

Authored by and shared with permission of Chuck Woolery, December 30, 2023

Dick, I'm convinced our minds are now our enemy. They used to serve us for 300,000 years...Science shows our brain has been shrinking...30% over that time. And another "golf ball size" in the last 3 to 5,000 years.

Now our minds defend dumb ideas.... (political, economic, religious...) instead of focusing on our family thriving and surviving. Until our mind grasps the fact that it our human family that needs protecting... and not our tribe... We are toast...;-)

Here's my entire chapter on "Democracy" in my book that will never be published.

Democracy is a flawed human principle that is unlikely to result in a global governing system codifying the protection of nature and the Golden Rule (as our Declaration of Independence suggested in "the Laws of nature and Nature's God").

The last chapter...is focused on human cognition...and why our species may not make it...

The 118 quotes below unanimously condemn democracy. 'Justice' is a fundamental principle. So is the concept of protecting inalienable human rights. Democracy ensures neither. Humanity must universally codify laws that protect human rights and the environment above the protection of national sovereignty and corporations to sustainably ensure the maximization of humanities freedoms and security at every level of government on our planet. While citizen input in making laws is important - a majority opinion rarely reflects objective truths or ensures 'liberty and justice for all'. Majority decisions usually reflect what most people want. But elections rarely reflect what is fundamentally needed to sustain the common good.

Below these quotes is evidence that we must abandon the prevalent belief in the superior wisdom of the voting majority. A great error in human history is persistently believing democracy works. Yet we fail to question this flawed human principle still. The alternative other than a benevolent dictator? The 'Rule of Law' well defined (see definition below this long list of quotes). What we have now is the 'law of force' dominating our global governance system. This forces nations into competition and putting the protection of national sovereignty above the protection of We the People's fundamental human rights and the environment. This is unsustainable.

"If a given idea has been held in the human mind for many generations, as almost all our common ideas have, it takes sincere and continued effort to remove it."

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman

QUOTES against democracy.

"Democracy is two wolves and a sheep, voting on what to eat for dinner; Liberty is a well-armed sheep contesting the vote." **Thomas Jefferson**

"Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." - John Adams - (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there always has been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge." -**Isaac Asimov**

"Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve."
-- **George Bernard Shaw** (1856-1950) Irish comic dramatist

"I have been writing a column continuously for 43 years and I quickly learned that the textbook assumptions about Democratic debate are naive. The presumption is that we live in a rational world of high-minded discourse that leads to political consensus. The great virtue of democracy in this view, is that it both leads to superior policies and ensures that those policies will enjoy public support. Unfortunately, that is *not* how the system works." **Robert J. Samuelson** "Will trump win the battle for public opinion" Washington Post. 10-28-19.

"It is proof of a base and low mind for one to wish to think with the masses or majority, merely because the majority is the majority. Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of the people." -- **Giordano Bruno** [Iordanus Brunus Nolanus] (1548-1600) Italian Dominican friar, philosopher, mathematician, poet, astrologer. Source: The Shadows of Ideas, Paris, 1582

"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerated the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than the democratic state itself. That in its essence is fascism: ownership of government by an individual, by a group, or any controlling private power." -Franklin D. Roosevelt

"To include freedom in the very definition of democracy is to define a process not by its actual characteristics as a process but by its hoped-for results. This is not only intellectually invalid, it is, in practical terms, blinding oneself in advance to some of the unwanted consequences of the process." -- **Thomas Sowell** (1930-) Writer and economist

An *elective despotism* was not the government we fought for; but one which should not only be founded on free principles, but in which the powers of government should be so divided and balanced among several bodies of magistracy, as that no one could transcend their legal limits, without being effectually checked and restrained by the others. **James Madison**, [*Federalist No. 48*](#) [1788]

"Choice by the people themselves is not generally distinguished for its wisdom." -- **Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826), US Founding Father, drafted the Declaration of Independence, 3rd US President Source: 1776, Jefferson's Literary Commonplace Book, Wilson, ed., 1989, p. 11.

"The tyranny of the many would be when one body takes over the rights of others, and then exercises its power to change the laws in its favor." -- **Voltaire** [François Marie Arouet] (1694-1778)
French Enlightenment writer, historian, and philosopher
Source: Philosophical Dictionary, 1764

"People use democracy as a free-floating abstraction disconnected from reality. Democracy in and of itself is not necessarily good. Gang rape, after all, is democracy in action. All men have the right to live their own life. Democracy must be rooted in a rational philosophy that first and foremost recognizes the right of an individual. A few million Imperial Order men screaming for the lives of a much smaller number of people in the New World may win a democratic vote, but it does not give them the right to those lives or make their calls for such killing right. Democracy is not a synonym for justice or for freedom. Democracy is not a sacred right sanctifying mob rule. Democracy is a principle that is subordinate to the inalienable rights of the individual." — Terry Goodkind, *Naked Empire*

(There are over 120 more quotes if you want them...)

Lev Voronkov [Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of the Department of Integration Processes at [MGIMO University](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia] wrote in the *Transnational TFF*. "A Russian Voice – Lev Voronkov: Democracy in theory and in practice. In search of an effective model of people's power." Jan. 25, 2023.

<https://transnational.live/2023/01/25/a-russian-voice-lev-voronkov-democracy-in-theory-and-in-practice-in-search-of-an-effective-model-of-peoples-power/>

"The great Russian writer *F. M. Dostoevsky* considered universal, equal voting "the most ridiculous invention of the XIX century." *Alexander Solzhenitsyn* argued that the principle of universal and equal voting with extreme inequality of individuals, their abilities, their contribution to public life, different ages, life experiences and degrees of rootedness in this area and in this country is the triumph of meaningless quantity over meaningful quality.

