

Why Politics Fails

*The Five Traps of the Modern World
and How to Escape Them*

BEN ANSELL



PENGUIN BOOKS

Contents

<i>Introduction: Simple Problems, Impossible Politics</i>	1
PART I. DEMOCRACY:	
<i>There's no such thing as the 'will of the people'</i>	
1. Westminster: Wednesday, 27 March 2019	23
2. What is Democracy?	27
3. The Democracy Trap	37
4. Escaping the Democracy Trap	58
PART II. EQUALITY:	
<i>Equal rights and equal outcomes undermine each other</i>	
5. Jeff Bezos Goes to Space	75
6. What is Equality?	79
7. The Equality Trap	91
8. Escaping the Equality Trap	113
PART III. SOLIDARITY:	
<i>We only care about solidarity when we need it ourselves</i>	
9. Obamacare: Saturday, 20 March 2010, Washington DC	131
10. What is Solidarity?	136
11. The Solidarity Trap	148
12. Escaping the Solidarity Trap	168

PART IV. SECURITY:

We can't avoid anarchy without risking tyranny

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 13. Lockdown: Saturday, 8 March 2020, Rome | 183 |
| 14. What is Security? | 189 |
| 15. The Security Trap | 203 |
| 16. Escaping the Security Trap | 216 |

PART V. PROSPERITY:

What makes us richer in the short run makes us poorer over the long haul

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 17. Paris: Saturday, 12 December 2015 | 233 |
| 18. What is Prosperity? | 238 |
| 19. The Prosperity Trap | 248 |
| 20. Escaping the Prosperity Trap | 270 |
| <i>How Politics Can Succeed</i> | 283 |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | 290 |
| <i>Bibliography</i> | 293 |
| <i>Notes</i> | 313 |
| <i>Index</i> | 329 |