



## **Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition**

*Robert A. Dahl*

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## **Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition** Robert A. Dahl

Amidst all the emotional uproar about democracy and the widespread talk of revolution comes this clear call to reason—a mind-stretching book that equips the young and the old suddenly to see an ageless problem of society in a new and exciting way. Everything Dahl says can be applied in a fascinating way to the governing of any human enterprise involving more than one person—whether it is a nation-state, a political party, a business firm, or a university.

## **Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition Details**

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## **Leonardo says**

Teoría de la Democracia. Unidad 5.

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## **Thomas Qais Osso-Faqiri says**

It is a great read. I am still thinking about the structure of societies and how some succeed to finally become democratic and other continue to struggle. I am thinking of reading more by Dahl to understand his thesis.

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## **Helena says**

The pluralist approach to democracy. Really enlightening.

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## **Steven Peterson says**

Robert Dahl is a major thinker, exploring democracy, pluralism, and polyarchy (interlinked notions). This book focuses on his concept of polyarchy, laying out the dynamics of this perspective. . . .

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## **Katarina Bakali? says**

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## **Djereloz says**

I found lots of interesting thoughts and facts that made me reconsider my perception of democracy. Would read it again later.

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## **Ike Sharpless says**

Dahl argues that the term 'polyarchy' is a more accurate description than 'democracy' when it comes to most countries we tend to call democracies (he also has a very high bar for what it would be required for a country to be a democracy - and most countries in the world wouldn't qualify), and it's an important distinction.

We throw around words like democracy, the public interest, and special interests without stopping to properly understand what we mean by each of these terms. I approached this book as a fan of Dewey's work on the public interest, and as someone who's skeptical of the idea that the public interest is anything more than an accretion of diverse and often competing private interests (i.e., the pluralist conception of public policy), and it helped me to form a coherent typology of what constitutes a rich polyarchy.

It's not an easy book to read, though - I assigned an essay version to my comparative politics students, and they had a hard time of it...

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## **Emily says**

1971 geschrieben und immer noch eine frische, unideologische Quelle, um über Demokratie nachzudenken. Robert Dahl wird mit seiner Definition von Polyarchy bis heute vor den Karren prozeduraler Demokratietheorien gespannt. Dies ist jedoch nur eine Facette dieses Buches und beim Lesen entdeckt man, dass Dahls Vorstellung von Demokratie weit umfassender war als die der vielen Demokratietheoretiker, die in seine Fußstapfen getreten sind.

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