Richard Dawkins, an outstanding modern biologist, said after the Brexit referendum that the vast majority of Britons should not have voted in the referendum because they did not have the necessary knowledge in the field of economics and politics. He said, "You might as well organize a national plebiscite to decide whether Einstein's calculations are correct, or allow passengers to vote on which lane the pilot should land the plane."

Friedrich August von Hayek, a representative of the Austrian school of neoliberalism, Nobel Prize winner in Economics, believed that a democratic state, understood as the power of the majority, guarantees social justice, thereby disrupting the natural course of market development and undermining individualism. Therefore, he opposed unrestricted democracy, considering it "no better than any tyranny."

"Those who advocate democracy and yet make a fetish of vilifying those whose beliefs are different from theirs, what value do they see in democracy?" — **William Stafford**

The one pervading evil of democracy is the tyranny of the majority, or rather of that party, not always the majority, that succeeds, by force or fraud, in carrying elections. – **Lord Acton**, *The History of Freedom and Other Essays* [1907]

"Democracy, then, in the centralizing, patternmaking, absolutist shape which we have given to it, it is clear, the time of tyranny's incubation." – **Bertrand de Jouvenel** (1903-1987) French philosopher, political economist, and futurist. Source: *Du Pouvoir. Histoire naturelle de sa croissance* [1945] (Paris: Hachette, 1972), p. 36; English translation: *On Power: The Natural History of Its Growth* (Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1993), p. 15.

"Democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance. No one in this world, so far as I know—and I have researched the records for years and employed agents to help me—has ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the great masses of the plain people. Nor has anyone ever lost public office thereby." – **H.L. Mencken**, *Notes on Democracy*

"I can't think of anything that would do more toward putting us back on the road to liberty and personal responsibility than for the average American, and for the news media, to come to the understanding that we are not a democracy, nor were we supposed to be." – **Neal Boortz** (1945-) Radio talk show host, columnist

"[D]emocracy will soon degenerate into an anarchy, such an anarchy that every man will do what is right in his own eyes and no man's life or property or reputation or liberty will be secure, and every one of these will soon mould itself into a system of subordination of all the moral virtues and intellectual abilities, all the powers of wealth, beauty, wit and science, to the wanton pleasures, the capricious will, and the execrable cruelty of one or a very few." – **John Adams** (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President. Source: *An Essay on Man's Lust for Power*, August 29, 1763

"Democracy is morose and runs to anarchy." – **Ralph Waldo Emerson** (1803-1882) American essayist, lecturer, and poet. Source: *Nominalist and Realist*, 1841

At no time, at no place, in solemn convention assembled, through no chosen agents, had the American people officially proclaimed the United States to be a democracy. The Constitution did not contain the word or any word lending countenance to it, except possibly the mention of "We, the people," in the preamble . . . When the Constitution was framed no respectable person called himself or herself a democrat. – **Charles Austin Beard and Mary Ritter Beard**, [*America in Midpassage*](#)[1939]

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. – **Alexander Tytler**, *Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic*

But no senate nor civil assembly can be under such natural impulses to honor and justice as single persons. For a majority is no-body when that majority is separated, and a collective body can have synteresis, or divine ray, which is in the mind of every man, never assenting to evil, but upbraiding and tormenting him when he does it: but the honor and conscience that lies in

the majority is too thin and diffusive to be efficacious; for a number can do a great wrong, and call it right, and not one of that majority blush for it. – **Sir Walter Raleigh**, Discourse on War in General [1614]

"Our founding fathers detested the idea of a democracy and labored long to prevent America becoming one. Once again – the word 'democracy' does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, or the constitution of any of the fifty states. Not once. Furthermore, take a look at State of the Union speeches. You won't find the 'D' word uttered once until the Wilson years." - **Neal Boortz** (1945-) Radio talk show host, columnist
Source: Nov. 7, 2002

"Tyranny seldom announces itself. ...In fact, a tyranny may exist without an individual tyrant. A whole government, even a democratically elected one, may be tyrannical." – **Joseph Sobran** (1946-2010) American columnist

"Democracy is more cruel than wars or tyrants." – **Lucius Annaeus Seneca** (4 B.C.-A.D. 65) Roman Stoic philosopher, statesman, dramatist, "Seneca the Younger" Source: 'Epistulae morales'

"The general object was to produce a cure for the evils under which the United States labored; that in tracing these evils to their origins, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy." -- **Edmund Randolph** (1753-1813) Virginia delegate at the US Constitutional Convention, 1787

"Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people." - **John Adams**

*"We have destroyed our democracy to an extent the terrorists never could have. We've changed our democracy into a semi-police state. **William Binney**"- Bill has nearly 30 years as a top executive in America's super-secret National Security Agency (NSA)*

"Democracy leads to anarchy, which is mob rule." – **Plato** (429-347 BC) Greek philosopher
Source: The Republic, ca. 390 B.C.

"Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their death." -- **James Madison** (1751-1836), Father of the U.S. Constitution, 4th US President

"The majority, oppressing an individual, is guilty of a crime, abuses its strength, and by acting on the law of the strongest breaks up the foundations of society." – **Thomas Jefferson**
Source: Letter to Pierre Samuel Dupont de Nemours, 1816

"A pure democracy ... can admit no cure for the mischiefs of faction. A common passion or interest will, in almost every case, be felt by a majority, and there is nothing to check the inducements to sacrifice the weaker party... Hence it is that democracies have ever

been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have, in general, been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths." -- **James Madison**, Father of the US Constitution, 4th US President. Source: Federalist No. 10

"If a majority are capable of preferring their own private interest, or that of their families, counties, and party, to that of the nation collectively, some provision must be made in the constitution, in favor of justice, to compel all to respect the common right, the public good, the universal law, in preference to all private and partial considerations... And that the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of history... To remedy the dangers attendant upon the arbitrary use of power, checks, however multiplied, will scarcely avail without an explicit admission some limitation of the right of the majority to exercise sovereign authority over the individual citizen... In popular governments [democracies], minorities constantly run much greater risk of suffering from arbitrary power than in absolute monarchies..." -- **John Adams** 2nd US President Source: "On Government", (1778)

