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The Future of Democracy

Steve Zolno

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The Future of Democracy: Lessons from the Past and Present to Guide Us on Our Path Forward appears in its third updated edition to examine the foundations of democracy, its development throughout human history in various societies, and how it can be either strengthened or weakened. The timing for publishing this third updated edition couldn't have been better in the aftermath of America's latest elections, which have renewed interest in many Americans over the democratic and voting process.

This is not to say that most Americans don't know about democratic principles: these are taught in school beginning at a very early age. But, for many, interest peters out as home, financial, health and family concerns take center stage over the years following graduation. When events spark a renewed interest in this process and its history, then *The Future of Democracy* should be high on one's reading list.

More so than most competing discussions, it synthesizes centuries of democratic principles and experiences into a lively history that is both readable and scholarly. While synthesizing a sweeping history from 6000 BC to modern times into a single, accessible volume might seem a daunting (or even impossible) goal, Steve Zolno achieves this with an inviting discussion of rules honed, lessons learned, reasons behind periods of stability and instability in democratic countries, and the lasting impact of revolutions.

This sets the stage for a contemporary examination of the foundations of and enactment processes of basic democracy, juxtaposing the effects of international economic and political forces, rules of power distribution and engagement, the presence or absence of democracy in various societies around the world, and differences between U.S. viewpoints and models and those of other nations.

Under Steve Zolno's hand, democracy is viewed as not just a political process, but a social process, as well. It's the added focus on the social impact of political institutions and applications that keep *The Future of Democracy* an unexpectedly lively production (unexpected because so many competing books about democracy tend to be dry, challenging reads).

Steve Zolno holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Science and a Masters in Educational Psychology, and is a management consultant, as well. Perhaps it's this background that lends so well to a discussion that is especially accessible to lay audiences who might not ordinarily choose a political history and discussion of democracy were it not for recent events, and who will find *The Future of Democracy* especially accessible: a recommended read whether the viewer is looking for a refresher course, an introduction, or a renewed connection between political and social perspectives.