



# Rebooting Democracy: A Citizen's Guide to Reinventing Politics

*Manuel Arriaga*

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"If you want things organized, you might have to read some quite tricky books about democracy [such as this one]."

- **RUSSELL BRAND**, reading excerpts of *Rebooting Democracy* on his show *The Trews*

Unless you are a banker, by now you must have realized that politicians don't serve your interests. Our democracies are failing us and, from Occupy Wall Street to the riots in São Paulo, millions have taken to the streets to voice their frustration. But is there anything we can do about it?

*Rebooting Democracy: A Citizen's Guide to Reinventing Politics* takes readers on a global journey in search of solutions. From Vancouver to Saint Petersburg, from France to Australia, we discover that there are sensible ways to reform our democracies. As we travel the globe and zoom in on these real-world democratic breakthroughs, we also pick up insights from the social sciences--from key ideas in political science, sociology and economics to the latest research in social and cognitive psychology--that clarify why elected politicians will always fail to represent us.

In a concise and engaging way, this book shows why the problems we are facing arise from inescapable, structural aspects of our political systems--and invites readers to explore five concrete, innovative ideas to help repair them.

Praise for *Rebooting Democracy*:

"It is good, Rebooting Democracy."

-**DEBORAH ORR, columnist for *The Guardian***

"A quick and easy read that makes the case for why existing political systems are inadequate and then shows examples of how to move us past those problems and toward more democratic systems. Along with many clever insights, *Rebooting Democracy: A Citizen's Guide to Reinventing Politics* points the way to where democracy is heading."

-**PROFESSOR JOHN GASTIL, Director of the McCourtney Institute for Democracy at Penn State University**

"A rare democracy book that manages to be practical, realistic and radical. A great read for those who despair of any actionable options."

-**TOM STEINBERG, founder and director of mySociety**

"This timely book is provoking and challenging in trying to find a way out of the crisis of trust and legitimacy afflicting Western democracies. In championing innovative ways of engaging citizens it shows us a compelling way forward. Elected politicians are unlikely to enjoy it, which is the best recommendation I can give as to why we should all read it."

-**LORD JIM KNIGHT, Life Peer, former MP (2001-2010) and Minister of State (2006-2010)**

"A bold challenge to the status quo that shows, with some very good examples, how democracy can work. A concise and readable book that makes a cogent case for reinventing politics. Well worth a read."

**-KATHARINE QUARMBY, award-winning journalist; former Britain correspondent for *The Economist* and political producer for *BBC Newsnight***

"Passionately argued, yet plainly written, *Rebooting Democracy* is part scholarship, part manifesto--a wholehearted call for civic engagement at a time of growing dissatisfaction with politics. Manuel Arriaga's book challenges the idea that our democracies cannot be improved and successfully builds a case for political renewal."

**-ALBERTO ALEMANNO, Professor at HEC Paris and NYU School of Law; Founder of eLabEurope**

"A necessary book for this age of ours and a call to thought and action that I shall prize and recommend to friends for a long time."

**-JOHN BURNSIDE, writer, one of only two poets to have won both the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Forward Poetry Prize for the same book**

"A short, sharp shock to the body politic, *Rebooting Democracy: A Citizen's Guide to Reinventing Politics* is a smart critique of what's wrong with the current system--and what needs to change. Accessible, engaging and brimming with ideas for reinventing politics in the 21st century."

**-PETER GEOGHEGAN, editor of *Political Insight*, the magazine of the British Political Studies Association**



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