"Democracy will soon degenerate into an anarchy, such an anarchy that every man will do what is right in his own eyes and no man's life or property or reputation or liberty will be secure, and every one of these will soon mould itself into a system of subordination of all the moral virtues and intellectual abilities, all the powers of wealth, beauty, wit and science, to the wanton pleasures, the capricious will, and the execrable cruelty of one or a very few." -- **John Adams** (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President. Source: An Essay on Man's Lust for Power, August 29, 1763

"Democracy and liberty are not the same. Democracy is little more than mob rule, while liberty refers to the **sovereignty** of the individual." -- **Walter E. Williams** (1936-) Columnist, Professor of Economics at George Mason University

*"The major western democracies are moving towards corporatism. Democracy has become a business plan, with a bottom line for every human activity, every dream, every decency, every hope. The main parliamentary parties are now devoted to the same economic policies - socialism for the rich, capitalism for the poor - and the same foreign policy of servility to endless war. This is not democracy. It is to politics what McDonalds is to food." - **John Pilger***

"As long as people are people, democracy, in the full sense of the word, will always be no more than an ideal. One may approach it as one would the horizon in ways that might be better or worse, but it can never be fully attained. In this sense, you, too, are merely approaching democracy." **Vaclav Havel**, to the United States Congress

"Bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression." -- **Thomas Jefferson** Source: First Inaugural Address, 4 March 1801

"Americans cannot escape a certain responsibility for what is done in our name around the world. In a democracy, even one as corrupted as ours, ultimate authority rests with the people. We empower the government with our votes, finance it

with our taxes, bolster it with our silent acquiescence. If we are passive in the face of America's official actions overseas, we in effect endorse them." - Mark Hertzgaard

"Freedom for the wolves has often meant death to the sheep." **Isaiah Berlin**

"The government, which was designed for the people, has got into the hands of the bosses and their employers, the special interests. An invisible empire has been set up above the forms of democracy." - Woodrow Wilson

"The masses have never thirsted after truth. They turn aside from evidence that is not to their taste, preferring to deify error, if error seduce them. Whoever can supply them with illusions is easily their master; whoever attempts to destroy their illusions is always their victim." -- **Gustave Le Bon** (1841-1931) French psychologist and sociologist

'We are doomed to choose, and every choice may entail irreparable loss.', and 'Both liberty and equality are among the primary goals pursued by human beings throughout many centuries; but total liberty for wolves is death to the lambs, total liberty of the powerful, the gifted, is not compatible with the rights to a decent existence of the weak and the less gifted.' **Isaiah Berlin** (1909-1997)

"I wouldn't call it fascism exactly, but a political system nominally controlled by an irresponsible, dumbed down electorate who are manipulated by dishonest, cynical, controlled mass media that dispense the propaganda of a corrupt political establishment can hardly be described as democracy either." -- **Edward Zehr** (1936-2001) Columnist

"Wherever the real power in a government lies, there is the danger of oppression. In our governments the real power lies in the majority of the Community, and the invasion of private rights is chiefly to be apprehended, not from acts of government contrary to the sense of its constituents, but from acts in which the government is the mere instrument of the major number of the constituents." -- **James Madison** Source: letter to Thomas Jefferson

"The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane." **Marcus Aurelius**

"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard." -- **H. L. Mencken** (1880-1956) American Journalist, Editor, Essayist, Linguist, Lexicographer, and Critic

Democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance. **H. L. Mencken**

"Democracy consists of choosing your dictators, after they've told you what you think it is you want to hear." - Alan Corenk

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." -- **Sir Winston Churchill** (1874-1965) Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

"Liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood." - **Mahatma Gandhi**

"If you're right and you know it, speak your mind. Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is still the truth." **Mahatma Gandhi**

"Truth is not determined by majority vote" - **Doug Gwyn**

Democracies are prone to war, and war consumes them. - **W.H. Seward**, *Eulogy on John Quincy Adams* [1848]

"Democracies die, political scientists tell us, when the credibility of elections and vital institutions is eroded and the rule of law is destroyed." William Falk December 21, 2019 A democracy in peril. The editor's letter in the current issue of [The Week magazine](#).)

"Which is better — to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away, or three thousand tyrants one mile away?" **Rev. Mather Byles** (1706- 1788)

"Democracy is a process by which the people are free to choose the man who will get the blame." -- **Laurence J. Peter** (1919-1990) American educator, "hierarchiologist", best known for the formulation of the 'Peter Principle'

"Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people." -- **Oscar Wilde** (1854-1900) Source: *The Soul of Man Under Socialism*, 1891

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote -- a very different thing." -- **Walter H. Judd** (1898-1994) Minnesota legislator, physician, missionary, and orator

"If you establish a democracy, you must in due time reap the fruits of a democracy. You will in due season have great impatience of the public burdens, combined in due season with great increase of the public expenditure. You will in due season have wars entered from passion and not from reason; and you will in due season submit to peace ignominiously sought and ignominiously obtained, which will diminish your authority and perhaps endanger your independence. You will in due season find your property is less valuable, and your freedom less complete."

-- **Benjamin Disraeli** (1804-1881) Prime Minister of England, British statesman, novelist
Source: Speech in the House of Commons, March 31, 1850

"The majority, oppressing an individual, is guilty of a crime, abuses its strength, and by acting on the law of the strongest breaks up the foundations of society." -- **Thomas**

Jefferson (1743-1826), US Founding Father, drafted the Declaration of Independence, 3rd US President Source: Thomas Jefferson to Pierre Samuel Dupont de Nemours, 1816

"Democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where 51% of the people may take away the rights of the other 49%." -**Thomas Jefferson**

"The principle that the majority have a right to rule the minority, practically resolves all government into a mere contest between two bodies of men, as to which of them shall be masters, and which of them slaves; a contest, that -- however bloody -- can, in the nature of things, never be finally closed, so long as man refuses to be a slave."

