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**On voting behavior in the United
States**

**This is the first book-length
comparison of the dynamics of**

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electoral behaviour across a wide range of European countries over the past forty years. Leading scholars come together to assess how voting patterns have changed in six established democracies: Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

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When voter turnout is high, Democrats have an advantage--or so the truism goes. But, it is true? In The Turnout Myth, Daron Shaw and John Petrocik refute the widely held convention that high voter participation benefits Democrats while low involvement helps

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Republicans. The authors examine over 50 years of presidential, gubernatorial, Senatorial, and House election data to show that there is no consistent partisan effect associated with voter turnout in national elections. Instead, less-engaged citizens' responses to

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short-term forces-candidate appeal, issues, scandals, and the like-determine election turnout. Moreover, Republican and Democratic candidates are equally affected by short-term forces. The consistency of these effects suggests that partisan conflict over

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eligibility, registration, and voting rules and regulations is less important for election outcomes than both sides seem to believe. Featuring powerful evidence and analytical acumen, this book provides a new foundation for thinking about U.S. elections.

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The first edition of Get Out the Vote! broke ground by introducing a new scientific approach to the challenge of voter mobilization and profoundly influenced how campaigns operate. In this expanded and updated edition, the authors incorporate data from more

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than one hundred new studies, which shed new light on the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of various campaign tactics, including door-to-door canvassing, e-mail, direct mail, and telephone calls. Two new chapters focus on the effectiveness of mass media

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campaigns and events such as candidate forums and Election Day festivals. Available in time for the core of the 2008 presidential campaign, this practical guide on voter mobilization is sure to be an important resource for consultants, candidates, and grassroots

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organizations. Praise for the first edition: "Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber have studied turnout for years. Their findings, based on dozens of controlled experiments done as part of actual campaigns, are summarized in a slim and readable new book called Get Out

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the Vote!, which is bound to become a bible for politicians and activists of all stripes." —Alan B. Kreuger, in the New York Times "Get Out the Vote! shatters conventional wisdom about GOTV." —Hal Malchow in Campaigns & Elections "Green and Gerber's

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recent book represents important innovations in the study of turnout."—Political Science Review

"Green and Gerber have provided a valuable resource for grassroots campaigns across the spectrum."—National Journal

Performance Politics and the British

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Voter

**Images of Voting/Visions of
Democracy**

**The Routledge Handbook of
Elections, Voting Behavior and
Public Opinion**

**A Comprehensive Theory of Voter
Turnout**

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The American Voter

How Voters Decide

In this timely book, Martin Wattenberg confronts the question of what low participation rates mean for democracy. At the individual level, turnout decline has been highest among the types of

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people who most need to have electoral decisions simplified for them through a strong party system--those with the least education, political knowledge, and life experience.

This book attempts to redirect the field of voting behavior research by

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proposing a paradigm-shifting framework for studying voter decision making. An innovative experimental methodology is presented for getting 'inside the heads' of citizens as they confront the overwhelming rush of information from modern

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presidential election campaigns. Four broad theoretically-defined types of decision strategies that voters employ to help decide which candidate to support are described and operationally-defined. Individual and campaign-related factors that lead voters to adopt

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one or another of these strategies are examined. Most importantly, this research proposes a new normative focus for the scientific study of voting behavior: we should care about not just which candidate received the most votes, but also how many citizens voted correctly -

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that is, in accordance with their own fully-informed preferences.

Shows that judgment of party competence is at the heart of electoral choice in contemporary Britain.

Combines positive political theory, social network research and

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computational modeling, explaining why some people are more likely to vote than others.

