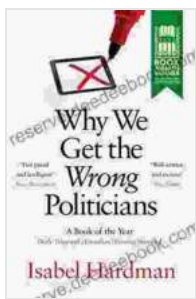


# Unveiling the Systemic Flaws: Why We Consistently Elect Unqualified Politicians

The state of modern politics is a disheartening spectacle, marked by a pervasive lack of qualified candidates and widespread public disillusionment. Citizens are left wondering why we repeatedly elect individuals who seem utterly incapable of governing effectively.



## Why We Get the Wrong Politicians by Isabel Hardman

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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This essay seeks to delve into the systemic flaws that contribute to this perplexing phenomenon. By examining the failures of our political system, the influence of campaign finance, the biases of the media, and the insidious practice of gerrymandering, we can gain a deeper understanding of the obstacles preventing the election of competent and ethical politicians.

## Systemic Flaws

The structure of our political system plays a significant role in the dearth of qualified candidates. First-past-the-post voting, which awards victory to the candidate with the most votes regardless of whether they receive a majority, disincentivizes moderation and compromise.

Moreover, the two-party system has stifled political diversity and created a polarizing environment. By forcing candidates to align with one of two major parties, independent thinkers and those with nuanced views are often marginalized.

## **Campaign Finance**

The influence of money on politics has become a major barrier to electing qualified candidates. Wealthy donors and special interests have an outsized impact on electoral outcomes, as they can finance expensive campaigns and manipulate public opinion through advertising.

Furthermore, the Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court has unleashed a flood of dark money into the political system, making it difficult to hold politicians accountable for their actions.

## **Media Bias**

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public perception of candidates. However, biases in coverage can distort the electorate's understanding of issues and the qualifications of candidates.

Partisan media outlets often amplify extreme voices and engage in character assassination, while independent media may struggle to compete for attention in the age of social media echo chambers.

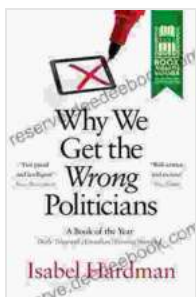
## Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering, the practice of manipulating electoral districts to favor a particular party, is a blatant form of voter suppression. By carving up districts to ensure safe seats for incumbents, gerrymandering dilutes the power of dissenting voices and undermines the representativeness of elected officials.

The election of unqualified politicians is a complex issue with deep-rooted causes. Our political system, campaign finance laws, media biases, and the practice of gerrymandering all contribute to this disheartening trend.

To address this systemic failure, we must implement comprehensive reforms. These reforms should include ranked-choice voting, campaign finance limits, increased media transparency, and crackdowns on gerrymandering. By taking these steps, we can create a more democratic and responsive political system that empowers qualified candidates and gives the public a genuine voice in their government.

Only through a comprehensive overhaul of our political institutions can we break the cycle of unqualified leadership and restore faith in our democracy.



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