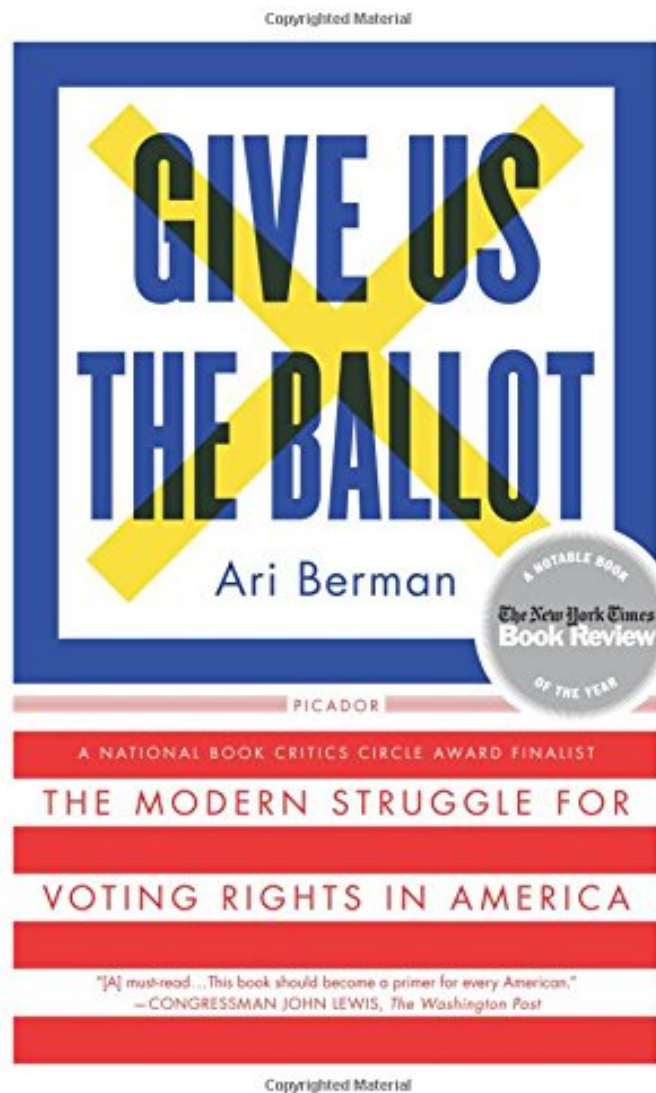


Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America

Ari Berman

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#122125 in Books Berman Ari 2016-08-02 2016-08-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.24 x 1.08 x 5.551, .0 #File Name: 1250094720384 pages Give Us the Ballot The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America | File size: 19.Mb

Ari Berman : Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America:

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Essential, riveting and vivid. By J. Sattler Give Us the Ballot is the