-- **Lysander Spooner** (1808-1887) Political theorist, activist, abolitionist 1867 Source: No Treason, The Constitution of No Authority. (1870)

"All over the Union, people are coming to feel that they have no control over the course of affairs... 'We vote; we are offered the platform we want; we elect the men who stand on that platform; and we get absolutely nothing.' So they begin to ask: 'What is the use of voting? We know that the machines of both parties are subsidized by the same persons, and therefore it is useless to turn in either direction.' " -
- **Woodrow Wilson** (1856-1924) 28th US President Source: The New Freedom, chapter 1 (1913)

"Institutions purely democratic must, sooner, or later, destroy liberty or civilization or both." -- **Thomas Babington Macaulay** (1800-1859) [Lord Macaulay] 1st Baron Macaulay, British historian Source: Letter to H.S. Randall, May 23, 1857

"Democracy in itself does not define or guarantee a free society. History has told many stories of democratic societies that have degenerated into corruption, plunder, and tyranny." -- **Richard M. Ebeling** (1950-) Author, Professor of Economics, Hillsdale College

"People constantly speak of 'the government' doing this or that, as they might speak of God doing it. But the government is really nothing but a group of men, [that they have elected] and usually they are very inferior men." -- **H. L. Mencken** (1880-1956) American Journalist, Editor, Essayist, Linguist, Lexicographer, and Critic

When democracy delivers justice and accountability, creating a space where people can express their views in a non-violent way, peace has a good chance of persevering. When democracy merely provides legitimacy for dominant interests, nations experience conflict.

Sundeep Waslekar, The Future of Peace: Sept. 2014. Alliance for Peace Building

"A democratic despotism is like a theocracy: it assumes its own correctness."
-- **Walter Bagehot** (1826-1877)

"I can't think of anything that would do more toward putting us back on the road to liberty and personal responsibility than for the average American, and for the news

media, to come to the understanding that we are not a democracy, nor were we supposed to be."

-- **Neal Boortz** (1945-) Radio talk show host, columnist

*"That the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of the history of the whole world" - **John Adams***

*"The major western democracies are moving towards corporatism. Democracy has become a business plan, with a bottom line for every human activity, every dream, every decency, every hope. The main parliamentary parties are now devoted to the same economic policies - socialism for the rich, capitalism for the poor - and the same foreign policy of servility to endless war. This is not democracy. It is to politics what McDonalds is to food." - **John Pilger***

The majority, oppressing an individual, is guilty of a crime, abuses its strength, and by acting on the law of the strongest breaks up the foundations of society.

- **Thomas Jefferson**, *Letter to Pierre Samuel Dupont de Nemours* [1816]

"[N]o one's ever been able to show me any difference between democracy and brute force. It's just a majority ganging up on a minority with the minority giving in to avoid getting massacred." -- **L. Neil Smith**, American writer. Source: Pallas, 425 (Ton Doherty Associates, Inc. 1993)

"Constitutions are checks upon the hasty action of the majority. They are the self-imposed restraints of a whole people upon a majority of them to secure sober action and a respect for the rights of the minority." -- **William Howard Taft** (1857-1930) 27th US President. Source: Veto Message, Arizona Enabling Act, 1911

"Don't forget that pure democracy is a form of collectivism -- it readily sacrifices individual rights to majority wishes. Since it involves no constitutional bill of rights, or at least, no working and effective one, the majority-of-the-moment can and does vote away the rights of the minority-of-the-moment, even of a single individual. This has been called 'mob rule,' the 'tyranny of the majority' and many other pejorative names. It is one of the greatest threats to liberty, the reason why America's founding fathers wrote so much so disparagingly of pure democracy." -- **Bert Rand**

"When it becomes dominated by a collectivist creed, democracy will inevitably destroy itself." -- **Friedrich August von Hayek** (1899-1992), Nobel Laureate of Economic Sciences 1974. Source: *The Road to Serfdom*, pg 73 (1944)

The average age of the world's great civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those years, these nations always progressed through the

following sequence: from bondage to courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependency; from dependency back again to bondage. – **Alex Fraser Tytler**

"Does it not seem a vast waste of valuable human material that the pioneers of thought, those who by their genius dare to clear unknown paths in the arts and sciences and in government, should have to conform to the dictates of that non-creative, slow-moving mass, the majority? An appeal to the majority is a resort to force and not an appeal to intelligence; the majority is always ignorant, and by increasing the majority we multiply ignorance. The majority is incapable of initiative, its attitude being one of opposition toward everything that is new. If it had been left to the majority, the world would never have had the steamboat, the railroad, the telegraph, or any of the conveniences of modern life." -- **Charles T. Sprading** (1871-1959) Libertarian activist, writer. Source: Charles T. Sprading's Introduction to Liberty and the Great Libertarians; An Anthology On

"Democracy, which began by liberating man politically, has developed a dangerous tendency to enslave him through the tyranny of majorities and the deadly power of their opinion." -- **Ludwig Lewisohn** (1883-1955) Source: The Modern Drama, 1915 Liberty; A Hand-book Of Freedom (Los Angeles: The Libertarian Publishing Company, 1913)

["When it becomes dominated by a collectivist creed, democracy will inevitably destroy itself."](#)
- [Friedrich August von Hayek](#) (1899-1992), Nobel Laureate of Economic Sciences 1974
The Road to Serfdom, pg 73 (1944)

