



The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life

Michael Schudson

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life

Michael Schudson

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life Michael Schudson

In 1996 less than half of all eligible voters even bothered to vote. Fewer citizens each year follow government and public affairs regularly or even think they should. Is popular sovereignty a failure? Not necessarily, argues Michael Schudson in this provocative and unprecedented history of citizenship in America. Measuring voter turnout or attitudes is a poor approximation of citizenship. The meaning of voting -- and what counts as politics -- has changed dramatically over the course of our history. We have passed through three distinct eras in the definition and demonstration of good citizenship, and we are now struggling to find a footing in a fourth.

When the nation was founded, being a citizen meant little more than for property-owning white males to delegate authority to a local gentleman -- and accept his complimentary glass of rum on election day. This "politics of assent" gave way early in the nineteenth century to a "politics of parties." Parties conducted elaborate campaigns of torchlight processions and monster meetings; voting day was filled with banter, banners, fighting, and drinking. Party ticket peddlers handed voters preprinted tickets to place in the ballot box before stepping over to the tavern for a few dollars' reward from the party. We now call this corruption. At the time, it was called loyalty.

The third model of citizenship, ushered in by Progressive reformers, was a "politics of information." Campaigning became less emotional and more educational. Voting was by secret ballot. With civil-service reform, parties were limited in the rewards they could bestow. This was the era of the "informed voter." Under this scheme, the twentieth century has been ruled by everyone, and no one, all at once.

Today, after the rights revolution, political participation takes place in schools, at home, at work, and in the courts. We have made "informed citizenship" an overwhelming task. Schudson argues that it is time for a new model, in which we stop expecting everyone to do everything. The new citizenship must rest on citizens who are monitors of political danger rather than walking encyclopedias of governmental news. This fascinating tour of the past makes it possible to imagine a very different -- and much more satisfying -- future.

 [Download The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Li ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life Michael Schudson

From reader reviews:

Karen Shiner:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open as well as read a book called The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

Luther Brown:

The book The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem using your subject. If you can make looking at a book The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life being your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like wide open and read a guide The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Linda Williams:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life ended up being making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life is not only giving you more new information but also to get your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship while using book The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life. You never truly feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

George Privette:

The actual book The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

Download and Read Online The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life Michael Schudson #Z60CX9NW7KL

Read The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson for online ebook

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson books to read online.

Online The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson ebook PDF download

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson Doc

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson Mobipocket

The Good Citizen: A History of American CIVIC Life by Michael Schudson EPub