

THEY

— DON'T REPRESENT —

US

*And Here's How They Could—
A Blueprint for Reclaiming Our Democracy*

LAWRENCE LESSIG



DEY ST.

An Imprint of WILLIAM MORROW

THEY DON'T REPRESENT US. Copyright © 2019 by Lawrence Lessig. Afterword © 2021 by Lawrence Lessig. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, address HarperCollins Publishers, 195 Broadway, New York, NY 10007.

HarperCollins books may be purchased for educational, business, or sales promotional use. For information, please email the Special Markets Department at SPsales@harpercollins.com.

A hardcover of edition of this book was published in 2019 by Dey Street Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

FIRST DEY STREET BOOKS PAPERBACK EDITION PUBLISHED 2021.

Designed by Michelle Crowe

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lessig, Lawrence, author.

Title: They don't represent us : reclaiming our democracy / Lawrence Lessig.

Description: [New York] : Dey Street Books, [2019] | Includes index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019012884 (print) | LCCN 2019981079 (ebook) | ISBN 9780062945716 | ISBN 9780062945730 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Democracy—United States. | Representative government and representation—United States. | Political participation—United States. | Political parties—United States. | Polarization (Social sciences)—United States. | United States—Politics and government—21st century.

Classification: LCC JK1726 .L48 2019 (print) | LCC JK1726 (ebook) | DDC 320.973—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019012884>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019981079>

ISBN 978-0-06-294572-3

21 22 23 24 25 LSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Introduction</i>	xi
PART I: FLAWS	
CHAPTER 1: The Unrepresentative “Them”	3
CHAPTER 2: The Unrepresentative Us	67
PART II: FIXES	
CHAPTER 3: Fixing Them	139
CHAPTER 4: Fixing Us	171
CHAPTER 5: What “Fixed” Would Get Us	221
CONCLUSION	231
<i>Afterword</i>	253
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	265
<i>Appendix A: Reformers</i>	267
<i>Appendix B: HRI</i>	275
<i>Notes</i>	305
<i>Index</i>	359