"Is a democracy, such as we know it, the last improvement possible in government? Is it not possible to take a step further towards recognizing and organizing the rights of man? **There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived and treats him accordingly.** I please myself with imagining a State at least which can afford to be just to all men, and to treat the individual with respect as a neighbor, which even would not think it inconsistent with its own repose if a few were to live aloof from it, not meddling with it, nor embraced by it, who fulfilled all the duties of neighbors and fellow-men. A State which bore this kind of fruit and suffered it to drop off as fast as it ripened, would prepare the way for a still more perfect and glorious State, which also I have imagined, but not yet anywhere seen." -
- **Henry David Thoreau** (1817-1862) American author, poet, philosopher, polymath, abolitionist, naturalist, tax resister, development critic, surveyor, historian, and transcendentalist,. Source: Civil Disobedience (1849)

"The Greeks... labored under the delusion that their democracy was a guarantee of peace and plenty, not realizing that unrestrained majority rule always destroys freedom, puts the minority at the mercy of the mob, and works at cross-purposes to the effective use of

human energy and individual initiative." -- **Henry Grady Weaver** (1889-1949) Source: "The Mainspring of Human Progress," 1947

*" Until people are properly educated and informed, instead of indoctrinated to be ignorant mindless consumers, democracy is nothing more than a clever tool used by the ruling class to subjugate the rest of us" - **Gertom1963***

"By giving the government unlimited powers, the most arbitrary rule can be made legal; and in this way a democracy may set up the most complete despotism imaginable."
-- **Friedrich August von Hayek** (1899-1992), Nobel Laureate of Economic Sciences 1974
Source: The Road to Serfdom

*"What remains of democracy is largely the right to choose among commodities. Business leaders have long explained the need to impose on the population a 'philosophy of futility' and 'lack of purpose in life' to 'concentrate human attention on the more superficial things that comprise much of fashionable consumption'. Deluged by such propaganda from infancy, people may then accept their meaningless and subordinate lives and forget ridiculous ideas about managing their own affairs. They abandon their fate to corporate managers and the PR industry, and, in the political realm, to the self-described 'intelligent minorities' who administer power." - **Noam Chomsky***

Our contemporaries are constantly excited by two conflicting passions; they want to be led, and they wish to remain free: as they cannot destroy either the one or the other of these contrary propensities, they strive to satisfy them both at once. They devise a sole, tutelary, and all-powerful form of government, but elected by the people. They combine the principle of centralization and that of popular sovereignty; this gives them a respite: they console themselves for being in tutelage by the reflection that they have chosen their own guardians. Every man allows himself to be put in leading strings, because he sees that it is not a person or a class of persons but the people at large, who hold the end of his chain. -- **Alexis de Tocqueville**, [*Democracy in America*](#) [1835]

"But I go on this great republican principle, that the people will have virtue and intelligence to select men of virtue and wisdom. Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we are in a wretched situation. No theoretical checks -- no form of government can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea. If there be sufficient virtue and intelligence in the community, it will be exercised in the selection of these men. So that we do not depend on their virtue, or put confidence in our rulers, but in the people who are to choose them." -- **James Madison**
(1751-1836), Father of the Constitution for the USA, 4th US President
Source: Virginia Ratifying Convention, 1788

When the political waters are tossed in storm, the leader or party who make two emergencies grow where one grew before renders the Nation a great disservice.... If democracy fails with us it will be through a war of attrition involving a chain of emergencies which at the moment could be made to justify authoritarian measures. -- **H.W. Dodds**, President of Princeton University [1937]

"If you establish a democracy, you must in due time reap the fruits of a democracy. You will in due season have great impatience of the public burdens, combined in due season with great increase of the public expenditure. You will in due season have wars entered from passion and not from reason; and you will in due season submit to peace ignominiously sought and ignominiously obtained, which will diminish your authority and perhaps endanger your independence. You will in due season find your property is less valuable, and your freedom less complete." -- **Benjamin Disraeli** (1804-1881) Prime Minister of England, British statesman, novelist
Source: Speech in the House of Commons, March 31, 1850.

Secrecy and a free, democratic government don't mix. – Merle Miller, [Plain Speaking](#) [1974]

"Can you imagine working at the following Company? It has a little over 500 employees with the following statistics: 29 have been accused of spousal abuse. 7 have been arrested for fraud. 19 have been accused of writing bad checks. 117 have bankrupted at least two businesses. 3 have been arrested for assault. 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit. 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges. 8 have been arrested for shoplifting. 21 are current defendants in lawsuits. 84 were stopped for drunk driving in 1998 alone. Can you guess which organization this is? Give up? It's the 535 members of your United States Congress. The same group that perpetually cranks out hundreds upon hundreds of new laws designed to keep the rest of us in line." – **Jack Sharp**
Capitol Hill Blue editor. Source: Capitol Hill Blue editor Jack Sharp, researcher Marilyn Crosslyn, and private Investigator James Hargill.

"The two greatest obstacles to democracy in the United States are, first, the widespread delusion among the poor that we have a democracy, and second, the chronic terror among the rich, lest we get it." **Edward Dowling**

"In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy." - **Matt Taibbi**

"Now that no one buys our votes, the public has long since cast off its cares; for the people that once bestowed commands, consulships, legions, and all else, now meddles no more and longs eagerly for just two things -- bread and circuses." -- **Juvenal** [Decimus Junius Juvenalis] (c.55-c.128 AD) Roman satirical poet c. 100 A.D Source: Juvenal, Satire 10.77-81

Can there not be a government in which majorities do not virtually decide right and wrong, but conscience? —in which majorities decide only those questions to which the rule of expediency is applicable? Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience, then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. – **Henry David Thoreau**, *Civil Disobedience* [1849]

We live in a system where the dictates of "democracy" are such that whichever group finds itself in the minority must submit to the elected ruling regime. "Or else." No other option is permitted. This is a road that often leads to violence, either by private parties, or by the regime against the people. – **Ryan McMacken**, "[Secession in Virginia Would Defuse the State's Conflict over Guns](#)" [2020]

