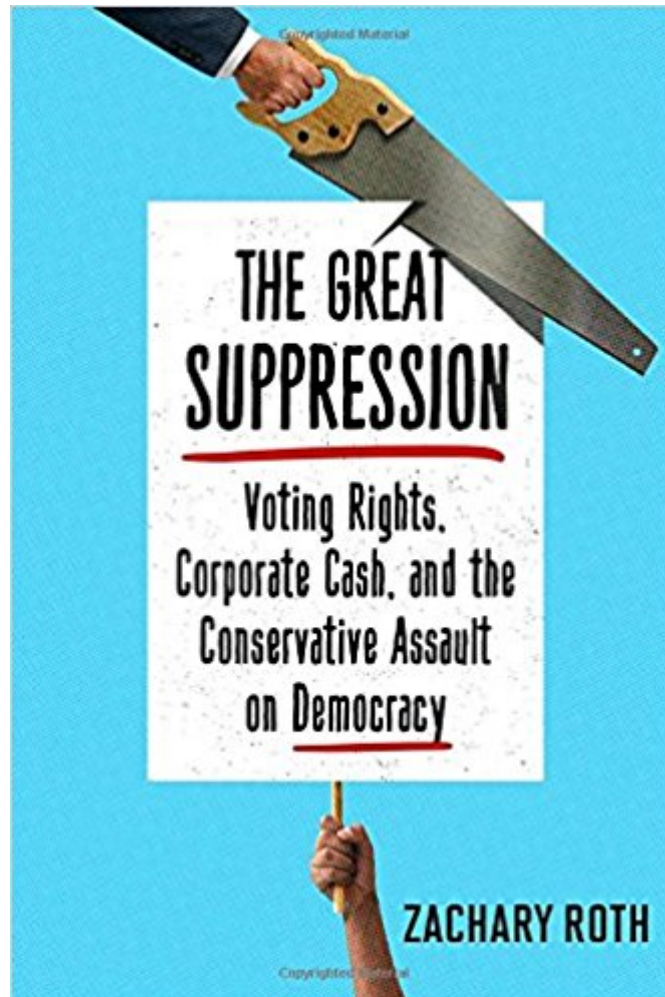


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# The Great Suppression: Voting Rights, Corporate Cash, And The Conservative Assault On Democracy



## Synopsis

A deeply reported look inside the new conservative movement working to undermine American democracy. "Control of the country is up for grabs" and Republicans have been rigging the game in their favor. Twenty-two states have passed restrictions on voting. Ruthless gerrymandering has given the GOP a long-term grip on Congress. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has eviscerated campaign finance laws, boosting candidates backed by big money. It would be worrying enough if these were just schemes for partisan advantage. But the reality is even more disturbing. As reporter Zachary Roth reveals, a growing number of Republicans distrust the very idea of democracy "and they're doing everything they can to limit it." In *The Great Suppression*, Roth unearths the deep historical roots of this anti-egalitarian worldview, and introduces us to its modern-day proponents: The GOP officials pushing to make it harder to cast a ballot; the lawyers looking to scrap all limits on money in politics; the libertarian scholars reclaiming judicial activism to roll back the New Deal; and the corporate lobbyists working to ban local action on everything from the minimum wage to the environment. And he travels from Rust Belt cities to southern towns to show us how these efforts are hurting the most vulnerable Americans and preventing progress on pressing issues. A sharp, searing polemic in the tradition of Rachel Maddow and Matt Taibbi, *The Great Suppression* is an urgent wake-up call about a threat to our most cherished values, and a rousing argument for why we need democracy now more than ever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a detailed report on the conservative GOP hold on governance across the United States. While their demographics are fading, their methods of retaining control are effective and varied, and, as the book points out, "being outnumbered doesn't mean losing." The Citizens United decision and the flow of corporate cash driving the process does get good mention, of course. This book's value is in some of the lesser-known, but widespread, methods:- Gerrymandering, not only in basic districting -- Pennsylvania's GOP, for instance, has 48% of the popular vote but 13 of its 18 House seats -- but in locking in the process, the reapportionment of state legislative districts, which ensures not only GOP statehouse control but, through those statehouses, drawing House district boundaries.- GOP focus on state legislative elections to guarantee that control, with national committees like the Republican State Leadership Committee targeting state races, and its Redistricting Majority Project, called, appropriately enough, REDMAP.- A new judicial activism in their favor, hence, Citizens United and corporate money to fund this effort. The trend may be accelerating in the Roberts Court, we're told.- Voter suppression, notably voter-ID, restricted voting schedules and felon-disenfranchisement laws, again via state legislatures and aided by judicial decisions limiting the Voting Rights Act and such.- Pre-emption laws, through which state legislatures can limit local government power to set voting rules, or simply to govern -- and in states like Michigan, allowing supersession or removal of local government by state-appointed managers. Which, among other things, has kept the U.S.

I had a terrible time reading this book. My problems had nothing to do with the quality of the book. Indeed, it was very well-written. The narrative style was good and the book had excellent access points which made it easy to cross-reference and ease my way into the content. There was an introduction; table of contents; acknowledgements; exhaustive notes and an index. (My copy which was an uncorrected proof/not for sale publication did not contain an index - only the pages where it would be in the published copy. It is a shame because I would have used it extensively. I received this copy as part of Library Thing's early review program.) I checked many of the notes and they were correct. I extended my reading because of the notes and bibliographical references. They were compelling. What is my problem, you may ask? My problem was the subject matter. I spent many minutes (too many to count) violently cursing, gagging, shouting, snarling and just plain furious. THE GREAT SUPPRESSION: VOTING RIGHTS, CORPORATE CASH, AND THE CONSERVATIVE ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY by Zachary Roth (national reporter for MSNBC) exposes the roots of the Republican Party's premeditated, deliberate, unethical, outrageous, disgusting, devious, calculating assault on the democratic principles and laws of the United States.

The Republican super-rich and corporate interests control the GOP and mandate adherence to certain policies which cast aside average citizens as unimportant non-beings who do not deserve the right to vote or to elect their own community leaders.

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