



Democracy within Parties: Candidate Selection Methods and their Political Consequences (Comparative Politics)

By Reuven Y. Hazan, Gideon Rahat

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Can too much participation harm democracy? Democratic theory places great importance upon the conduct of elections, but it is not often recognized that the electoral game takes place in two arenas, not only between parties but also within them. This pioneering book presents a new approach to understanding political parties. It sheds light on the inner dynamics of party politics and offers the first comprehensive analysis of one of the most important processes any party undertakes--its process of candidate selection. Candidate selection methods are the mechanisms by which a party chooses its candidates for the general elections. It may be the function that separates parties from other organizations. For such an important function, this field has certainly faced a dearth of serious investigation.

Hazan and Rahat, the leading scholars on this topic, conduct an in-depth analysis of the consequences of different candidate selection methods on democracy. *Democracy within Parties* is a culmination of almost two decades of research and defines the field of candidate selection.

Comparative Politics is a series for students, teachers, and researchers of political science that deals with contemporary government and politics. Global in scope, books in the series are characterised by a stress on comparative analysis and strong methodological rigour. The series is published in association with the European Consortium for Political Research. For more information visit www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/ecpr>)

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Review

"In this valuable book, Reuven Hazan and Gideon Rahat explore the "secret garden" of intra-party candidate selection methods with precision and insight. As their extensive bibliography attests, this subject is not a new one for research. But our knowledge of it is far too limited. This volume takes a significant step towards greater understanding."--Representation and Electoral Systems Section Newsletter, American Political Science Association

"Reuven Y. Hazan and Gideon Rahat offer the first systematic comparative study of party nominations of legislative candidates, against the backdrop of a long list of articles on this subject that they published over more than a decade. ... The descriptive analysis enables students of parties to see the impressive wealth of empirical variation in parties' selection practices." --*Political Science Quarterly*

About the Author

Reuven Y. Hazan is a Professor in the Political Science Department at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research interests cover parties and party systems, elections and electoral systems, and legislative studies. His publications include articles in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Electoral Studies*, *International Political Science Review*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, *Political Geography* and various other journals.

Gideon Rahat is a Senior Lecturer in the Political Science Department at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research interests include political parties, candidate selection methods, electoral systems and the politics of electoral reform. He has written or collaborated on articles that appeared in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Party Politics*, *Political Communication*, *Political Studies* and several other journals.

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