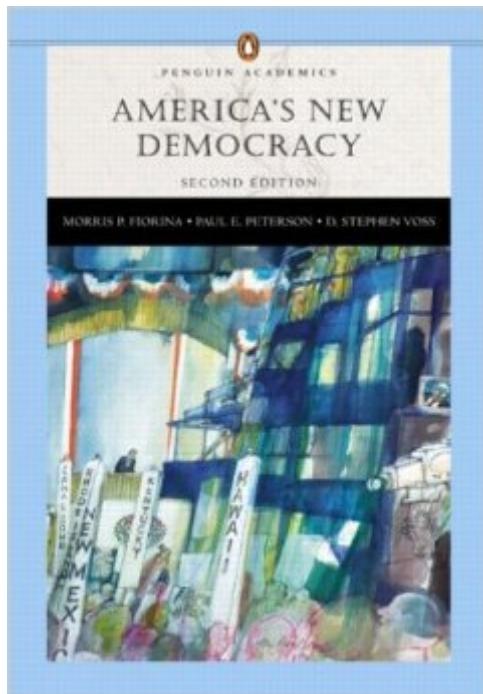


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America's New Democracy (Penguin Academics Series) With LP.com Version 2.0 (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

The new edition of this brief, highly affordable Penguin Academic Series book includes new discussions about midterm elections, the economy, and the 2003 Iraq War. Written in a strong narrative voice and brimming with student-relevant examples, the second edition of America's New Democracy provides a focused and stimulating treatment of politics in the United States. Illustrating popular influence across the political system in defense of a central theme--that elections matter more in America's political system today than they have in the past or do in other democracies--the book challenges the pessimistic view that government seldom listens to ordinary people. America's New Democracy encourages readers to see that in a system where votes are the main currency, both power and responsibility rest on the shoulders of all citizens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am currently using this textbook for my introductory course in American politics. It is the second time I am using this text, and I will likely use it at least once more. So while I say that this book is uneven, it is still better than most other introductory texts out there. The most attractive features of this text are its size and price. In a typical semester you can read this text along with two other short texts and still keep your students' book bill under \$80. I'm using the book with the Dover edition of Lincoln's Great Speeches and the Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers, and it all comes

in around \$70. Several of the chapters are, moreover, either good or at least competent. The chapters on American political culture, parties and interest groups, and elections are quite good, and those on civil liberties and civil rights are at least satisfactory. In all these cases there are accurate discussions of basic concepts and facts, illustrated with appropriate and interesting examples. The chapter on parties and interests groups, for example, manages to pack a short history of American parties, the Framers' view of parties, pros and cons of strong parties, and a basic explanation of interest groups and interest group theory into a 29-page chapter. Throughout, the chapter is quite accessible for 100-level political science students. The chapter on American political culture, likely under the knowledgeable direction of Fiorina, is also good. There are poor chapters as well, however. In the introductory chapter "Democracy in the United States" the authors make a half-hearted attempt to suggest that there is something new, exciting, and positive about America's democracy.

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