history of how the Voting Rights Act came into being, took hold and changed America. It's also the story of the conservative undertow that contested the law from its beginning, recognized its value in shifting the polarities of our two major parties via "The Southern Strategy" and then launched a counterrevolution during the Reagan Administration set on undermining the law before the nation's changing demographics could pose a serious threat to the right's southern and rural hegemony. You'll recognize many of the stars of the conservative effort to limit voting rights -- from William Rehnquist to John Roberts to Ted Cruz. But it's the life of John Lewis who provides the through line of Berman's spirited narrative. From Selma to Shelby, Lewis is a participant and a witness to the massive changes he helped force and the backlash those changes sparked. No testimony is more stirring or crucial to understanding the stakes -- both moral and political -- involved in providing America's most vulnerable citizens access to the ballot. How many of you are going to leave here and remember the blood of the martyrs? William J. Barber, the architect of North Carolinas Moral Mondays movement that rose up in part to oppose the rights attack on voting rights, asked a crowd in 2014. Berman's book is asking us that same question. 18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A powerful and provocative look at attempts to limit the right to vote. By Mr. Michael C. Morrow. This book provides a superb history of the events leading to the Voting Rights Act, and the history of the impact of the Voting Rights Act, including countless efforts to limit the voting or impact of minority voters. The book also makes clear that the impetus behind voter fraud concerns and restrictions on early voting and registration is really an attempt to limit the voting of the poor and minority voters. Royal Masset, the former executive director of the Texas Republican party said that "anyone who says that a lack of voter ID won't discriminate against otherwise legal minority voters is lying" and said voter ID laws were "sheer racism" designed to suppress Democratic voters (at 259-260). Cutbacks in early voting hours were defended by the Republican party chair in Ohio who said we "shouldn't contort the voting process to accommodate the urban-read African-American-voter-turnout machine" (at 264). 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Keep fighting! By FnDan. Tremendous and shocking history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the continued struggle for voting access to present day. It was disturbing to read how vigorously Southern conservatives fought passage of the VRA and still continue to try to pass laws to restrict access to the vote for young, poor and minorities under the guise of "fighting voter fraud" (though NO credible evidence exists that voter fraud is a legitimate problem in our elections.) Though the country has made great strides since the 60's in terms of access to the vote and political representation for African Americans, Berman makes the strong case that the provisions of the VRA are as important today as they were 50 years ago, despite what the Supreme Court ruled in the damaging 2013 case weakening the Act. Conservatives realize that their message is out-dated, and the only way to sustain their power is to try to suppress the vote of citizens who disagree with them...disgusting stuff. We owe it to the brave activists of the Civil Rights movement who bled and died for suffrage to keep fighting to ensure that ALL voices can be heard in the American democracy.

A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, Nonfiction. Named a Notable Book of the Year by The New York Times Book Review and The Washington Post. Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, The Boston Globe, and Kirkus Reviews (Best Nonfiction). Countless books have been written about the civil rights movement, but far less attention has been paid to what happened after the dramatic passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and the turbulent forces it unleashed. In this groundbreaking narrative history, Ari Berman charts both the transformation of American democracy under the VRA and the counterrevolution that has sought to limit it from the moment the act was signed into law. The VRA is widely regarded as the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement, and yet more than fifty years later the battles over race, representation, and political power continue, as lawmakers devise new strategies to keep minorities out of the voting booth, while the Supreme Court has declared a key part of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. Through meticulous research, in-depth interviews, and incisive on-the-ground reporting, *Give Us the Ballot* offers the first comprehensive history of its kind, and provides new insight into one of the most vital political and civil rights issues of our time.

An engrossing narrative history . . . Berman vividly shows that the power to define the scope of voting rights in America has shifted from Congress to the courts. Jeffrey Rosen, *The New York Times Book* (Editor's Choice) [*Give Us the Ballot*] should become a primer for every American, but especially for congressional lawmakers and staffers, because it so capably describes the intricate interplay between grass-roots activism and the halls of Congress . . . Congress must fix the Voting Rights Act, and Berman's book explains why, without passion or favoritism. It is the first history of the contemporary voting rights movement in the United States. It is long overdue, but Berman's extensive reporting makes it well worth the wait. John Lewis, *The Washington Post*. Ari Berman's important recent book, *Give Us the Ballot*, explores the struggle over voting rights unleashed by the civil-rights revolution, and how it continues to this day . . . Berman has performed a valuable public service by illuminating this history. Eric Foner, *The Nation*. Fifty years after passage of the Voting Rights Act, *Give Us the Ballot* makes a powerful case that voting rights are under assault in 21st century America. Current events underscore the book's timeliness. Wendy Smith, *The Los Angeles Times*. Ari Berman's *Give Us the Ballot*, a history of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, makes for an excellent extended

