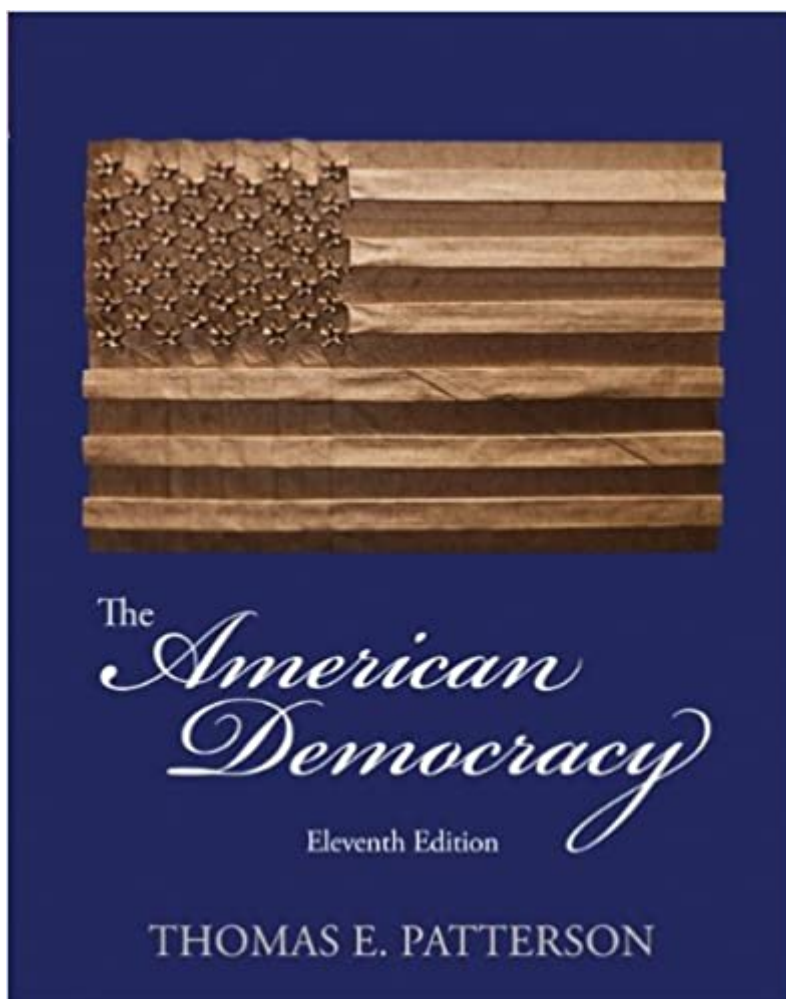


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# The American Democracy



## Synopsis

In today's climate of hyper-partisanship, blurred lines between political news, analysis, and entertainment, and outrageous comments from the chattering classes, who better than Tom Patterson to provide students with the tools and context to make informed judgments and become skilled political thinkers? Patterson's *The American Democracy* has long been a best seller for American government courses due to its insightful, readable, and balanced portrayal of the American political system. The 11th edition continues this tradition of excellence while also introducing a new emphasis on political thinking at a time when the partisan divide seemingly could not be wider and unbiased political information is often drowned out by other sources. With expertise in the areas of public opinion, the media, and elections among other areas, Tom Patterson is a voice you can trust to help develop your students' critical thinking skills when it comes to politics and political science. As Patterson notes, "Political thinking takes place within the context of a person's political interests and values, which can lead equally thoughtful individuals to reach opposing opinions on the same issue." If you are looking for learning materials to help ensure your students leave your course among those "thoughtful individuals" that will carry the debate forward in measured and informed ways, *The American Democracy* is the right choice for you.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas E. Patterson is Bradlee Professor of Government and the Press in the John F. Kennedy

School of Government at Harvard University. He was previously distinguished professor of political science in the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University. Raised in a small Minnesota town near the Iowa and South Dakota borders, he was educated at South Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota, where he received his Ph.D. in 1971. Currently running the "Vanishing Voter" study at the Kennedy School of Government, which has been widely used in the media and on college campuses, Tom is also the author of six books and dozens of articles, which focus primarily on the media and elections. His book, 'Out of Order'(1994), received national attention when President Clinton said every politician and journalist should be required to read it. An earlier book, 'The Mass Media Election'(1980), received a 'Choice' award as Outstanding Academic Book, 1980-81. Another of Patterson's books, 'The Unseeing Eye'(1976), was recently selected by the American Association for Public Opinion Research as one of the fifty most influential books of the past half century in the field of public opinion. His current research includes a study of White House communication and a study of the news media's role in Western democracies. His work has been funded by major grants from the National Science Foundation, the Markle Foundation, the Smith-Richardson Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The most important question I had about the book before renting it was if there had been significant changes between the 10th and 11th editions. There is a great deal of information about more recent event and how the Constitution applies to them. While I might wish that the 10th edition was still valid, a great deal of things have changed. It is a pretty solid textbook. The writing is approachable, and manages to maintain a sense of neutrality in areas where there are harsh divisions. Patterson maintains his focus on the subject, the workings and history of the American government, without letting issues taking a soap box to preach a particular ideology. When such issues arise, noted speakers from both sides are quoted in a section separate from the main text. Why am I not giving it 5 stars? I think it costs too much. There are plenty of books that are just as researched that manage to come in at a lower price. If the current edition (future 12th, 13th, and beyond) are able to come down below the \$70 price (\$140 is just egregious.), then I would happily rate the book a 5.

This book even though it was expensive to rent did help me a lot with my class especially when doing my exam and quizzes. I'm not finished with my history class yet, but I am passing and without the book I know that I would be failing because history isn't one of my favorite classes.

Great cheap way to rent text book for college course.

Needed this book for a class. It was on the expensive side for me, so I rented it from . The process to rent AND return was really simple. As for the book, it has a lot of great pictures and I like that the information is current. Great resource to just have.

makes understand the U.S. constitution, legislature, executive and judicial branches of our government a bit easier. Examples are current and relate to students. The tone and vernacular of the textbook is easy to comprehend.

I rented my copy so it is in good condition at best but, I am learning a lot from this book as it is well written and very up to date. The American Democracy

If you read this book with an open mind you will soon learn what American IS NOT.

Everything you could ever want to know about how America got it's start. I had to read this for a class and kept reading it even after I had passed with an A.

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