

## When the People Rule

In recent decades, popular sovereignty has come under increasing pressure. The rise of populism, often illiberal or authoritarian, has undermined minority rights, individual autonomy, and rule of law. The expansion of international institutions and greater reliance on market and non-governmental organizations have gradually insulated large areas of policymaking from public control. In turn, these developments cast doubt on the viability and desirability of liberal democracy itself. *When the People Rule* argues that comprehending and responding to the political crises of our time requires a radical refocusing on popular sovereignty. Each chapter offers a fresh perspective and opens new avenues of inquiry into popular sovereignty, advancing debate over the very heart of this principle – what it means for the people to rule. Thorough and timely, this volume is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Ewa Atanassow is Professor of Politics at Bard College Berlin. She is the author of *Tocqueville's Dilemmas, and Ours: Sovereignty, Nationalism, Globalization* (Princeton University Press). She is the co-editor of *Liberal Moments: Reading Liberal Texts* (Bloomsbury Academic) and of *Tocqueville and the Frontiers of Democracy* (Cambridge University Press).

Thomas Bartscherer is the Peter Sourian Senior Lecturer in the Humanities at Bard College. He is co-editor of the critical edition of Hannah Arendt's *The Life of the Mind* (Wallstein Verlag), *Switching Codes: Thinking through Digital Technology in the Humanities and Arts* (University of Chicago Press), and *Erotikon: Essay on Eros, Ancient and Modern* (University of Chicago Press).

David A. Bateman is Associate Professor in Government and the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy at Cornell University. He is the author of *Disenfranchising Democracy* (Cambridge University Press), awarded the J. David Greenstone Prize, and a co-author with Ira Katznelson and John Lapinski of *Southern Nation* (Princeton University Press), awarded the V. O. Key Prize and the D. B. Hardeman Prize.

## SSRC Anxieties of Democracy

### *Editors*

John A. Ferejohn, *New York University*

Ira Katznelson, *Columbia University*

Deborah J. Yashar, *Princeton University*

With liberal democracies afflicted by doubt and disquiet, this series probes sources of current apprehensions and explores how such regimes might thrive. What array of pressures most stresses democratic ideas and institutions? Which responses might strengthen these regimes and help them flourish?

Embedded in the Social Science Research Council's program on "Anxieties of Democracy," the series focuses on how representative institutions – including elections, legislatures, political parties, the press and mass media, interest groups, social movements, and policy organizations – orient participation, learning, and accountability.

The volumes in the series further ask how particular policy challenges shape the character of democratic institutions and collective actors, and affect their capacity to address large problems in the public interest. These challenges include, but are not limited to: (1) designing democratic institutions to perform successfully under conditions of social and political polarization; (2) managing and orienting contemporary capitalism and alleviating hierarchies of inequality; (3) addressing questions of membership, including population movements and differentiated citizenship; (4) choosing policies to balance national security and civil liberty; (5) exploring the effects of global climate on citizens and the human impact on the environment; (6) managing the development of media and information technologies to ensure they enhance, rather than degrade, robust pluralism and civil political engagement.

### *Other Books in the Series*

*Can America Govern Itself?* Frances E. Lee and Nolan McCarty

*Social Media and Democracy: The State of the Field, Prospects for Reform* Nathaniel Persily and Joshua A. Tucker

*The Disinformation Age: Politics, Technology, and Disruptive Communication in the United States* W. Lance Bennett and Steven Livingston

*Who Gets What? The New Politics of Insecurity* Frances Rosenbluth and Margaret Weir

*Contested Representation: Challenges, Shortcomings and Reforms* Edited by Claudia Landwehr, Thomas Saalfeld and Armin Schäfer

Sponsored by the Social Science Research Council



The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is an independent, international, nonprofit organization driven by its mission to mobilize social science for the public good. Founded in 1923, the SSRC fosters innovative research, nurtures new generations of social scientists, deepens how inquiry is practiced within and across disciplines, and amplifies necessary knowledge on important public issues.

The SSRC is guided by the belief that justice, prosperity, and democracy all require better understanding of complex social, cultural, economic, and political processes. We work with practitioners, policymakers, and academic researchers in the social sciences, related professions, and the humanities and natural sciences. We build interdisciplinary and international networks, working with partners around the world to link research to practice and policy, strengthen individual and institutional capacities for learning, and enhance public access to information.



# When the People Rule

## *Popular Sovereignty in Theory and Practice*

Edited by

**EWA ATANASSOW**

*Bard College Berlin*

**THOMAS BARTSCHERER**

*Bard College, New York*

**DAVID A. BATEMAN**

*Cornell University, New York*



Furthermore:  
a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund

Support for this publication has been provided by  
Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund.





**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009263788](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009263788)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009263757](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009263757)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions  
of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version  
the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009263757](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009263757) under a Creative  
Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in  
any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given  
and any changes made are indicated. To view a  
copy of this license visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from  
these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009263757](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009263757)

First published 2023

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Atanassow, Ewa, editor. | Bartscherer, Thomas, editor. | Bateman,  
David A., editor.

TITLE: When the people rule : popular sovereignty in theory and practice / Ewa Atanassow,  
Thomas Bartscherer, David A. Bateman.

DESCRIPTION: New York : Cambridge University Press, [2023] | Includes bibliographical  
references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022033780 | ISBN 9781009263788 (Hardback) | ISBN 9781009263757 (eBook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Sovereignty. | Political culture. | Representative government and representation.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC JC327 .W474 2023 | DDC 320.1/5-dc23/eng/20221202

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022033780>

ISBN 978-1-009-26378-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.