



Civil Society and Democratic Theory: Alternative Voices (Routledge Innovations in Political Theory)

By Gideon Baker

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This book introduces radically alternative models of civil society that have been developed outside the liberal democratic frame of reference, models which suggest that civil society *does* offer new and non-statist democratic possibilities. Drawing on a wide range of civil society theory-practice from Eastern Europe and Latin America (including the Zapatistas in Mexico), and from visions of global civil society too, this book is uniquely positioned to consider the questions posed by these alternative voices for democratic theory and practice.

- * Are there alternatives to the liberal democratic vision of civil society?
- * Is a democracy located in civil society rather than the state either possible or desirable?
- * How and why has the concept of civil society come to be used so widely today?
- * Can global civil society further the struggle for democracy initiated by national civil societies?

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Review

"The author's tracing of intellectual connections in Eastern Europe is a valuable resource for scholars of communist-era dissidence, while his discussion of Latin America helps one to comprehend political change there better. Pairing the two treatments makes it a unique resource.." -Perspectives on Politics, December 2003

About the Author

Gideon Baker is Lecturer in Political Theory in the School of English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History at the University of Salford. He has published articles in various journals including *Contemporary Politics*, *Democratization* and *Politics*.

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