

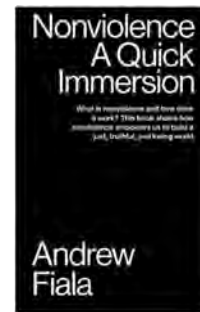
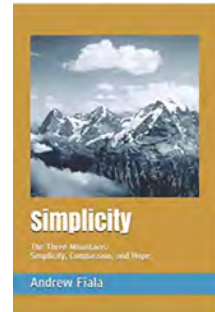
The Future Of Democracy

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Fresno State Ethics Center Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EthicsCenterFSU/videos>

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DISCOVERING SIMPLICITY

*Wander everywhere, at home wherever you are.
Forget the names of things and empty your boat.
Live like a mountain and sit beneath a useless tree.*

1

Thesis and Outline

- The present crisis of democracy is not unusual. Democracies are not stable or common in history. We do not even agree about what we mean by democracy. But education about the challenges and opportunities can help us create the future for “we, the people.”

Part 1: The Present Crisis

Part 2: Historical Perspective

Part 3: Disputes about the Meaning of Democracy

Part 4: Call for Education

2

Part 1: The Present Crisis



3

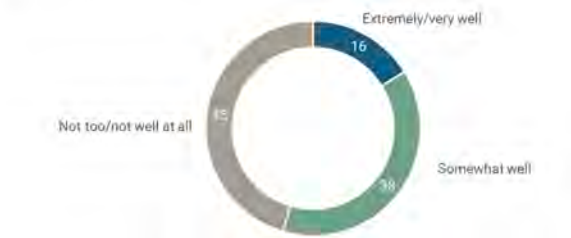
Few Think Democracy Is Working Well These Days

Associated Press, Feb. 8, 2021

<https://apnorc.org/projects/many-value-democratic-principles-but-few-think-democracy-is-working-well-these-days/>

How well is democracy working in the United States?

Percent of adults



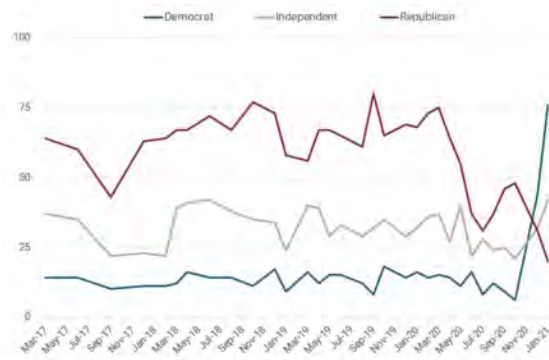
Question: How well would you say democracy is working in the United States these days?
Source: AP-NORC poll conducted January 28-February 1, 2021 with 1,055 adults nationwide.

AP *NORC

APNORC.org

Is the country on the right track?

Percent of adults who say right track



Question: Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?
Source: AP-NORC polls, the latest January 28-February 1, 2021 with 1,055 adults nationwide.

AP *NORC

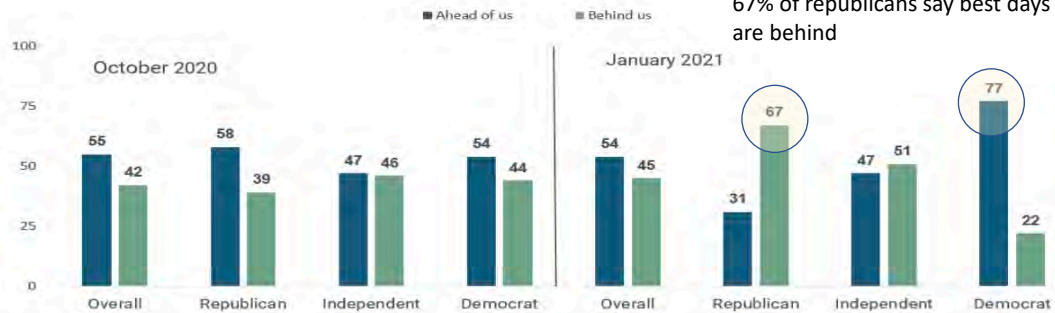
APNORC.org

4

Few Think Democracy Is Working Well These Days Associated Press, Feb. 8, 2021

<https://apnorc.org/projects/many-value-democratic-principles-but-few-think-democracy-is-working-well-these-days/>

Are America's best days: Percent of adults



77% of democrats say best days are ahead
67% of republicans say best days are behind

Question: In general, do you think America's best days are:
Source: AP-NORC polls conducted October 8-12, 2020 with 1,121 adults and January 28-February 1, 2021 with 1,055 adults.

