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Feeling Democracy

Emotional Politics in the New Millennium

Edited by Sarah Tobias and Arlene Stein

DESCRIPTION

Cultural critic Lauren Berlant wrote that “politics is always emotional,” and her words hold especially true for politics in the twenty-first century. From Obama to Trump, from Black Lives Matter to the anti-abortion movement, politicians and activists appeal to hope, fear, anger, and pity, all amplified by social media.

The essays in *Feeling Democracy* examine how both reactionary and progressive politics are driven largely by emotional appeals to the public. The contributors in this collection cover everything from immigrants’ rights movements to white nationalist rallies to show how solidarities forged around gender, race, and sexuality become catalysts for a passionate democratic politics. Some essays draw parallels between today’s activist strategies and the use of emotion in women-led radical movements from the 1960s and 1970s, while others expand the geographic scope of the collection by considering Asian decolonial politics and Egyptian pro-democracy protests.

Incorporating scholarship from fields as varied as law, political science, philosophy, psychoanalysis, and history, *Feeling Democracy* considers how emotional rhetoric in politics can be a double-edged sword—often wielded by authoritarian populists who seek to undermine democracy but sometimes helping to bring about a genuine renewal of participatory democracy.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

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ARLENE STEIN is distinguished professor of sociology at Rutgers University. She is the author or editor of nine books, including *Unbound: Transgender Men and the Remaking of Identity* and *The Stranger Next Door: The Story of a Small Community’s Battle Over Sex, Faith and Civil Rights*.

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