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POLITICAL ATTITUDES AND DEMOCRACY IN FIVE NATIONS



BY GABRIEL A. ALMOND
AND SIDNEY VERBA

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"... And this our form, as committed not to the few, but to the whole body of the people, is called a democracy. . . . The offices of the State we go through without obstructions from one another; and live together in the mutual endearments of private life without suspicions; not angry with a neighbor for following the bent of his own humor, nor putting on that countenance of discontent, which pains though it cannot punish—so that in private life we converse without diffidence or damage, while we dare not on any account offend against the public, through the reverence we bear to the magistrates and the laws. . . . There is visible in the same persons an attention to their own private concerns and those of the public; and in others engaged in the labor of life there is a competent skill in the affairs of government. For we are the only people who think him that does not meddle in state affairs-not indolent, but good for nothing."

-PERICLES, On the Causes of Athenian Greatness