example of the mechanisms by which race in the South becomes race in the nation. Nicholas Lemann, *The New Yorker* An urgent, moving, deeply important history of the modern right to vote in the United States Michael O'Donnell, *The Christian Science Monitor* Comprehensive . . . The value of *Give Us the Ballot* lies in illustrating that the [Voting Rights Act] has never been universally accepted . . . Ari Berman convincingly shows that the fight for voting rights is far from over. Jordan Michael Smith, *The Boston Globe* An extremely valuable and terribly timely history of the Voting Rights Act . . . Berman deftly weaves together the politics, the intellectual and legal arguments, the legislative battles, the counterrevolutionary schemes, and the tragic and ironic turns in the story. Harvey J. Kaye, *The Daily Beast* Illuminating . . . *Give Us the Ballot* is a smart compendium of election "reforms." Berman removes the facade of intellectual honesty--where voting-rights opponents even bothered to make an argument--and lays bare the many, many ways to game the outcome of an election. Scott Porch, *The Chicago Tribune* The voting rights struggle of the 1960s produced several moments that remain seared in the nations memory . . . Ari Berman tells the story of these stirring moments, and tells it well. But unlike many civil rights chronicles, his account begins rather than ends in the 1960s. Via a series of vivid anecdotes, he describes the tumultuous history of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) from its enactment all the way to the present day. Its an important and absorbing tale. Nicholas Stephanopoulos, *The New Rambler* Berman's reporting is expertly balanced. Walton Muyumba, *The Dallas Morning News* Just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act comes this deep dive into the legacy of the civil rights movement and why we're still fighting for the right for everyone to have a slice of the political power pie. Lara Zarum, *The Village Voice* The Voting Rights Act was signed into law 50 years ago, but according to journalist Berman, the fight for equality in voting is still taking place *The Los Angeles Times* Ari Berman's *Give Us the Ballot* explains that the VRA's 50 years have seen great gains but also consistent opposition. The specifics may have changed. The campaign to suppress turnout among minorities has not . . . Read *Give Us the Ballot*. Richmond Times-Dispatch Ari Berman's *Give Us the Ballot* is a fascinating, if also infuriating, chronicle of the modern era in voting rights - a time when those hard-won rights are suddenly in great jeopardy. Comprehensive, fair-minded and wise, the book tells a haunting story of rights won and rights lost. Jeffrey Toobin, author of *The Oath* and *The Nine* Ari Berman's *Give us the Ballot* is a must read for anyone who cares about the health of American democracy. Written with a deep respect for history, a keen journalistic sensibility, and a visceral passion for fairness, Berman's book takes us on a swift and critical journey through the last fifty years of voting in America. He begins on the Edmund Pettus bridge with the foot soldiers of Selma and concludes in the rotunda of the North Carolina statehouse with the protestors of Moral Mondays. All the critical figures of American voting rights appear in this book, but Berman allows no one story to dominate the narrative. His book is about the people, the ballot box, and our as yet unrealized ideal of fully free and fair elections. We have not yet arrived at the healthy democracy the 1965 Voting Rights Act promises is possible, but we have not given up hope. The struggle continues. Melissa Harris-Perry, host of MSNBC's *Melissa-Harris Perry Show* and Presidential Professor of Politics and International Studies at Wake Forest University Expertly taking us from the bloody streets of Selma to the current counterrevolution against the voting rights of black and poor Americans, Ari Berman reminds us that democracy can never be taken for granted, especially at a time when the courts are more than willing to abet efforts to limit the right to vote. Eric Foner, author of *Gateway to Freedom* Ari Berman has written a powerful history of the massive struggle that has taken place since 1965 over the survival of the Voting Rights Act. Berman reveals that from the moment Congress passed the landmark bill, opponents mobilized to dismantle it. The ongoing and sustained assaults on this historic legislation finally started to find success during the 1980s when opponents directed their efforts to the courts. This is a terrific, though troubling, read about the future of American democracy. Julian E. Zelizer, author of *The Fierce Urgency of Now: Lyndon Johnson, Congress, and the Battle for the Great Society* Berman does a superb job of making the history of the right to vote in America not only easily understandable, but riveting... This is the best kind of popular history-literate, passionate, and persuasive, balancing detail with accessibility. Publishers Weekly, starred review [I]ncisive... This emotional book runs the gamut... Not just a compelling history, but a cry for help in the recurring struggle to gain what is supposed to be an inalienable right. Kirkus, starred review About the Author Ari Berman is a political correspondent for *The Nation* and an investigative journalism Fellow at the Nation Institute. His writing has also appeared in *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, and he is a frequent commentator on MSNBC and NPR. His first book, *Herding Donkeys: The Fight to Rebuild the Democratic Party and Reshape American Politics*, was published in 2010. He lives in New York City.