
Forward by the French publisher

everybody likes democracy vii
the question posed for the book was: is it meaningful, as far as you are concerned, to call yourself a democrat? And if so, what does that mean? Viii

Translators note
In European languages, the word state is capitalized, which helps distinguish it from government


Democracy can mean 1) a way of constituting the body politic = public law, or 2) the technique of governing = legitimation 1
the Greek word politeia = regime, e.g. monarchy, oligarchy, democracy 2
for Agamben a more faithful translation would be politeia = political activity and politeuma = resulting political outcome 3
and a modern translation would be politeia = constituent power and politeuma = constituted power 3
Rousseau's aim was to reconcile juridical and constitutional terms like contract, the general will, and sovereignty with an art of government 3
especially to reconcile rule with the justification for that rule 3
to think of government as simple executive power is a mistake 4
we cannot fail to address the central question of government and its articulation to the sovereign 4
our political system couples two heterogeneous elements a politico-juridical rationality and an economic-governmental rationality 4
what if no articulation as possible? What if the task at hand should be to disarticulate them? 4