The Act of Voting

Electoral Shocks

Converting Civic Attitudes into

Civic Action

Identities, Institutions and Locale

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Duty and Choice

The Many Faces of Strategic Voting

If at one time we thought that the movement to science would yield unification of the discipline, it is now apparent that there are many roads to science. Still it is important for us

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to consider yet again what the appropriate goals are for our scientific enterprise. What works in theory building; induction and deduction; prediction and control; the search for useful principles to guide us OCo examining these

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questions, we can build a better science. Political science has come so far as a discipline that different schools and scholars have different interpretations of science in the study of politics, and that diversity is important to maintain. Advances

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made in the study of political institutions and behavior are described in twelve essays from the 1983 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association . Addressing they do not employ any single approach to

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the study of the science of politics. Taken as a whole, they illustrate the multiplicity of interpretations that are presently given to the common enterprise."

The study of voting behaviour remains a vibrant sub-discipline of

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political science. The Handbook of Electoral Behaviour is an authoritative and wide ranging survey of this dynamic field, drawing together a team of the world's leading scholars to provide a state-of-the-art review that sets

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the agenda for future study. Taking an interdisciplinary approach and focusing on a range of countries, the handbook is composed of eight parts. The first five cover the principal theoretical paradigms, establishing the state of the art in

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their conceptualisation and application, and followed by chapters on their specific challenges and innovative applications in contemporary voting studies. The remaining three parts explore elements of the voting

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process to understand their different effects on vote outcomes. The SAGE Handbook of Electoral Behaviour is an essential benchmark publication for advanced students, researchers and practitioners in the fields of

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politics, sociology, psychology and research methods.

Hacking the Electorate focuses on the consequences of campaigns using microtargeting databases to mobilize voters in elections. Eitan Hersh shows that most of what

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campaigns know about voters comes from a core set of public records, and the content of public records varies from state to state. This variation accounts for differences in campaign strategies and voter coalitions across the

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nation.

Argues with the standard interpretation of the American voter as incompetent in matters of policy.

The Scope of Effects

The Oxford Handbook of Social and Political Trust

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The Evolution of the Study of
Voting and Voters
Electoral Rules and Electoral
Behaviour
The Science of Voting Machine
Technology

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Voters do not always choose their preferred candidate on election day. Often they cast their ballots to prevent a particular outcome, as when their own preferred candidate has no hope of winning and they want to prevent another,

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undesirable candidate's victory; or, they vote to promote a single-party majority in parliamentary systems, when their own candidate is from a party that has no hope of winning. In their thought-provoking book

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The Many Faces of Strategic Voting, Laura B. Stephenson, John H. Aldrich, and André Blais first provide a conceptual framework for understanding why people vote strategically, and what the differences are between

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sincere and strategic voting behaviors. Expert contributors then explore the many facets of strategic voting through case studies in Great Britain, Spain, Canada, Japan, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and the

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European Union.

When survey research, statistics, and electronic data processing were first introduced, they held out promise that a new level of political knowledge would be created. Applied to the study

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of voting behavior, survey research promised an understanding of the factors determining the outcome of an election, that political history could be based on rich and current data, and that we could begin to understand the

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role of elections in constitutional democracy. The truth as Peter B. Natchez shows, is that despite the opportunity provided by this revolution, voting studies have failed to make significant contributions to

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democratic theory or political history. The findings of voting studies have spread from the universities into the political system with a rather grim message. In its simplest form the message is this: the electorate does not measure

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up to the task thrust upon it by democracy. The studies conclude that voters choose candidates for reasons having little relevance to the success of the political system, and little relevance even to politics. Thus political

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science, in shifting from an optimistic focus on theory to a strong emphasis on empiricism, became a source of pessimism. One cannot study democracy or the democratic process without a point of view on democracy.

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The scientific method requires a point of view: science is not only a method for discovering reality, but for addressing well-structured questions. Natchez identifies goals for democracy, freedom and tolerance, and

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consciousness in decision making. Elections serve two functions; one, filling constitutional offices, and two, a symbolic function rooted in democratic experience that is more ambiguous, but no less vital

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as a part of regime analysis. A political science that connects these two aspects of voting will require an analysis of why voters vote the way they do to fill offices; but, more importantly, it will also require an understanding of

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the symbolic function of elections.

