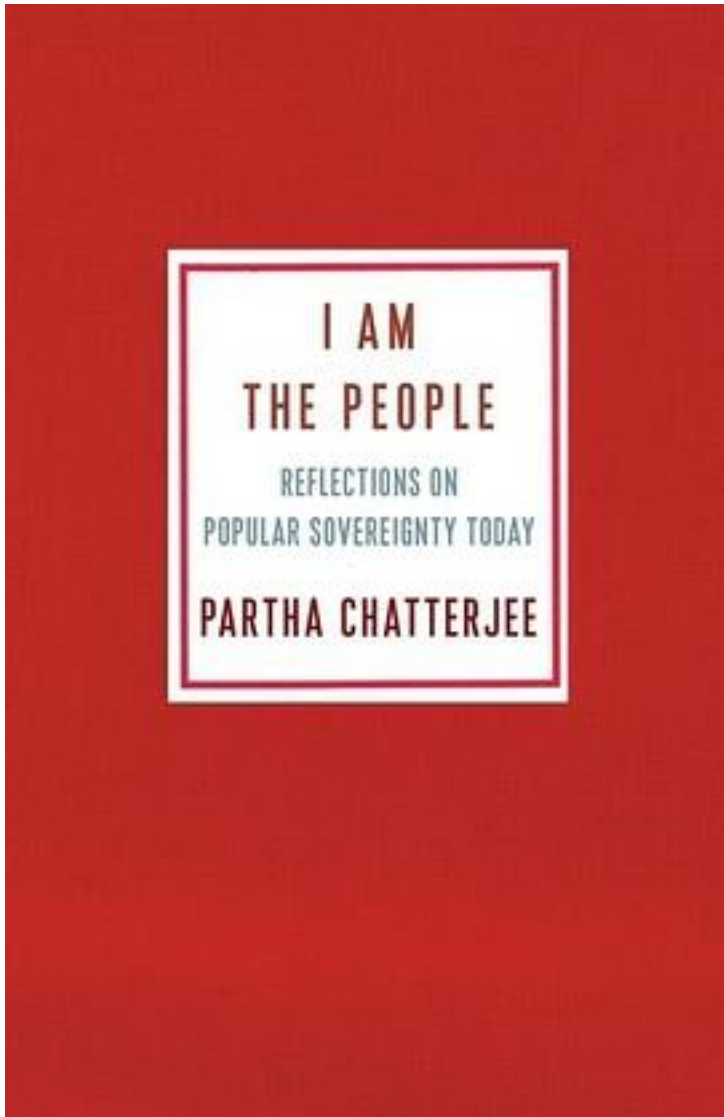


# I Am the People



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The forms of liberal government that emerged after World War II are in the midst of a profound crisis. In *I Am the People*, Partha Chatterjee reconsiders the concept of popular sovereignty in order to explain today's dramatic outburst of movements claiming to speak for "the people."

To uncover the roots of populism, Chatterjee traces the twentieth-century trajectory of the welfare state and neoliberal reforms. Mobilizing ideals of popular sovereignty and the emotional appeal of nationalism, anticolonial movements ushered in a world of nation-states while liberal democracies in Europe guaranteed social rights to their citizens. But as neoliberal techniques shrank the scope of government, politics gave way to technical administration by experts. Once the state could no longer claim an emotional bond with the people, the ruling bloc lost the consent of the governed. To fill the void, a proliferation of populist leaders have mobilized disaffected groups into a battle that they define as the authentic people against entrenched oligarchy.

Once politics enters a spiral of competitive populism, Chatterjee cautions, there is no easy return to pristine liberalism. Only a counter-hegemonic social force that challenges global capital and facilitates the equal participation of all peoples in democratic governance can achieve significant transformation. Drawing on thinkers such as Antonio Gramsci, Michel Foucault, and Ernesto Laclau and with a particular focus on the history of populism in India, *I Am the People* is a sweeping, theoretically rich account of the origins of today's tempests.

作者介绍:

Partha Chatterjee is a professor of anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies at Columbia University. He is the author of more than twenty books, including *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World* (Columbia, 2004) and *The Black Hole of Empire: History of a Global Practice of Power* (2012).

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## 评论

追溯了二十世纪福利国家的建立和新自由主义改革历程，通过重新思考“人民主权”（popular sovereignty）的概念来探索民粹主义的历史根源。以印度五十年来的民粹主义探索之路与西方进行对照，认为在西方民粹主义由国家的战术上(tactical)的收缩造成，而在印度，民粹主义则由国家的扩张带来。同时也批判性地指出民粹主义不得被局限在一系列战术中而没有能力形成一个持续的反领导权战略（strategy）来产生新的政治主体等一系列问题。查特吉一如既往的关切是如何营造一个环境，能够让人民在主权国家内更有意义地政治参与，哪一种社会力量有能力计划并执行反领导权的战略。在当下这个领导权发生危机的时刻，左翼民粹应当超越自身局限，形成长期的计划，在大众意识中生产、传播和置入社会改革的叙事……

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