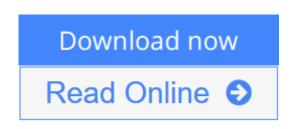# Cybering Democracy: Public Space and the Internet

By Diana Saco

Cybering Democracy: Public Space and the Internet By Diana Saco

Cybering Democracy: Public Space and the Internet is the **winner of the Modern Language Association (MLA) Prize for Independent Scholars for 2002**

The Internet has been billed by some proponents as an "electronic agora" ushering in a "new Athenian age of democracy." That assertion assumes that cyberspace's virtual environment is compatible with democratic practice. But the anonymous sociality that is intrinsic to the Internet seems at odds with theories of democracy that presuppose the possibility, at least, of face-to-face meetings among citizens. The Internet, then, raises provocative questions about democratic participation: Must the public sphere exist as a physical space? Does citizenship require a bodily presence?

In *Cybering Democracy*, Diana Saco boldly reconceptualizes the relationship between democratic participation and spatial realities both actual and virtual. She argues that cyberspace must be viewed as a produced social space, one that fruitfully confounds the ordering conventions of our physical spaces. Within this innovative framework, Saco investigates recent and ongoing debates over cryptography, hacking, privacy, national security, information control, and Internet culture, focusing on how different on-line practices have shaped this particular social space. In the process, she highlights fundamental issues about the significance of corporeality in the development of civic-mindedness, the exercise of citizenship, and the politics of collective action.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

This book probes and illuminates the uncomfortable sense we often have of how cyberspace is somehow 'real' from a social and emotional perspective, even though at the same time we know that it is not actual, at least not in any literal physical sense.
-- Steven Shaviro, author of *Cinematic Body*

About the Author
Diana Saco is an independent scholar based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennie Miller:

This book untitled Cybering Democracy: Public Space and the Internet to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

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