An in-depth look into the psychology of voters around the world, how voters shape elections, and how elections transform citizens and affect their lives Could

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understanding whether elections make people happy and bring them closure matter more than who they vote for? What if people did not vote for what they want but for what they believe is right based on roles they

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implicitly assume? Do elections make people cry? This book invites readers on a unique journey inside the mind of a voter using unprecedented data from the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France,

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***South Africa, and Georgia
throughout a period when the
world evolved from the
centrist dominance of Obama
and Mandela to the shock
victories of Brexit and Trump.
Michael Bruter and Sarah
Harrison explore three***

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interrelated aspects of the heart and mind of voters: the psychological bases of their behavior, how they experience elections and the emotions this entails, and how and when elections bring democratic resolution. The

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authors examine unique concepts including electoral identity, atmosphere, ergonomics, and hostility. From filming the shadow of voters in the polling booth, to panel study surveys, election diaries, and interviews,

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Bruter and Harrison unveil insights into the conscious and subconscious sides of citizens' psychology throughout a unique decade for electoral democracy. They highlight how citizens' personality, memory, and

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identity affect their vote and experience of elections, when elections generate hope or hopelessness, and how subtle differences in electoral arrangements interact with voters' psychology to trigger different emotions. Inside the

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Mind of a Voter radically shifts electoral science, moving away from implicitly institution-centric visions of behavior to understand elections from the point of view of voters.

A powerful new research

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design in the field of voter mobilization has created a more comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of various get-out-the-vote campaign methods. With an increase in field experiments in the past few years, researchers,

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campaigns, and policymakers have gleaned important insights into voter participation. Until recently, voting behavior was mainly studied through survey research. And while large national surveys have had a

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tremendous impact on scientific and policy debates, concerns about the accuracy of survey research remain. Surveys suffer from two major drawbacks. First is the possibility of misreporting by survey participants.

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Measuring voter turnout through survey research relies on respondents' disclosure of whether they voted or not, and some voters may feel embarrassed that they did not vote and provide false answers. Second,

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campaigns may focus their energies on likely voters. If so, surveys may show a correlation between voter turnout and voter mobilization activity even when voter mobilization campaigns are ineffective.

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Aware of the limitations of survey research, political scientists have recently turned to field experimentation to gain a clearer picture of the causal implications of voter mobilization efforts on

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specific populations. This issue of The ANNALS presents the results of several field experiments, which are at the forefront of research in this area. These field experiments draw important distinctions between different forms of

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mobilization activities and their effects on a variety of populations - studying personal versus impersonal mobilization efforts as well as partisan versus non-partisan efforts. Challenging conventional wisdom and

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clarifying important methodological issues, this issue of The ANNALS provides a new approach to the study of voter mobilization. Taken together, these intriguing articles report advances in knowledge gained by field

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experiments and have the potential to reshape the past assumptions about campaign effectiveness and influence future strategies on mobilizing voters. This issue will also serve as a springboard for new work in

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the field as political scientists grapple with filling in existing gaps - such as the effects of mass media - and move toward an even clearer theoretical understanding of the conditions under which interventions work.

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Professionals, volunteers and anyone directly involved in voter mobilization will discover important findings in this collection of studies. And, because the research was conducted in the real world of campaigns and elections, the

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authors help answer the critical question of how to apply scholarly insights to voter outreach programs on a grand scale.

***The Demobilization of American Voters
Elections and Voters***

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***Essays on the Scientific Study
of Politics***

The Science of Politics

***The Oxford Handbook of
American Elections and
Political Behavior***

An Introduction

An energetic assessment of how

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a team of academics, statisticians and strategists are reshaping today's political campaigns explores war room strategies based in behavioral psychology and randomized experiments, offering insight into the

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campaigns currently being run such political figures as Barack Obama, Rick Perry and Mitt Romney.