AP * NORC

APNORC.org

5

65% of Republicans don't believe Biden won Feb. 5, 2021

AP Poll <https://apnorc.org/projects/trumps-legacy-as-president/>

Most Americans agree Joe Biden was legitimately elected in November Percent of adults



Question: Do you think Joe Biden was legitimately elected president, or not?
Source: AP-NORC poll conducted January 28-February 1, 2021, with 1,055 adults age 18 and older nationwide.

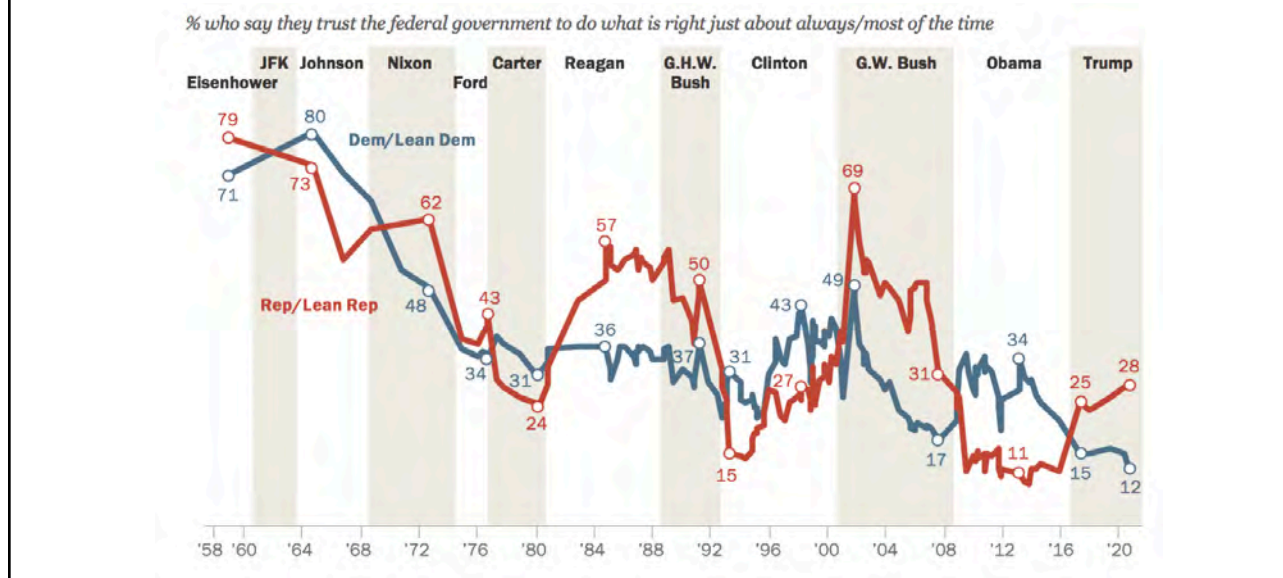
AP * NORC

APNORC.org

6

Declining Trust in Government, Pew Center Sept. 2020

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/09/14/americans-views-of-government-low-trust-but-some-positive-performance-ratings/>



7

Freedom House Report

Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy Under Siege

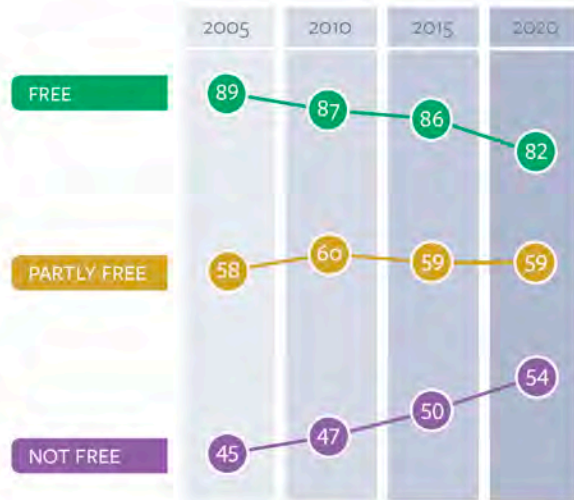
https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/FIW2021_World_02252021_FINAL-web-upload.pdf

- Democracy's defenders sustained heavy new losses in their struggle against authoritarian foes, shifting the international balance in favor of tyranny.
- These withering blows marked the 15th consecutive year of decline in global freedom. The countries experiencing deterioration outnumbered those with improvements by the largest margin recorded since the negative trend began in 2006. The long democratic recession is deepening.
- The impact of the long-term democratic decline has become increasingly global in nature, broad enough to be felt by those living under the cruelest dictatorships, as well as by citizens of long-standing democracies. Nearly 75 percent of the world's population lived in a country that faced deterioration last year. The ongoing decline has given rise to claims of democracy's inherent inferiority.

