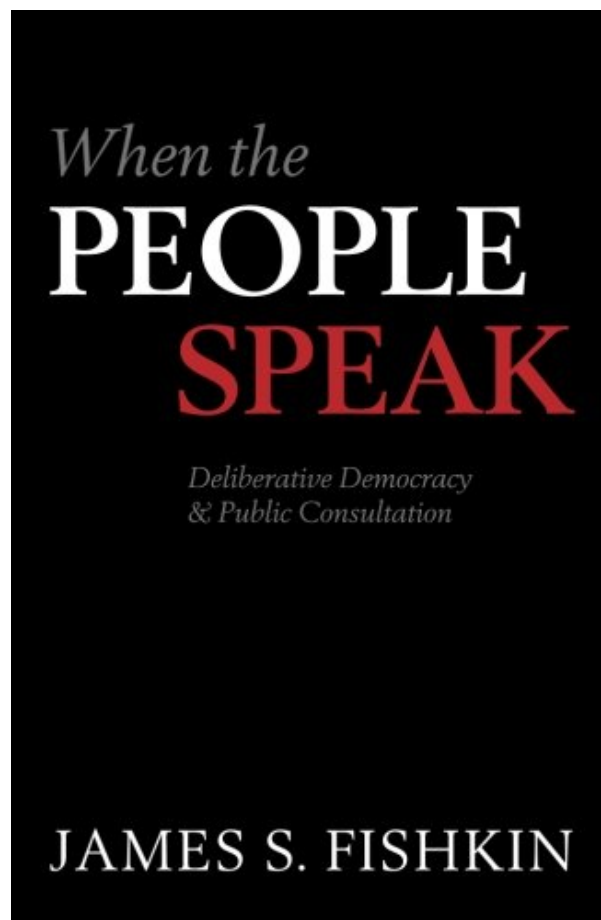


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All over the world, democratic reforms have brought power to the people, but under conditions where the people have little opportunity to think about the power that they exercise. In this book, James Fishkin combines a new theory of democracy with actual practice and shows how an idea that harks back to ancient Athens can be used to revive our modern democracies. *When the People Speak* outlines deliberative democracy projects conducted by the author with various collaborators in the US, China, Britain, Denmark, Australia, Italy, Bulgaria, Northern Ireland, and in the entire European Union. These projects have resulted in the massive expansion of wind power in Texas, the building of sewage treatment plants in China, and greater mutual understanding between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

- Sales Rank: #278106 in Books
- Published on: 2011-09-30
- Released on: 2011-09-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.00" h x .40" w x 9.10" l, .84 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Real Democracy in Practice

By Cezar Busatto

I would like to suggest brasilians to read James Fishkin's When the People Speak, Deliberative Democracy and Public Consultation, because I do believe this revolutionary practice of democracy is the right path to achieve sustainable public policies, responsible citizenship and a better world for all.

Deliberative democracy offers an opportunity for people getting complete and impartial information and making consistent decisions. I've had the opportunity to see a Deliberative Poll process taking place this year in the city of Porto Alegre, the capital of my Home State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil.

A representative sample of about three hundred of fellow citizens in a room were amazingly engaged to get better informed and deliberate about several complex questions related to civil servants careers.

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Deliberative Democracy

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James S. Fishkin, as a political theorist and reformer, explores the democratic ideals of Political Equality and Deliberation in making what he calls considered decisions. The book, When the People Speak, reads like an expanded outline. His arguments present many sides of the issues and how they can be addressed. A glossary of terms and phrases would have been helpful.

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