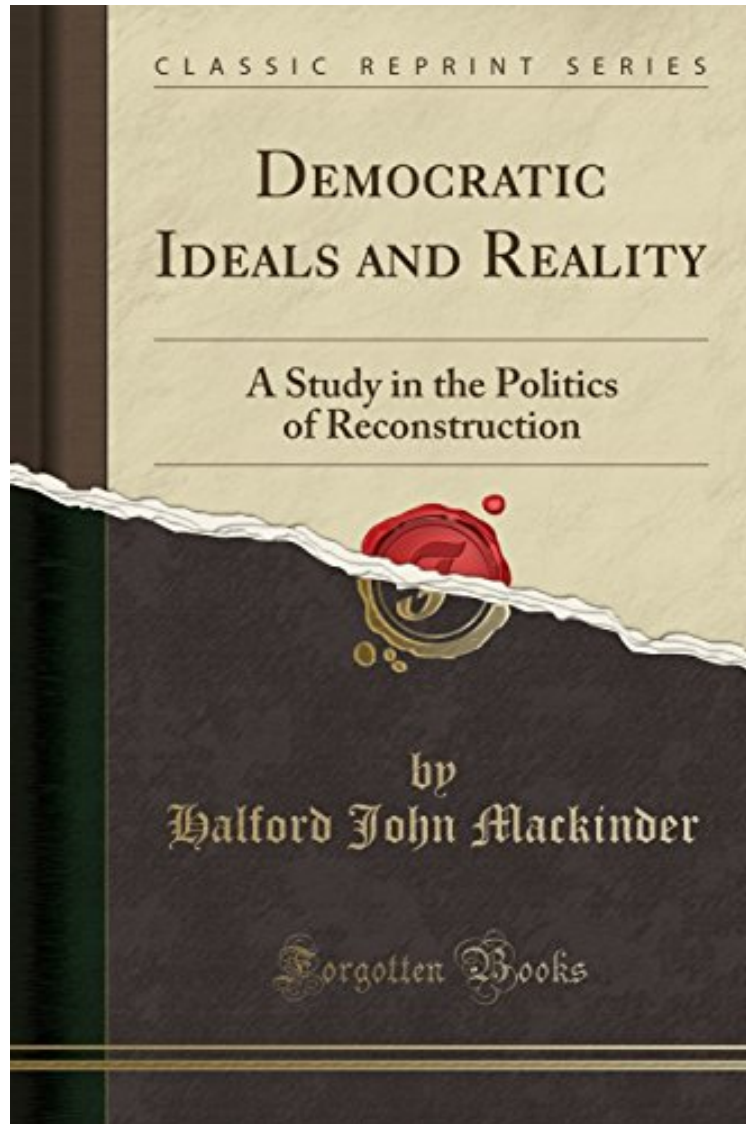


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Democratic Ideals and Reality: A Study in the Politics of Reconstruction (Classic Reprint)

Halford John Mackinder

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Chartrand Good geographical perspective on history -- and large print. This edition's description does not mention it, but this book could be considered a Large Print or even Very Large Print. I ordered it after reading "The Revenge of Geography" (by Robert Kaplan), which cites many references to it. Though it was written not long after World War I, the author's observations and conclusions hold up well after nearly a hundred years. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good historical book By Customer A good historical book . I will keep it for reference .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By GERARD LA TOURNERIE GREAT BACKGROUND RESEARCH

?Democratic Ideals and Reality delves into the world of geopolitics in the immediate aftermath of the Great War but reflects even the tiniest realities of daily life. Halford John Mackinder was unusually prescient in noting the tremendous potential and danger of changing population demographics across the world and within Europe. He notes the new freedom of mankind to engage in large-scale idealism, where previously the capacity to spend time in building an ideology had been solely devoted to scrabbling for the means of survival. From the modern perspective it is easy to see Mackinder's anxiety about large populations across Europe, engaged in politics but without the education the author considered necessary for prudent decision making. With palpable unease this work recalls young men campaigning to cement self-rule in Ireland, the rapid growth of cities and the laissez-faire attitude of centralised modern nation states to this enormous era of social and industrial development. In thinking about the effects and origins of these social changes Mackinder does not flinch from reflecting in depth on the inner workings of British society. In an age of fragmented communities it is fascinating to see Mackinder's early misgivings about urban workers, atomised and disconnected and an elevated set of elites who detach themselves from their local communities and as a result create a fractured society. Each reader must face up to the author's questions about the direction of his world and determine for themselves whether society has confirmed his fears in the years since this work. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

About the Author Halford J. Mackinder (1861-1947) was a geographer and politician. Although he disliked the term, he was also one of the founding fathers of 'geopolitics', the study of physical and human geography in the context of political power. Mackinder was director of the first British university geography department at Oxford (1899). He was involved with Reading, overseeing its elevation from extension college to university, the LSE, establishing the geography department there, and London University. He was a Conservative MP from 1910 to 1922. He was an imperialist, though a visionary one believing the empire should become a league of democracies with a common defence policy. *Democratic Ideals and Reality* (1919) was his most important book. An earlier book was *Britain and the British Seas* (1902).