The Reasoning Voter is an insider's look at campaigns, candidates, media, and voters

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that convincingly argues that voters make informed logical choices. Samuel L. Popkin analyzes three primary campaigns—Carter in 1976; Bush and Reagan in 1980; and Hart, Mondale, and Jackson in

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1984—to arrive at a new model of the way voters sort through commercials and sound bites to choose a candidate. Drawing on insights from economics and cognitive psychology, he convincingly demonstrates that,

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as trivial as campaigns often appear, they provide voters with a surprising amount of information on a candidate's views and skills. For all their shortcomings, campaigns do matter. "Professor Popkin has brought V.O. Key's

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contention that voters are rational into the media age. This book is a useful rebuttal to the cynical view that politics is a wholly contrived business, in which unscrupulous operatives manipulate the emotions of distrustful but gullible

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citizens. The reality, he shows, is both more complex and more hopeful than that."—David S. Broder, *The Washington Post*

The use of wedge issues such as abortion, gay marriage, and immigration has become standard

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political strategy in contemporary presidential campaigns. Why do candidates use such divisive appeals? Who in the electorate is persuaded by these controversial issues? And what are the consequences for American

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democracy? In this provocative and engaging analysis of presidential campaigns, Sunshine Hillygus and Todd Shields identify the types of citizens responsive to campaign information, the reasons they are responsive, and

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the tactics candidates use to sway these pivotal voters. The Persuadable Voter shows how emerging information technologies have changed the way candidates communicate, who they target, and what issues

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they talk about. As Hillygus and Shields explore the complex relationships between candidates, voters, and technology, they reveal potentially troubling results for political equality and democratic governance. The

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Persuadable Voter examines recent and historical campaigns using a wealth of data from national surveys, experimental research, campaign advertising, archival work, and interviews with campaign practitioners. With its

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rigorous multimethod approach and broad theoretical perspective, the book offers a timely and thorough understanding of voter decision making, candidate strategy, and the dynamics of presidential campaigns.

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Electoral behaviour is one of the most dynamic areas of study in the field of comparative politics today. A strongly emerging theme in recent years has been the need to set the study of voting behaviour in its wider context, that

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is to understand how the behaviour of the individual (non)voter is conditioned by the environment in which the election is occurring. The main motivation for this book is to respond to this need. The Act of Voting examines

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voting – both the question of whether to vote (ie. electoral turnout) and who to vote for – in context from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives. In addition to other topics and themes, chapters explore the

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national or social identities of individuals and how these contribute to complex social dynamics, discuss the institutions that determine who is able to vote and over what, and analyse the impact of the locale on the voting

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act. Offering chapters by up-and-coming scholars in the field of electoral behaviour, as well as reflections on how the act of voting should be viewed in the broadest context – normatively, institutionally and socially, this

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book will be of interest to students and scholars researching political behaviour, public opinion and politics more generally.

Information Processing in Election Campaigns

Making Young Voters

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Accuracy, Reliability, and Security
: Hearing Before the
Subcommittee on Technology,
Information Policy,
Intergovernmental Relations, and
the Census of the Committee on
Government Reform, House of

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Representatives, One Hundred
Eighth Congress, Second
Session, July 20, 2004
For and Against
Inside the Mind of a Voter
Political Science

This edited collection seeks to map

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current thinking and practice in order to assess the extent to which the consumer, as opposed to the voter, should now to be elevated to a central position within our understanding of the relationship between the public and political

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spheres. The volume will firstly offer an overview of how consumerism has been applied to our understanding of political and voter behaviour so outlining the book's key concepts. The volume then follows a processual approach to

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developing its analysis, offering essays that explore contrasting critical perspectives on the topic. The group of essays focus on conceptualising political consumerism; the next look at how political organisations use the tools

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of positioning and branding, so developing an overview of consumer-driven political behaviour. The focus then moves to the nature of political communication, both by parties and the media, and how this reflects the

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neo-liberal ontological perspective that encourages voting to be treated as part of consumer behaviour. Finally the book turns to the voter-consumer, looking firstly at the processing of messages and how this can be analysed from a

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consumerist perspective; and finally on voting behaviour itself, exploring the extent to which rational choice and economic models of voting have been increasingly a reflection of a consumerist perspective. Each chapter will approach the subject

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from a discrete perspective which will be outlined within its introduction. However the chapters will each explore the following: • Whether parties or voters are approaching one another using consumerist perspectives; • How

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this can be mapped empirically through specific examples or case studies; • The extent to which consumer behaviour models and perspectives help us understand voter or party behaviour.