8

A SHIFTING INTERNATIONAL BALANCE

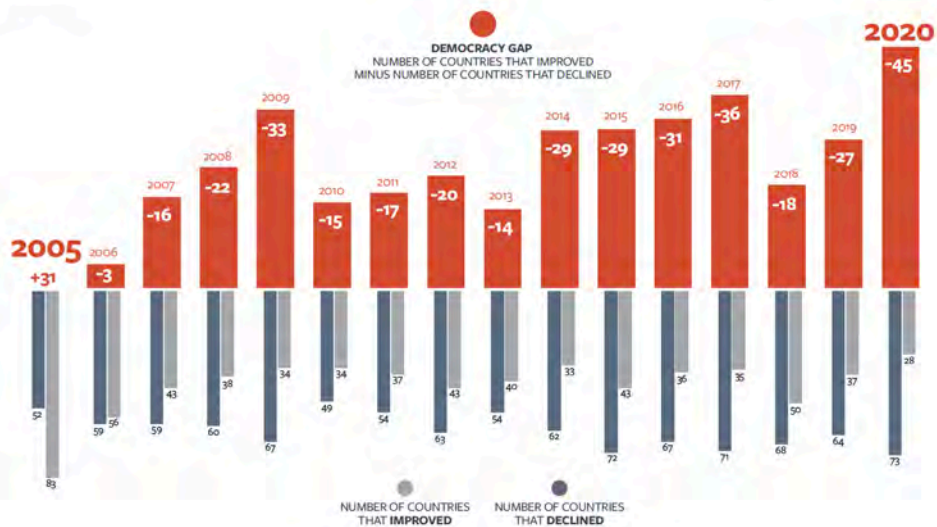
In 2020, the number of Free countries in the world reached its lowest level since the beginning of a 15-year period of global democratic decline, while the number of Not Free countries reached its highest level.



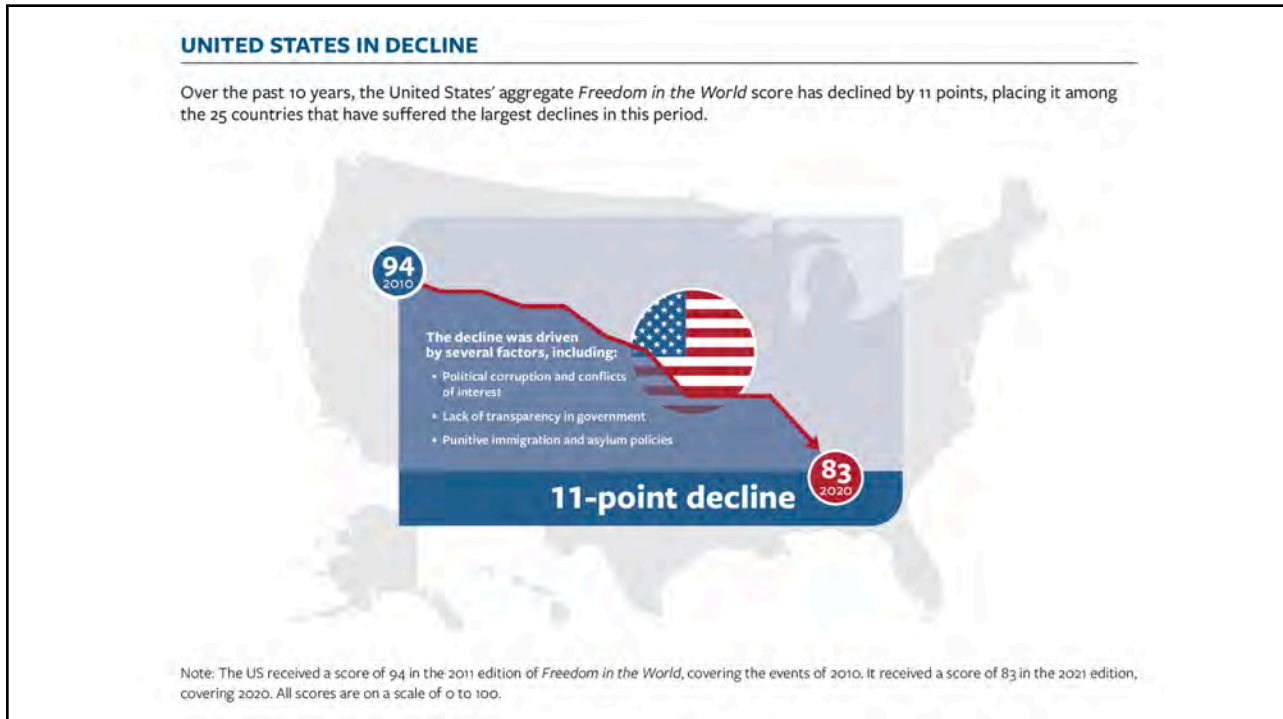
9

A GROWING DEMOCRACY GAP: 15 YEARS OF DECLINE

Countries with aggregate score declines in *Freedom in the World* have outnumbered those with gains every year for the past 15 years.



