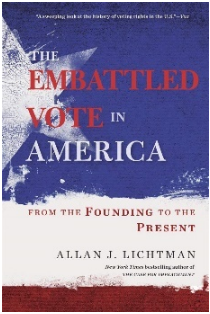


Who Gets to Vote?

Conversations on Voting Rights in America

Book Summaries and Author Bios*

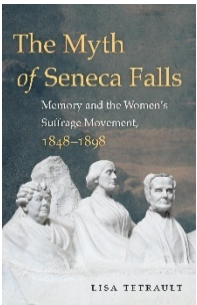


Allan J. Lichtman, *The Embattled Vote in America: From the Founding to the Present*. Harvard University Press, 2018

Americans have fought and died for the right to vote, yet the world's oldest continuously operating democracy does not guarantee its citizens the right to elect their leaders. For most of US history, suffrage has been a privilege restricted by wealth, sex, race, residence, literacy, criminal conviction, and citizenship.

Today, voter identification laws, registration requirements, felon disenfranchisement, and voter purges deny many millions of American citizens the opportunity to express their views at the ballot box. An award-winning historian who has testified in more than ninety voting rights cases, Allan Lichtman gives us the history behind today's headlines and shows that accusations of voter fraud, political gerrymandering and outrageous attempts at voter suppression are nothing new.

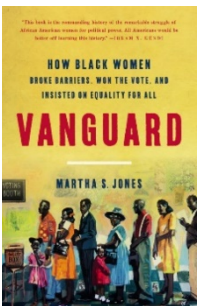
Allan Lichtman is a professor of history at American University, specializing in US political history. He holds the distinction of correctly predicting every US presidential election since 1984.



Lisa Tetrault, *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898*. University of North Carolina Press, 2017.

The story of how the women's rights movement began at the Seneca Falls convention of 1848 is a cherished American myth. The standard account credits founders such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott with defining and then leading the campaign for women's suffrage. In her provocative book, Lisa Tetrault demonstrates that Stanton, Anthony, and their peers gradually created and popularized this origin story during the second half of the nineteenth century in response to internal movement dynamics as well as the racial politics of memory after the Civil War.

Lisa Tetrault is an associate professor of history at Carnegie Mellon University, specializing in the history of gender, race, and American democracy. She has served as a historical consultant for 19th Amendment projects launched by the National Constitution Center and Ancestry.com, as well as the PBS American Experience documentary *The Vote*.



Martha S. Jones, *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*. Basic Books, 2020.

In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. However, this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most black women, who required a movement of their own to secure their rights.

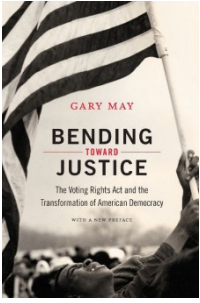
In *Vanguard*, Martha S. Jones offers a new history of African American women's political lives in America. She recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of black women — Maria Stewart, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Fannie Lou Hamer, and more — who formed the vanguard of women's rights activism, calling on America to realize its best ideals.

Martha S. Jones is a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University and president of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, the oldest and largest association of women historians in the US. Author of *Birthright Citizens* and *All Bound Up Together*, she has written for the *Washington Post*, *Atlantic*, *USA Today* and more.

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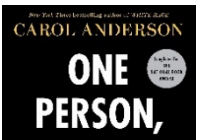
Book Summaries and Author Bios*



Gary May, *Bending Toward Justice: The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American Democracy*. Basic Books, 2013.

When the Fifteenth Amendment of 1870 granted African Americans the right to vote, it seemed as if a new era of political equality was at hand. Before long, however, white segregationists across the South counterattacked, driving their black countrymen from the polls through a combination of terror and devices such as literacy tests and poll taxes. Most African Americans would remain voiceless for nearly a century more, citizens in name only until the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act secured their access to the ballot.

Gary May is a professor emeritus of history at the University of Delaware, specializing in American political, diplomatic, and social history since 1945.



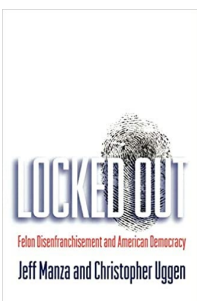
Carol Anderson, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

Carol Anderson chronicles the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Known as the *Shelby* ruling, this decision effectively allowed districts with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice.



Focusing on the aftermath of *Shelby*, Anderson follows the unfolding story of government-dictated racial discrimination as more and more states adopt voter suppression laws. She explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures. With vivid characters, she explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans.

Carol Anderson is a professor of African American studies at Emory University, specializing in public policy at the intersection of race, justice, and equality in the US. Her most recent monograph, *One Person, No Vote*, was longlisted for the National Book Award for nonfiction.



Jeff Manza and Christopher Uggen, *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

5.4 million Americans—one in every forty voting-age adults—are denied the right to participate in democratic elections because of a past or current felony conviction. In several American states, one in four black men cannot vote due to a felony conviction. *Locked Out* exposes one of the most important yet little-known threats to the health of American democracy today, revealing the centrality of racial factors in the origins of felon disenfranchisement laws and their impact on politics today.

Jeff Manza is a professor of sociology at New York University. His work focuses on how different types of social identities and inequalities influence political processes. **Christopher Uggen** is a professor of sociology and law at the University of Minnesota, specializing in crime, law, and justice.

*All summaries excerpted from publishers' websites.