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Electoral Shocks: The Volatile

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Voter in a Turbulent World offers a novel perspective on British elections, focusing on the role of electoral shocks in the context of increasing electoral volatility. It demonstrates and explains the long-term trend in volatility, how shocks

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have contributed to the level of electoral volatility, and also which parties have benefited from the ensuing volatility. It follows in the tradition of British Election Study books, providing a comprehensive account of specific election

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outcomes- the General Elections of 2015 and 2017-and a more general and novel approach to understanding electoral change.

The authors examine five electoral shocks that affected the elections of 2015 and 2017: the rise in

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immigration after 2004, particularly from Eastern Europe; the Global Financial Crisis prior to 2010; the coalition government of the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats between 2010 and 2015; the Scottish Independence

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Referendum in 2014; and the European Union Referendum in 2016. The focus on electoral shocks offers an overarching explanation for the volatility in British elections, alongside the long-term trends that have led to this

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point. It offers a way to understand the rise and fall of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), Labour's disappointing 2015 performance and its later unexpected gains, the collapse in support for the Liberal Democrats,

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the dramatic gains of the Scottish National Party (SNP) in 2015, and the continuing period of tumultuous politics that has followed the EU referendum and the General Election of 2017. It provides a new way of understanding electoral

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choice in Britain, and also beyond, and a better understanding of the outcomes of recent elections. The study of elections, voting behavior and public opinion are arguably among the most prominent and intensively

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researched sub-fields within Political Science. It is an evolving sub-field, both in terms of theoretical focus and in particular, technical developments and has made a considerable impact on popular understanding of the core

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components of liberal democracies in terms of electoral systems and outcomes, changes in public opinion and the aggregation of interests. This handbook details the key developments and state of the art research across elections,

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voting behavior and the public opinion by providing both an advanced overview of each core area and engaging in debate about the relative merits of differing approaches in a comprehensive and accessible way. Bringing

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geographical scope and depth, with comparative chapters that draw on material from across the globe, it will be a key reference point both for advanced level students and researchers developing knowledge and producing new material in

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these sub-fields and beyond. The Routledge Handbook of Elections, Voting Behavior and Public Opinion is an authoritative and key reference text for students, academics and researchers engaged in the study of electoral

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research, public opinion and voting behavior.

Debunking conventional wisdom about voting patterns and allaying recent concerns about electoral stability and possible third party movements, the authors uncover

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faulty practices that have resulted in a skewed sense of the American voting population.

How to Increase Voter Turnout

The Reasoning Voter

The European Voter

Voters and Voting

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The Victory Lab

Voting Rates and Partisan

Outcomes in American National
Elections

The Science of Voter

Mobilization SAGE Publications,
Incorporated

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The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior offers comprehensive coverage of the various theoretical approaches to the study of American elections and political behavior. The chapters

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are thoughtful and creative, providing broad overviews of intellectual developments and challenges, as well as incisive commentary on the accomplishments of, and challenges facing, scholars of

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American politics. Substantively, the Handbook includes chapters focusing on various approaches and issues in research design, political participation, vote choice, presidential and non-presidential elections, and

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issues, interests and elites as influences on individuals' political behaviour. Each of the chapters offers a working research bibliography, as well as retrospective evaluations of research and discussions of

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fruitful paths for future research. The Oxford Handbooks of American Politics are a set of reference books offering authoritative and engaging critical overviews of the state of scholarship on American politics.

