

A Preface To Economic Democracy

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tocqueville pessimistically predicted that liberty and equality would be incompatible ideas robert dahl author of the classic a preface to democratic theory explores this alleged conflict particularly in modern american society where differences in ownership and control of corporate enterprises create inequalities in resources among americans that in turn generate inequality among them as citizens arguing that americans have misconceived the relation between democracy private property and the economic order the author contends that we can achieve a society of real democracy and political equality without sacrificing liberty by extending democratic principles into the economic order although enterprise control by workers violates many conventional political and ideological assumptions of corporate capitalism as well as of state socialism dahl presents an empirically informed and philosophically acute defense of workplace democracy he argues in the light of experiences here and abroad that an economic system of worker owned and worker controlled enterprises could provide a much better foundation for democracy political equality and liberty than does our present system of corporate capitalism this title is part of uc press s voices revived program which commemorates university of california press s mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice reach and impact drawing on a backlist dating to 1893 voices revived makes high quality peer reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print on demand technology this title was originally published in 1986 tocqueville pessimistically predicted that liberty and equality would be incompatible ideas robert dahl author of the classic a preface to democratic theory explores this alleged conflict particularly in modern american society where difference

this title was first published in 1999 the author contends that economic democracy is the economic system the u s purports to have but has thus far failed to achieve because it like all the economic powers that have gone before seeks to control the economies of weaker nations it is the shocking lack of economic democracy and the efforts of so many to achieve it that fuels today s conflicts and will fuel those of the 21st century to show how and why this comprehensive work provides a detailed analysis of the history of numerous aspects of the development of the neo mercantilist world economy the geopolitical systems put in place by the developed world to manage and perpetuate that economy and the numerous proposals and modeling plans that have been offered over the years for the achievement of economic democracy

a grassroots movement for economic democracy based on cooperatives and local economies is quickly growing throughout the planet after capitalism inspired by p r sarkar s progressive utilization theory prout offers a compelling vision of an equitable sustainable model which economically empowers individuals and communities filled with successful examples from six continents as well as many resources activities and tools for activists after capitalism will fill you with hope and the conviction that a new democratic economy is indeed possible includes a conversation with noam chomsky and contributions by frei betto johan galtung leonardo boff sohail inayatullah marcos arruda ravi batra and others an ambitious and stimulating attempt to connect spiritual principles with the pragmatic work of building a better world gar alperovitz author of america beyond capitalism a broad ecological social political and spiritual awareness informs this vision of a new economic future its vivid real world examples and clear accessible language demonstrate that a more beautiful world is within our grasp charles eisenstein author of sacred economics with grace and intelligence dada maheshvarananda illuminates paths of personal enlightenment and global transformation in an epoch when global capitalism ravages our planet and destroys communities his perspective is a refreshing account of cooperative forms of life that provide alternatives to a world of greed and injustice george katsiaficas activist and author of asia s unknown uprisings

the idea that the people have a right to shape political decisions through democratic means is widely accepted the same cannot be said of the decisions that impact on our everyday economic life in the workplace and beyond andrew cumbers shows why this is wrong and why in the context of the rising tide of populism and the perceived crisis of liberal democracy economic democracy s time has come four decades of market deregulation financialisation economic crisis and austerity has meant a loss of economic control and security for the majority of the world s population the solution must involve allowing people to take back control of their economic lives cumbers goes beyond older traditions of economic democracy to develop an ambitious new framework that includes a traditional concern with workplace rights and collective bargaining but shifts the focus to include consideration of individual economic rights and processes of public engagement and deliberation beyond the workplace this topical and original book will be essential reading for anyone interested in radical solutions for our economic and political crises

argues that it is america s system of economics methods of producing and distributing goods and services that is deficient and has failed that the wealthiest ten percent of the united states population have the power to determine u s economic policy and that the majority of americans are socialized into believing they somehow play a decision making role in the economy when the decisions allowed the general public are superficial and without meaning proposes a change to economic democracy in which all citizens will have the opportunity to make meaningful economic decisions introduction

in economic justice and democracy robin hahnel argues that progressives need to go back to the drawing board and rethink how they conceive of economic justice and economic democracy he presents a coherent set of economic institutions and procedures that can deliver economic justice and democracy through a participatory economy but this is a long run goal he also explores how to promote the economics of equitable cooperation in the here and now by emphasizing ways to broaden the base of existing economic reform movements while deepening their commitment to more far reaching change

the author discusses how the economic system imposed upon the world is not as efficient as believed he argues that roughly 50 percent of today s economic activity is pure waste operating and protecting the current monopoly system

permanent global peace and sustainable development eliminating monopolies we are told are not there creating a modern commons increasing economic efficiency equal to the invention of money the printing press and electricity the efficiency increase measures the previously wasted labor capital and resources each person works 2 3 days per week without loss of food fiber shelter or recreation under full and equal rights poverty can be eliminated in 10 years under full and equal rights within 50 years each citizen of the world can have a quality life plunder by trade and capital destroying capital eliminated through superefficient capitalism empowering the powerless

the concept of economic democracy is traditionally identified with workplace democracy and participation at the enterprise level this is a very important dimension but the concept of new economic democracy also recognizes that in a world of increasing

complexity the principles of democratic deliberation and social participation have to be applied to other areas as well this book takes a fresh look at economic democracy from various perspectives it provides rich historical narratives of episodes of social participation in the economy and society more broadly from the 19th to the 21st century it dissects the various analytical underpinnings informing the theory of economic democracy connecting it with collective choice social contract theory marxian analysis and libertarian critiques the book identifies new areas of application of the principles of democratic deliberation and oversight such as the adoption of austerity policies the signing of free trade agreements the conduct of central bank policies international investment treaties and natural resource management it takes a guided tour through the evolution of economic social and cultural rights and their impact on the design and implementation of social policy and the welfare developmental state the book expands the notion of economic democracy from factory level to the macro economy and then to global economic governance it also discusses the critical links between political democracy and economic democracy and the need for a more democratic and socially equitable economy in the 21st century this volume will find an audience among economists political scientists social activists philosophers and sociologists

this book is a discussion of and an argument for alternatives to the present structure of production in the united states alternatives that would change the control of capital and how it is used first published 1980 carnoy and shearer discuss the economic problems facing the 1980s and argue for a strategy to transform capital from corporations to the public a book that remains relevant in today s political economic climate this title is ideal for students of economics and politics as well as general readers interested in past and present economic problems and potential solutions

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