ON OLIGARCHY: ANCIENT LESSONS FOR GLOBAL POLITICS

Economic power is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few, even as democratic movements worldwide allow for political power to be dispersed among the many. With their access to influence, the wealthy can shape and constrain the political power of the rest of the world. As the economic dominance of an elite minority coincides with the forces of globalization, is oligarchy becoming the dominant political regime?

This collection explores the renewed relevance of oligarchy to contemporary global politics. By drawing out lessons from classic texts, contributors illustrate how the character of oligarchical regimes informs contemporary political life. Topics include the relationship between the American government and corporations, the tension between republican and oligarchical regimes, and the potential conflicts that have opened up between economic management and political life. *On Oligarchy* deftly illuminates the significance of this regime in the context of pressing global economic and political issues.

DAVID EDWARD TABACHNICK is an associate professor in and Chair of the Department of Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics at Nipissing University.

TOIVO KOIVUKOSKI is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics at Nipissing University.

This page intentionally left blank

EDITED BY DAVID EDWARD TABACHNICK
AND TOIVO KOIVUKOSKI

On Oligarchy

Ancient Lessons for Global Politics

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

© University of Toronto Press 2011
Toronto Buffalo London
www.utppublishing.com
Printed in Canada

ISBN 978-1-4426-4011-5 (cloth)
ISBN 978-1-4426-0986-0 (paper)

Printed on acid-free, 100% post-consumer recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

On oligarchy : ancient lessons for global politics / edited by David Edward Tabachnick and Toivo Koivukoski.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4426-4011-5 (bound). – ISBN 978-1-4426-0986-0 (pbk.)

1. Oligarchy. 2. Wealth – Political aspects. I. Tabachnick, David
II. Koivukoski, Toivo

JC419.O56 2011 321'.5 C2011-905604-6

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial assistance to its publishing program of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for its publishing activities.