foreigner, elected some officials, legislated, and tried political crimes.

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