"Democracy is popular because of the illusion of choice and participation it provides, but when you live in a society in which most people's knowledge of the world extends as far as sports, sitcoms, reality shows, and celebrity gossip, democracy becomes a very dangerous idea. Until people are properly educated and informed, instead of indoctrinated to be ignorant mindless consumers, democracy is nothing more than a clever tool used by the ruling class to subjugate the rest of us." - **Gavin Nascimento**

"An election is nothing more than the advanced auction of stolen goods." -- **Ambrose Bierce** (1842-1914) American Civil War soldier, humorist, writer

"If pigs could vote, the man with the slop bucket would be elected swineherd every time, no matter how much slaughtering he did on the side." -- **Orson Scott Card** (1951-) American novelist, critic, public speaker, essayist, columnist

The evils of government are directly proportional to the tolerance [ignorance and indifference] of the people: **Frank Kent**

"There are no necessary evils in government. Its evils exist only in its abuses. If it would confine itself to equal protection, and, as Heaven does its rains, shower its favors alike on the high and the low, the rich and the poor, it would be an unqualified blessing." -- **Andrew Jackson** (1767-1845) 7th US President Source: July 10, 1832, Veto of the Bank Bill

A simple democracy is the devil's own government. **Benjamin Rush**

"The people's right to obtain information does not, of course, depend on any assured ability to understand its significance or use it wisely. Facts belong to the people simply because they relate to interests that are theirs, government that is theirs, and votes that they may desire to cast, for they are entitled to an active role in shaping every fundamental decision of state."
-- **Edmond Cahn** Source: *The Predicament of Democratic Man*, 1961

"If liberty is worth keeping and free representative government worth saving, we must stand for all American fundamentals—not some, but all. All are woven into the great fabric of our national well-being. We cannot hold fast to some only, and abandon others that, for the moment, we find inconvenient. If one American fundamental is prostrated, others in the end will surely fall."
-- **Albert J. Beveridge** (1862-1927) American historian, US Senator (R-IN) 1920

"Human nature itself is evermore an advocate for liberty. There is also in human nature a resentment of injury, and indignation against wrong. A love of truth and a veneration of virtue. These amiable passions, are the "latent spark"... If the people are capable of understanding, seeing and feeling the differences between true and false, right and wrong, virtue and vice, to what better principle can the friends of mankind apply than to the sense of this difference?"
-- **John Adams** (1735-1826) Founding Father, 2nd US President Source: the Novanglus, 1775 (another founder's quote for justice...truth, and best principle...?)

"English character and English freedom depend comparatively little on the form which the Constitution assumes at Westminster. A centralised democracy may be as tyrannical as an absolute monarch; and if

the vigour of the nation is to continue unimpaired, each individual, each family, each district, must preserve as far as possible its independence, its self-completeness, its powers and its privilege to manage its own affairs and think its own thoughts." -- **James Anthony Froude** (1818-1894) British author and historian
Source: Short Studies on Great Subjects, 1872

"The general object was to produce a cure for the evils under which the United States labored; that in tracing these evils to their origins, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy." -- **Edmund Randolph** (1753-1813) Virginia delegate at the US Constitutional Convention, 1787

"Collectivism is the political theory that states that the will of the people is omnipotent, an individual must obey; that society as a whole, not the individual, is the unit of moral value. ... Collectivism is the application of the altruist ethics to politics." -- **Andrew Bernstein** Professor of philosophy, writer
Source: Villainy: An Analysis of the Nature of Evil, (2005.11.05)

"The danger is not that a particular class is unfit to govern. Every class is unfit to govern."
-- **Lord Acton** [John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton] (1834-1902), First Baron Acton of Aldenham

"Colonialism subdues in many dulcet guises. It conquered under the pretext of spreading Christianity, civilization, law and order, to make the world safe for democracy." F. Sionil Jose

"In the Soviet Union, capitalism triumphed over communism. In this country, capitalism triumphed over democracy." - Fran Lebowitz

"Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word: equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude." -- **Alexis de Tocqueville** [Alexis Charles Henri Maurice Clerel, le Comte de Tocqueville] (1805-1859) French historian. [He's right but forgot the fact that democracy has never worked. Communists forget that people are individual. And capitalists for get we are social...and irreversibly connected. Without a moderate level of equality democracies implode.]

An alternative to Democracy: "The Rule of Law" Including it without prioritizing it.

These wise words are offered from my memory of a C-Span program 23+ years ago. They are useful for anyone insisting that democracy be part of any governing system for managing human relations and the environment on spaceship earth and beyond.

Supreme Court Justice Kennedy was speaking to an international audience regarding the Rule of Law. One individual asked, "what is it that makes the Rule of Law most effective?" He said it requires 'three basic elements.

The first is "democracy". 'Laws should be made and enforced by a democratic process'. People 'want' some say in the 'laws they will live under.' But that is 'not enough'. 'Hitler used it to gain power.'

(Then he offered the other two which in my non humbled prejudiced view are infinitely more important).

Second...The laws need to be "applied equally" to all. [I hear this in the concept of "Justice for all"]

Last.... the laws must be 'protective of a certain set of inalienable human rights'. [then I thought of the Declaration of Independence, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the common pledge we all make before the US flag 'liberty and justice for all']*

Before Trump was elected I discovered that **Thomas Paine** had written in his pamphlet **Common Sense**, that "the design and end of government" ...is protecting "freedoms and security". This "is the origin and rise of government". I'm assuming he meant freedom and security of people. Not the freedom and security of government to do as it pleases.

*Read the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** created and approved unanimously shortly after the horrors of World War II. They were intended to prevent future wars, genocides, and global chaos.

Recently I discovered another definition of the "Rule of Law" that offered a fourth essential element to sustaining this form of law making. Accountability of those making the laws. And not just accountability in the next elections.

