

# Contents

List of Tables and Figures ix

Preface xiii

## **1. Introduction 1**

Comparing Public Opinion across Nations 3

Choosing Nations to Compare 4

A New Style of Citizen Politics 6

Suggested Readings 12

Notes 12

## *Part One: Politics and the Public*

## **2. The Nature of Mass Beliefs 15**

The Supercitizen 16

The Unsophisticated Citizen 17

Elitist Theory of Democracy 19

Political Sophistication Reconsidered 21

Politics and the Public 33

Suggested Readings 35

Notes 35

## **3. How We Participate 37**

Modes of Participation 38

Voting 40

Campaign Activity 44

Direct Contacting 48

Communal Activity 49

Protest and Contentious Action 52

Wired Activism 57

Changing Publics and Political Participation 58

Suggested Readings 60

Notes 61

## **12. Citizens and the Democratic Process 255**

The Types of Political Support	256
Declining Confidence in Authorities	259
Views of Political Institutions	262
Support for a Democratic Regime	265
Community Support	267
Dissatisfied Democrats	269
Suggested Readings	275
Notes	276

Appendix A: Statistical Primer	279
Appendix B: Major Data Sources	285
Appendix C: World Values Survey Codebook	287
References	313
Index	333