

PROS & CONS OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

THE TIDE & THE SECOND SHIP



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ABOUT ME



POLITICAL

NXT

THE BEGINNING-

Athens - 399 BCE & 427 BCE

1. A JURY OF 501 ORDINARY CITIZENS

- NO KING, NO TYRANT, NO SECRET POLICE
 - THE PEOPLE OF ATHENS DELIBERATED VOTING AS EQUALS.
- They sentenced Socrates to death.

1. MYTILENE AND THE REVERSAL

- THE ASSEMBLY VOTED TO EXECUTE EVERY ADULT MALE OF A REBEL CITY. A SHIP WAS DISPATCHED.
- Overnight they reconvened, argued, reversed themselves, **and sent a second ship that arrived in time.**



AMERICAN DEMOCRACY:-

A Story of Tides, Not Lines

THE QUESTIONS MOST ASK

01

- “How can we replace the democratic system?”
- “Is democracy truly fair?”

THE QUESTION I ASK

02

“Are *all* Americans truly represented?”

~690%

of Americans state that they are dissatisfied with the modern American democratic system.

~ Pew Research Center 2026

THE FOUNDING FATHERS:- FAITH IN THE PEOPLE, FEAR OF THE PEOPLE

FAITH:

- Consent of the governed made the foundation of legitimacy
- The House directly elected by the people
- Written limits on power, binding on rulers

FEAR:

- • Senators chosen by state legislatures, not voters.
- • Presidents chosen by the Electoral College
- • Federal judges appointed for life
- • Liberty proclaimed while slavery was permitted

SIX COMMUNITIES, SIX CENTURIES OF WAITING

Men Without Property

1820 – 1840

States tore down property qualifications — the birth of mass democracy. But New York imposed a \$250 requirement on Black men only (1821), and Pennsylvania inserted one word, "white," into its constitution (1838).

African Americans

1865 – 1965

Counted for representation, denied it entirely. Louisiana's registered Black voters: 130,000 in 1896 → 1,342 by 1904. Undone only by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Women

1776 – 1920

Susan B. Anthony voted in 1872, was convicted and fined \$100. In *Minor v. Happersett* (1875) a unanimous Court held citizenship did not include suffrage. 144 years of waiting.

Native Americans

1924 – 1957

Citizenship in 1924 did not deliver the ballot. Arizona barred Native voters until 1948, New Mexico until 1948, Utah until 1957.

Asian Immigrants

1882 – 1952

In 1923 the Court ruled *Bhagat Singh Thind* — a U.S. Army veteran — was not "white," and could never naturalize. Dozens were stripped of citizenship they already held.

Young Americans

1971

Conscripted at 18, denied a ballot until 21. Before the 26th Amendment was ratified in July 1971, young Americans were sent to the army before ever voting.

EIGHT MILLION CITIZENS, **NO**

REPRESENTATION AT ALL

3.5M

U.S. Territories

Citizens of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and others. They pay federal taxes and serve in the armed forces. No voting member of Congress. No vote for president.

700K

District of Columbia

Residents of the national capital have no voting member in either chamber of Congress — taxed, governed, and unrepresented.

4M

Felony Disenfranchisement

Americans barred from voting by conviction. Roughly 70% are living in their communities right now — working, paying taxes, without a voice in the laws that bind them.

Not underrepresented. Unrepresented.

And we have not yet asked whether the votes that are cast carry equal weight.

CONS OF DEMOCRACY:- THE SAFE-SEAT MACHINE



01 Winner-take-all

51% of a district wins 100% of its representation. The other 49% get nothing in either direction, in every region.

02 The mid-decade redistricting war

Since summer 2025: Texas, Missouri, Ohio, North Carolina, Utah, California's counter-map, and Tennessee. Six states carried new maps by February 2026.

03 *Louisiana v. Callais*

April 2026: The Supreme Court narrowed Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The dissent charged the majority with making "a nullity" of it.

Polarization is manufactured by structure.

CONS OF DEMOCRACY:- UNEQUAL WEIGHT, UNEQUAL ACCESS

UNEQUAL WEIGHT

68x

A Wyoming voter's Senate representation, measured against a Californian's.

- A candidate may lose the national popular vote and still take the presidency, twice this century.
- Campaigns concentrate on a handful of contested states and treat the rest of the country as scenery.

THE DEFENSE, STATED FAIRLY

The Framers built a federal system. Without these structures, smaller states would be permanently submerged.

UNEQUAL ACCESS

\$15.9B

Cost of the 2024 federal election cycle — the most expensive in American history.

- Outside spending reached \$4.5 billion in the 2024 cycle alone.
- More than half of it came from groups that do not disclose who funded them.

THE DEFENSE, STATED FAIRLY

Spending to spread a political message is political speech, and no campaign reaches 340 million people on good intentions.



THE CONS OF DEMOCRACY: WHEN THE MACHINERY STOPS TRANSLATING

Liberal → Electoral

In March 2026 the V-Dem Institute reclassified the United States from a liberal democracy to an electoral democracy — the first such downgrade in more than fifty years.

20th → 51st

The United States' world ranking, out of 179 countries measured. The authors call the scale and speed of the decline unprecedented among Western democracies.

Remember the 69% from earlier.

It isn't hypothetical. It is reality, real numbers.



THE STANDARD THIS SERIES WAS CONVENED UPON

“In a really equal democracy, every or any section would be represented, not disproportionately, but proportionately...

Unless they are, there is not equal government, but a government of inequality and privilege: one part of the people rule over the rest.”

John Stuart Mill, Considerations on Representative Government (1861) — Chapter VII: “Of True and False Democracy: Representation of All, and Representation of the Majority Only.”

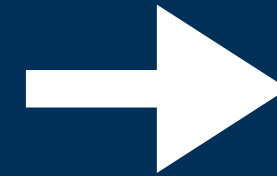


***The second ship never sails on its own.
Someone has to launch it.***

STAY CONNECTED



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THANK YOU

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