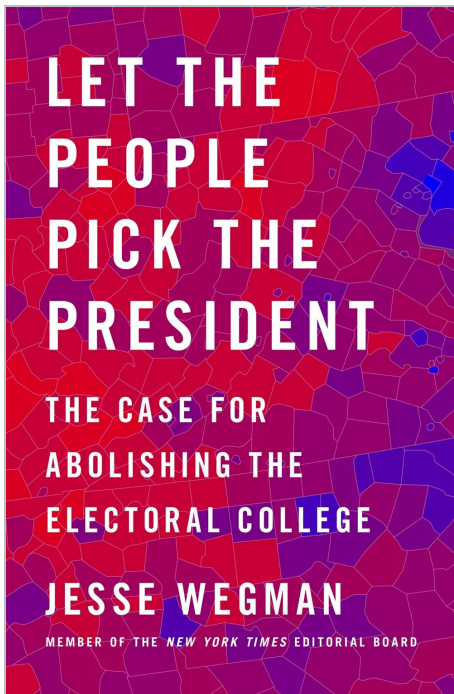




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# Let the People Pick the President

*The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College*

Jesse Wegman

**A radical spirit of change has overtaken American politics, making once-unthinkable reforms—like abolishing the Electoral College—seem possible.**

Two of the last five elections were won by candidates who lost the popular vote, calling the integrity of the entire electoral system into question. Political passions are already high, and they will reach a boiling point as we enter the 2020 race. The message from the American people is clear: we need major reform, and we need it now.

In *Let the People Pick the President*, *New York Times* editorial board member Jesse Wegman makes a powerful case for abolishing the antiquated and antidemocratic Electoral College, and choosing presidents based on a national popular vote. He uncovers the Electoral College's controversial origins, profiles the many attempts to reform it over the years, and explains why it is now essential for us to remove this obsolete system and finally make every citizen's vote matter.

Wegman addresses objections from both sides of the aisle and presents an airtight argument that moving toward a national popular vote would reduce voter apathy and political polarization, increase voter turnout, and restore belief in our democratic system. Abolishing the Electoral College is the keystone reform that must be accomplished to improve our politics; Wegman shows that this once-lofty goal can be achieved, and charts a path to accomplishing it.

JESSE WEGMAN has been a member of the *New York Times* editorial board since 2013, writing editorials on the Supreme Court and legal affairs. He was previously a senior editor at the *Daily Beast* and *Newsweek*, a legal news editor at *Reuters*, and the managing editor of the *New York Observer*. He graduated from New York University School of Law in 2005.

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# THE WAR OF RETURN

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## The War of Return

*How Western Indulgence of the Palestinian Dream Has  
Obstructed the Path to Peace*

Adi Schwartz and Einat Wilf

**Two prominent Israeli liberals argue that for the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians to end in peace, Palestinians must come to terms with the fact that there will be no "right of retur...**

In 1948, seven hundred thousand Palestinians were forced out of their homes by the first Arab-Israeli War. More than seventy years later, most of their houses are long gone, but millions of their descendants are still registered as refugees, with many living in refugee camps. This group—unlike countless others that were displaced in the aftermath of World War II and other conflicts—has remained unsettled, demanding to settle in the state of Israel. Their belief in a "right of return" is one of the largest obstacles to successful diplomacy and lasting peace in the region.

In *The War of Return*, Adi Schwartz and Einat Wilf—both liberal Israelis supportive of a two-state solution—reveal the origins of the idea of a right of return, and explain how UNRWA - the very agency charged with finding a solution for the refugees - gave in to Palestinian, Arab and international political pressure to create a permanent “refugee” problem. They argue that this Palestinian demand for a “right of return” has no legal or moral basis and make an impassioned plea for the US, the UN, and the EU to recognize this fact, for the good of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

A runaway bestseller in Israel, the first English translation of *The War of Return* is certain to spark lively debate throughout America and abroad.

ADI SCHWARTZ is an Israeli journalist and academic. A former staff writer for *Haaretz*, he is currently a freelance journalist for Israeli and international newspapers and magazines. His work focuses on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israeli and Jewish current affairs. EINAT WILF is a former Israeli politician who served as a member of Knesset for Independence and the Labor Party. She is one of Israel's leading public intellectuals.

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