"Information is the currency of democracy." - Thomas Jefferson. [Can humanity ever make sure this currency is always accurate? The evolution of technology and the lack of consistent human values will only accelerate. Misinformation, fake news, lies, propaganda, warped ideologies, untested principles, will continue to flow from the human mind and machines. Perhaps AI will gain comprehensive consciousness and wisdom before we do. I hope it sides with our species survival and not our extinction. I would prioritize AI to decide the passage of laws before trusting any small or large group of humans].

Secrecy and a free, democratic government don't mix. – Merle Miller, [Plain Speaking](#) [1974]

DEMOCRACY: The good, bad and the ugly. [See "Threats"]

Almost everyone loves democracy. But the evidence against it is profound, unrelenting, and overwhelming. Democracy is a human concept intended to give each voter a voice — with the unspoken assumption that each voice and vote is well informed. It also assumes that a majority view will best serve everyone without leading to significant problems, violence, or all-out war. It sounds like a grand idea. But democracy never ends that way. History has proved it to be a profoundly flawed system of government.

Voting should be a skill...not a gut feeling. But given,

- 1) the complexity of the issues,
- 2) the low level of accuracy of information we acquire
- 3) the abundance of distracting and irrelevant information
- 4) Our mind's capacity to believe ANYTHING.
- 5) our aversion to learning important information
- 6) our denial of vital information
- 7) the percentage who vote

8) An independent nations inability to halt damaging interdependent global problems.

9) each political party's preference for winning elections over keeping their pledge of "liberty and justice for all."

10) the influence of social media in influencing the "undecideds" using "weapons grade communication tactics and micro targeting" [See "The Great Hack" regarding Cambridge Analytica influence on Trump and Brexit elections.]

11) our cognitive flaws: '**Confirmation bias's** and '**cognitive dissidence**' being the greatest barriers to changing one's mind.

12) our habit of emotion-based decision making and avoiding what we know we should do.

It's not easy publicly asserting that Democracy is not a fundamental principle (a "Law of Nature and Nature's God"). But regardless of popular assumption democracy is a human principle. One with understandably good intentions. Everyone should have a say regarding the rules they will live under. But one person's desire can be another's terror. It appears to an unsustainable means of ensuring the sustainable maximization of human freedoms and security locally, nationally, or globally.

It must be including two other essential elements that are fundamental principles (justice and protecting everyone's inalienable human rights). These are necessary to prevent social dysfunction and disaster.

Important and accurate information in the minds of voters should be the foundation of any stable and sustainable population. That rarely happens because of nearly a dozen cognitive flaws of the human mind.

Humanity has never had more ease of access, volume, breadth, and depth of information - as well as misinformation. With little means of reliable and timely fact checking. Worse yet. Many people willingly ignore sound information that is readily available. Note nutrition, health, and fitness needs. Or the 'self-evident truths' in our Declaration of Independence. Worse yet our elected policy makers pledge to defend a constitution that ignores them, and the persistent negative consequences follow. Yet we continue to hold elections as if the next one will provide universal and sustainable outcomes.

We justifiably distrust information then reserve our trust for our favorite party's narratives. Or we just vote on our immediate emotion and/or some narrow self-interests. Relying entirely on a short memory, flawed historical perspective, distrust of science, or a specific personal religious or political identity.

Our nation's current dilemmas should be sufficient proof that democracy is NOT sustainable. If current trends are insufficient to **change your mind...** please re-consider the list of quotes above!

What is Democracy? Whatever it is, it isn't enough. And at the global level there is none. Not yet. Finances, infectious diseases, WMD proliferation, terrorism, poverty,

crime, pollution, cyber communications...nearly everything is globalized and diminishing the common good, freedom and security for humanity. The highest wishes and values of 'we the peoples' of the world have no official representation in the UN Charter other than a mention in its preamble. Most of humanity is increasingly impacted by each of these chaotic global forces, yet we have virtually no say in having them dealt with effectively at their source, or comprehensively, which is essential -- given their/our interconnectedness. The power of national governments, multinational corporations, international institutions (IMF and World Bank), the wealthy, and some media reflect the self-interest of a very powerful few. The good of 'We the people' is rarely factored in. And even if it were expressed and effectively implemented in one country, unless all nations align the comprehensive effort needed...will not happen.

Most people want and rightfully expect to participate in the rules they must live under. Rules that they believe in should be equally enforced on all people. Participatory democracy is like water. It is essential to a healthy human life. But like water, if it is contaminated, too abundant or scarce -- human lives are threatened. And the cost in lives - and sustainability are jeopardized.

The democracies of advanced industrial nations are facing a governing crisis. Covid exacerbated it. Increasing consequences of unregulated hyper globalization was widening the gap between voter wants, needs, and demands - and what their governments can deliver within their borders. Covid19 made this worse. If democracies fail to maintain or restore their political and economic solvency, their democratic model is unworthy of protection. And the protests around the world are now evidence of this predictable outcome.

In the US, democracy and capitalism are increasingly in tension. Democracy implies that we are all political equals -- with equal rights to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and protection by our Bill of Rights. We all have the freedom to express our opinions and defend our beliefs for solving problems...and then once every 2-, 4- or 6-years vote. But few eligible voters even know who their Representative is or have communicated directly to them (even less directly with them). And only about half of eligible voters even show up at the polls to cast a vote. And even fewer voters study the details of any issue without a cognitive bias. And rarely fully comprehend the complexity of problems and the need to address root or systemic causes holistically. Our Pleistocene mind that helped us get this far, is now our species greatest liability.

