Democratic Statecraft

*Political Realism and Popular Power*

The theory of statecraft explores practical politics through the strategies and maneuvers of privileged agents, whereas the theory of democracy dwells among abstract concepts and lofty values. Can these two ways of thinking be reconciled and combined? Or is statecraft destined to remain the preserve of powerful elites, leaving democracy to ineffectual idealists?

J.S. Maloy demonstrates that the Western tradition of statecraft, long considered the tool of tyrants and oligarchs, has in fact been integral to the development of democratic thought. Five case studies of political debate, ranging from ancient Greece to the United States in the 1890s, illustrate how democratic ideas can be relevant to the real world of politics instead of reinforcing the idealistic delusions of conventional wisdom and academic theory. The tradition highlighted by these cases still offers resources for reconstructing our idea of popular government in a realistic spirit – skeptical, pragmatic, and relentlessly focused on power.

J.S. Maloy is a native of Austin, Texas, and Associate Professor of Political Science at Oklahoma State University. He is the author of *The Colonial American Origins of Modern Democratic Thought* (2008) and of academic papers in *Journal of Politics, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of the History of Ideas*, and other venues.
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Political Realism and Popular Power

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For the many quotations from non-English texts which appear in this book, I always preferred to cite a published English
translation, if one was available, over making my own translation; but, in a handful of cases where a footnote cites a work with a non-English title in the list of References, the reader can assume that I’m responsible for the English translation.

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