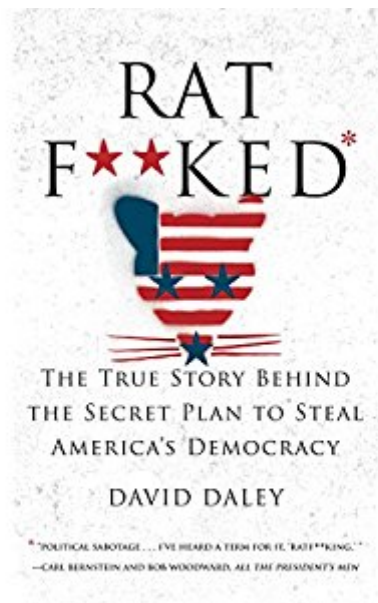


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Ratf**ked: The True Story Behind The Secret Plan To Steal America's Democracy



Synopsis

The explosive account of how Republican legislators and political operatives fundamentally rigged our American democracy through redistricting. With Barack Obama's historic election in 2008, pundits proclaimed the Republicans as dead as the Whigs of yesteryear. Yet even as Democrats swooned, a small cadre of Republican operatives, including Karl Rove, Ed Gillespie, and Chris Jankowski, began plotting their comeback with a simple yet ingenious plan. These men had devised a way to take a tradition of dirty tricks - known to political insiders as "ratf**king" - to a whole new unprecedented level. Flooding state races with a gold rush of dark money made possible by Citizens United, the Republicans reshaped state legislatures, where the power to redistrict is held. Reconstructing this never-told-before story, David Daley examines the far-reaching effects of this so-called REDMAP program, which has radically altered America's electoral map and created a firewall in the House, insulating the party and its wealthy donors from popular democracy. Ratf**ked pulls back the curtain on one of the greatest heists in American political history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gerrymandering was not invented in the last ten or fifteen years. It was first practiced over two hundred years ago - the term itself, gerrymander, was coined by the Boston Gazette in 1812 when reporting on how the Massachusetts state senate election districts had been redrawn under then Governor Elbridge Gerry. Since that time both parties have practiced gerrymandering to a greater or lesser degree, but the Republicans raised it to a higher art form early in this century. They did this

by implementing a three-step plan:- first, they provided funding to state congressional races in order to obtain veto-proof majorities in state legislatures. The republican party very strategically picked republican candidates in key states and provided them with almost unprecedented funding so that their campaigns and advertising budgets would overwhelm their opponents. The plan was spectacularly successful and resulted in republicans taking over large number of seats in a number of important state legislatures.- second, following the 2010 census, when the new census results mandated that state districts be re-evaluated, the republican controlled state legislatures used their power to very carefully re-draw the boundaries of enough districts in order to ensure that the voting from those districts would be strongly in favor of any future republican candidates.- third, in the following years when states elected their representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives, the newly constructed state districts performed as planned and brought significant numbers of new Republican faces to Washington D.C., bringing control of the House solidly into Republican hands. We are living with this result now.

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