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Each volume focuses on a particular aspect of the field. The project is under the General Editorship of George C. Edwards III, and distinguished specialists in their respective fields edit each volume. The Handbooks aim not

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just to report on the discipline, but also to shape it as scholars critically assess the scholarship on a topic and propose directions in which it needs to move. The series is an indispensable reference for anyone working in

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American politics. General Editor for The Oxford Handbooks of American Politics: George C. Edwards III

The most important element in every election is getting voters to the polls—these get-out-the-vote

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(GOTV) efforts make the difference between winning and losing office. With the first two editions of Get Out the Vote, Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber broke ground by introducing a new scientific

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approach to the challenge of voter mobilization that profoundly influenced how campaigns operate. Get Out the Vote has become the reference text for those who manage campaigns and study voter mobilization. In

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this expanded and updated edition, Green and Gerber incorporate data from more than 100 new studies, which shed new light on the costeffectiveness and efficiency of various campaign tactics, including door-todoor

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canvassing, email, direct mail, and telephone calls. Two new chapters focus on the effectiveness of registration drives and messaging tactics. The new Get Out the Vote will be available as the country gears up

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for the 2016 presidential campaign. This readable, practical guide on voter mobilization is sure to be an important resource for consultants, candidates, and grassroots organizations, as well

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as a valuable teaching tool in courses on campaigns and elections. Praise for Previous Editions: "Green and Gerber have studied turnout for years. Their findings, based on dozens of controlled experiments done

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as part of actual campaigns, are summarized in... Get Out the Vote, which is bound to become a bible for politicians and activists of all stripes." —Alan Krueger in the New York Times "Get Out the Vote shatters conventional

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wisdom about GOTV." —Hal Malchow in Campaigns and Elections "Green and Gerber's recent book represents important innovations in the study of turnout." — Political Science Review "Green and Gerber have

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provided a valuable resource for grassroots campaigns across the spectrum." — National Journal

This book presents an alternative empirical theory of voter turnout.

Named the

Mobilization/Demobilization

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Theory, it analyzes voter turnout of different segments of the voting age population in terms of barriers created to prevent participation and efforts to stimulate participation. This study challenges the theory that the

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characteristics of nonvoters, low levels of education and political apathy, are the root causes of poor voter turnout among persons of low socioeconomic status (SES). The Mobilization/Demobilization

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Theory argues instead that nonvoting results from the behavior of politicians, political elites, and the political system and not from the characteristics of the poor and working class. The study suggests that voter

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turnout for national elections could reach an 80 percent level if a major party focuses on these two groups. Statistical evidence is given to show why the poor and working class do not vote when neither party represents

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them. Chapter One of the book presents the evidence against the current theory of voter turnout--the Standard Socioeconomic model. Chapter Two presents the alternative theory--the

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Mobilization/Demobilization model. Chapters Three and Four cover the issues of removing obstacles to voting and nonpolicy related organizational efforts. This is followed by a discussion in Chapter Five of the major party

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focus of nonparticipators and a discussion in Chapter Six of the impact of party alignment. The final chapter takes a look at mobilization and demobilization today. This book makes for informative reading to anyone

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interested in political behavior, public opinion, electoral politics, or political parties. It should be of special interest to persons active in election activity, from grassroots organizers to persons making election regulations.

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The Persuadable Voter

*Where Have All the Voters
Gone?*

*How Campaigns Perceive Voters
A Social Theory of Political
Participation*

Hacking the Electorate

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On Voter Competence

The solution to youth voter turnout requires focus on helping young people follow through on their political interests and intentions.

An accessible textbook that

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provides an overview of the historical origins and development of voting theory, this guide explores theories of voting and electoral behaviour at a level suitable for college students.

