

“Walter Horn’s *Democratic Theory Naturalized* is a brave, serious, scholarly yet approachable treatise on populism. Horn works tirelessly to display the many ways in which what passes for democratic rule fails to represent the will of the people. It is impossible to read this book without finding one’s own views repeatedly challenged and positions that one has dismissed out of hand resurface in stronger form, arduously defended. The joy and excellence of the book resides in the quality and character of the arguments brought to bear in its favor. A timely book.”

—**Jules Coleman**, New York University

“This book combines rigorous philosophical analysis with normative political theory. It provides a bold and well-argued defense of democracy conceived basically as the government by majorities. It is stimulating reading, challenging for those who have started to doubt the relevancy of democratic values.”

—**Erik Lagerspetz**, University of Turku

“Walter Horn provides a tour de force of ideas related to democracy, from a theory of value that leads to a conception of the purpose of democracy, to implications for the extent of the franchise, to ideas about the best ways for democracies to aggregate preferences and to implement representative government. It is worthwhile food for thought for anyone concerned with how we ought to govern ourselves.”

—**Nicolaus Tideman**, Virginia Tech

To some, the word *populism* suggests the tyranny of the mob; to others, it suggests a xenophobic nativism. It is often even considered conducive to (if not simply identical to) fascism. In *Democratic Theory Naturalized: The Foundations of Distilled Populism*, Walter Horn uses his theory of “CHOICE Voluntarism” to offer solutions to some of the most perplexing problems in democratic theory and distill populism to its core premise: giving people the power to govern themselves without the constraints imposed by those on the left or the right. Beginning with explanations of what it means to vote and what makes one society better off than another, Horn analyzes what makes for fair aggregation and appropriate, deliberative representation. Through his examination of the American government, Horn suggests solutions to contemporary problems such as gerrymandering, immigration control, and campaign finance, and offers answers to age-old questions like why dissenters should obey the majority and who should have the right to vote in various elections.

Walter Horn received his PhD from Brown University.



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DISTILLED POPULISM

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