

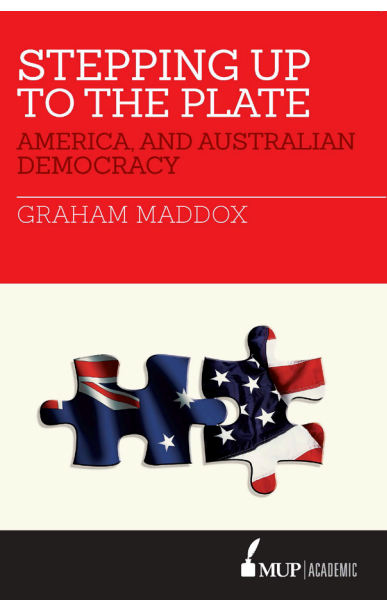
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STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

America, and Australian Democracy

By Graham Maddox

Americans call themselves a democracy, but they are not. America has redefined democracy to make it conform to the capitalist economy and rule by wealthy elites. When American leaders say they wish to make the world safe for democracy, they really mean that they want the world, including Australia, to subsume itself into this US project.

Any process resulting in Australia absorbing more of the United States' corporatist political culture will result in the serious erosion of our own democratic ideals. Australia should resist this, especially at a time when such corporatist politics is losing its legitimacy. In *Stepping Up to the Plate*, Graham Maddox argues that we are better served by our own robust system of democracy.

Graham Maddox FASSA is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the University of New England, where he was for twelve years Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He is a life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, and of the Center of Theological Inquiry at Princeton NJ. He was President of the Australasian Political Studies Association in 1995-6. His books include *Political Parties in Australia* (joint author); *The Hawke Government and Labor Tradition*; *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice* (5th edn 2005); *Religion and the Rise of Democracy*; *Political Writings of John Wesley*. He has edited and co-edited books on Australian republicanism, political legitimacy and cosmopolitanism. He is fully engaged with the musical life of his home town, Armidale, NSW, where he plays the oboe, sings in the chamber choir and from time to time conducts the symphony orchestra and the choral society.

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