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Across representative democracies, there is a strong variation in the rules that govern the electoral process. A classic insight in political science is that these rules, e.g., the presence of a majoritarian

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or a proportional system have a profound effect on the way a democracy functions. We know less however, about the way voters actually respond to these electoral rules. This kind of effect presupposes that voters

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not only are aware of the electoral system, but also that they adapt to the incentives offered by the system. In this volume, a group of international scholars investigate whether this is indeed the case. The

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various chapters in this volume deal with the effect of proportionality, mixed-member systems, compulsory voting and preferential voting. The chapters are based on recent data and state-of-the-art

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methods. The introduction confronts the findings of the various chapters with the allegedly universal validity of vote choice models in the literature. The research presented in this volume mainly

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deals with elections in Europe, but the findings speak to the broader community of electoral scholars. The chapters originally published as a special issue in *West European Politics*. "This Handbook covers social

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and political trust. Essays cover the foundations of both types of trust, whether they have common or different roots. The Handbook includes essays on rational choice approaches to trust, including trust games and

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experiments-as well as an essay on how we measure trust.

There are essays on the cultural and social psychological roots of trust, including how we are more likely to trust people like ourselves than strangers, as

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well as the place of trust in democracy- how national identity shapes trust, how trust forms in developing countries and in new democracies. Do minority groups are less trusting than the dominant

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group in a society? Do immigrants adapt to the trust levels of their host countries and do patterns of residence shape faith in others? Does interaction with people in groups build trust? Does the

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welfare state promote trust and in turn does trust lead to greater well-being and to better health outcomes? There are also essays on the foundations of political trust, political trust and the economy and elections.

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There are essays linking trust to the law, corruption, tax compliance, and economic growth. Authors also discuss how trust shapes cooperation in the international system and how it shapes attitudes toward

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international institutions and
foreign countries"--

The SAGE Handbook of
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Compulsory Voting

Tactical Behavior in Electoral
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The Science of Voter
Mobilization

A New Approach to Electoral
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Get Out the Vote

*Few events in American politics over
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more attention than the increasing number of voters calling themselves Independent. By the early 1970s Independents outnumbered Republicans, according to many eminent experts on voting behavior. Yet the authors of this incisive new commentary on American politics

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claim that most of this widespread speculation on declining party affiliation is simply wrong. They contend that most so-called Independents lean strongly toward one of the two parties and resemble—in all important respects—either Democrats or

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Republicans. Contrary to expert opinion, only a small segment of voters are truly "independent" of either major party. Based on the most up-to-date 1990 data, The Myth of the Independent Voter provides a roadmap of the political arena for the general reader and scholar alike.

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Debunking conventional wisdom about voting patterns and allaying recent concerns about electoral stability and possible third party movements, the authors uncover faulty polling practices that have resulted in a skewed sense of the American voting population.

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Demonstrating that most of what has been written about Independents for more than thirty years is myth, this challenging book offers a trenchant new understanding of the party system, voting behavior, and public opinion.

Organized into three sections focused

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on turnout, vote choice, and electoral systems, the volume seeks to provide novel insights into the most pressing questions for scholars of vote choice and voting behavior.

In many democracies, voter turnout is low and getting lower. If the people choose not to govern themselves,

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should they be forced to do so? For Jason Brennan, compulsory voting is unjust and a petty violation of citizens' liberty. The median non-voter is less informed and rational, as well as more biased, than the median voter. According to Lisa Hill, compulsory voting is a reasonable

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imposition on personal liberty. Hill points to the discernible benefits of compulsory voting and argues that high turnout elections are more democratically legitimate. The authors - both well-known for their work on voting and civic engagement - debate questions such as: • Do

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citizens have a duty to vote, and is it an enforceable duty? • Does compulsory voting violate citizens' liberty? If so, is this sufficient grounds to oppose it? Or is it a justifiable violation? Might it instead promote liberty on the whole? • Is low turnout a problem or a blessing?

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Bibliographical footnotes. Voting studies, by W. Berns.--The science of administration; Herbert A. Simon, by H.J. Storing.--The group approach; Arthur F. Bentley, by L. Weinstein.--Scientific propaganda; Harold D. Lasswell, by R. Horwitz.--An epilogue, by L. Strauss.

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The Myth of the Independent Voter

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Voters or Consumers

A comparative introduction