Series Editor's Foreword

The fate of democracy under conditions of neoliberal globalization is the focus for John Narayan's comprehensive re-examination of the work of philosopher and proto-sociologist, John Dewey. While, as Narayan argues, Dewey did not himself make a sustained argument for global democracy, a powerful idea of global democracy can be constructed from his philosophical and sociological writings. In this way, in *John Dewey: The Global Public and Its Problems*, Narayan expertly demonstrates the continuing relevance of John Dewey's thought for the consideration of contemporary problems of modern sovereignty and questions of political and democratic legitimacy in a global age.

Narayan starts with a discussion of Dewey's understanding of democracy as a creative process of reform and renewal. This discussion is located in terms of examining the global conditions of 'the Great Society' and the global institutions and publics that are part of its functioning at the larger scale. While the focus is strongly on 'the global', there is also consideration of the national contexts which dominate in the debates and political practices of democracy. As Narayan sets out, democracy, for Dewey, had to be articulated both 'at home' and 'abroad'. In the latter sections of the book, Narayan pays due attention to the ideas of global justice and equality that are often neglected aspects of Dewey's thought and makes a robust argument for egalitarian democracy on a global scale.

The book is an excellent illustration of one of the motivating aspects of the Theory for a Global Age series, namely, a concern to reconsider existing understandings of the global such that we might better understand our contemporary global condition. Dewey's call to renew and refresh our thinking in light of changes is nicely exemplified by Narayan's own rethinking of Dewey's thought for our contemporary times.

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