

A Constitutional Democracy—Voices and Votes

by Edward Delon

A Book review for Edward Delon

Many people believe history can be left up to your own interpretation. What I appreciate about the consistency of *A Constitutional Democracy: Voices and Votes* are the facts weaved throughout each section. Facts, backed up by data, dates, and brief context to allow the reader to formulate our interpretation based off of life experiences and prior knowledge.

As a former high school world history teacher, I can appreciate the research and the work that went into creating a book of this nature. I found the chapters to be an easy read it with information that was clearly communicated, concise and relevant. For that reason, an advanced placement high school class or intro government course in college, *A Constitutional Democracy: Voices and Votes* would be an ideal teaching tool.

The Armed Forces and Foreign Policy sections were of interest to me because my family served in the US Air Force and in the year 2016, we still live in a dangerous world which requires us to be aware and alert. Foreign policy headlines in the news are overhype with soundbites and drama, so to read facts and digest them from this book, was quite refreshing and a nice break. Page 102 I was reminded about the controversy with Abu Ghraid and the embarrassment behind that during the Bush administration. While the author could have lingered on this topic longer, he does not and the book quickly addresses where policy makers are still in the process and finding best solutions. At time, as a reader, I was craving more drama in the writing, but the author keeps to the facts and steers clear from sensationalizing; another reason why this book would make an excellent educational tool to allow students to formulate their own opinions without bias.

While reading this, it is apparent the author appreciates history and finding the connections between money, military, our environment and how the US is viewed on the world stage. *A Constitutional Democracy: Voices and Votes* concentrates on impartially presenting critical topics in our country that impact our lives and lives of people around the world.

Natasha B., 1/15/2016