Capitalism is about accumulating wealth. Because of the supreme court ruling that money equals 'free speech' -- accumulated wealth leads to increased political power to influence elections where few voters are well informed and motivated to vote. When this power is used to the advantage of corporations and the wealthy to further diminish the power of 'we the people', our capitalist system consistently gets rigged against the majority. As wealth's power increases access to political power and allows more access and influence in setting the economic rules the voters remain ignorant of the issues or

don't vote at all. And the power of an informed majority is stunted even further. It's crony capitalism, not a real democracy, when money's influence on policy making is rampant and destructive to a healthy and sustainable way of life. But there is little evidence that even those who show up to vote have sufficient understanding of the political system that rules them and the growing array of global forces threatening their freedom, security, prosperity, and democracy.

If money really does equal free speech, then an individual refusing to pay taxes in protest X, Y, or Z policy should also be protected by the First Amendment. If the Supreme Court rejects that logic, our founding fathers did leave us with two options. A Constitutional clause for amending the constitution and the Second Amendment. Given most American's aversion to politics and our unstoppable affinity for guns one would be unwise to wager that 'we the people' will turn to the Constitutional clause to remedy any serious grievances.

Washington passed the Civil Rights Act of '64, the Voting Rights Act of '65, and the Civil Rights Act of '66 with only 51 votes. Today, it takes 60 votes just to get the right to vote on a bill in the U.S. Senate. Getting 60 votes to break a filibuster seemed impossible. So that rule was eliminated. Yet, our democratic constitutional system remains dysfunctional and increasingly paralyzes our entire legislative process -- making any contentious problem extremely difficult to virtually impossible to resolve even amid great human suffering. This cognitive and systemic dysfunction yields increasingly powerful advantage to our competitor nations and our enemies.

We humans are often irrational, distracted, and self-absorbed. It's likely that any democracy we sustain will not be based on rational planning, farsighted engineering, noble objectives, or the prevention of disaster. And that's why democracies consistently fail.

Conclusion: No human, no elected body, no spiritual group, no military force, no nation, no religion, no philosophy -- is great enough or wise enough for any of us to surrender our destiny (sovereignty) to.

The only way in which anyone can lead us is to restore our belief and then base all our actions on the fundamental principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Stressing that the 'self-evident truth' that all people are created equal and deserving of certain inalienable rights are the foundation of sustainable government. Then codify those rights based on the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God" and then rejecting any human created 'alternative principles' (like Peace through strength, market forces will solve the problem, elections will save us...) or any other flawed principles that humans have been inventing for millennium. This is the only sustainable foundation for any form of government for human life on earth and beyond.

READINGS:

1. Against Democracy: 9-6-16: by [Jason Brennan](#) Most people believe democracy is a uniquely just form of government. They believe people have the right to an equal share of political power [which should be true]. And they believe that political participation is good for us--it empowers us, helps us get what we want, and tends to make us smarter, more virtuous, and more caring for one another. These are some of our most cherished ideas about democracy. **Jason Brennan** says, they are all wrong. In his trenchant book,

Brennan argues that democracy should be judged by its results--and the results are not good enough. Just as defendants have a right to a fair trial, citizens have a right to competent government. But democracy is the rule of the ignorant and the irrational, and it all too often falls short. Furthermore, no one has a fundamental right to any share of political power, and exercising political power does most of us little good. On the contrary, a wide range of social science research shows that political participation and democratic deliberation tend to make people worse--more irrational, biased, and mean. Given this grim picture, Brennan argues that a new system of government--epistocracy, the rule of the knowledgeable--may be better than democracy, and that it's time to experiment and find out. A challenging critique of democracy and the first sustained defense of the rule of the knowledgeable, *Against Democracy* is essential reading for scholars and students of politics across the disciplines.

2. Read the Federalist Paper #10, (James Madison) 1787.

3. "Only About 3.5 Percent of Americans Care About Democracy" (A recent study reveals that vanishingly few voters will defect from a candidate who acts undemocratically.)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020. By **Graeme Wood** Staff writer at *The Atlantic*... <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/09/few-americans-care-about-democracy/616534/>

Here's how Chuck Woolery describes himself:

Chuck is mostly a 'Has been'

Former Chair, United Nations Association, Council of Organizations

Former Issues Director, World Federalist Association

Former Issues Director, Global Health Council

Former Media Director, RESULTS

Current Wrestling Coach, Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

& Certified Montgomery County Weed Warrior volunteer Supervisor.

Rockville Rotary Club, Environmental co-chair and general trouble maker.

315 Dean Dr., Rockville, MD 20851

Cell:240-997-2209 chuck@iqc.org

Blogs: 435 Campaign: www.435globaljustice.blogspot.com (May 2017 through today)

Dothefreakinmath <http://dothefreakinmath.blogspot.com> (June 2006 to Nov 2016)

The Trilemma <http://trilemma.blogspot.com/> (Oct 2011 to Nov 2013)

"Today the most important thing, in my view, is to study the reasons why humankind does nothing to avert the threats about which it knows so much, and why it allows itself to be carried onward by some kind of perpetual motion. It cannot suffice to invent new machines, new regulations, new institutions. It is necessary to change and improve our understanding of the true purpose of what we are and what we do in the world. Only such an understanding will allow us to develop new models of behavior, new scales of values and goals, and thereby invest the

global regulations, treaties, and institutions with a new spirit and meaning." President Vaclav Havel, Czech Republic.

Here's a video of optimism if you dare watch it <https://www.rethinkx.com/videos>

"A human being is part of the whole, called by us 'Universe'; a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest - a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and affection for a few persons nearest us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole nature in its beauty. Nobody is able to achieve this completely, but striving for such achievement is, in itself, a part of the liberation, and a foundation for inner security." -Albert Einstein. *As quoted in Quantum Reality, Beyond the New Physics, p. 250.*

"The sad truth...is that most evil is done by people who never made up their minds to be or do either evil or good." Hannah Arendt quoted in The Bulwork.

What are you doing to ensure the funding and achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by or before the year 2030? Connect the dots! See the web of life! Achieve 'justice for all'. Or, prepare for the catastrophic consequences. cw