10



11



12

Athenian Democracy: 180 Years (with interruptions)

- 508 BCE: Cleisthenes: Athens divided into representative groups: Demes (neighborhoods/wards) vs. Familial Power
- 440's – 430's: Periclean Athens ("Age of Pericles")
 - Pericles: our city is called a democracy, because not the few but the many govern.
- 431- 404: Peloponnesian War
 - 429: Pericles dies from the plague
- 411: Coup of the Oligarchs (including Alcibiades, a student of Socrates)
- 404: Thirty Tyrants installed by Sparta (including Critias, a student of Socrates)
- 403: Thrasybulus restored democracy
- 399: Socrates executed by the democratic assembly
- 338: Philip of Macedon defeats Athens
- 322: Antipater (following Alexander) imposes oligarchy on Athens



13

Plato: Democracy is a Ship of Fools



14

American Democracy 250 years (with interruptions)



15

Part 3: Disputes about Democracy

- Deliberative vs. Agonistic
 - Civil discourse and reason OR Conflict, competition, and struggle
- Who should be a member?
 - Athens: men (not women and slaves)
 - USA: men (not women and slaves)
 - BUT: we've changed!
- How big, how stable, and how long should a democracy last?
- What are the rules/procedures for elections?

16

Agonistic Democracy

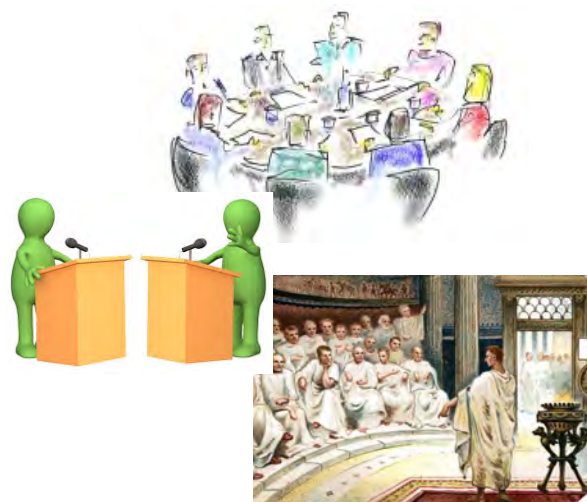
- Power
- Protest
- Direct Action
- Manipulation
- Persuasion
- Rhetoric
- Demagoguery
- Machiavelli



17

Deliberative Democracy

- Reasonable consensus
- Civility
- Tolerance
- Understanding
- Common Good



18

Who gets to vote?

- Lowering or raising the voting age.
 - 18, 16, or 21?
- Non-citizens?
 - Example: New Zealand: You're eligible to enroll and vote if you are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and you've lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life
 - <https://vote.nz/enrolling/get-ready-to-enrol/are-you-eligible-to-enrol-and-vote/>
- Prisoners and ex-convicts?
 - Some states, felons never lose their right to vote, even while they are incarcerated.
 - 18 states, felon voting rights automatic restoration upon release.
 - 19 states, felons voting rights restored after parole/probationary period.
 - 11 states felons lose voting rights indefinitely
 - <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/felon-voting-rights.aspx>

19

How should we vote?

- H.R. 1 ("For The People Act")—passed March 3, 2021
 - **John Sarbanes and Nancy Pelosi** H.R. 1 will protect the right to vote, ensure the integrity of our elections, hold elected officials accountable and end the era of big, dark, special-interest money... clean up decades of dysfunction in Washington, return power to the people.
 - <https://sarbanes.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/pelosi-lofgren-sarbanes-joint-statement-re-introduction-hr-1-people-act>
 - **Mike Pence:** H.R. 1 would make fraud easier, trample the First Amendment, erode confidence, and dilute the votes of legally qualified eligible voters
 - <https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/03/03/election-integrity-is-a-national-imperative/>



20

Part 4: Education

- Education is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.
 - Thomas Jefferson
- Democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife.
 - John Dewey



21

Conclusion

- Models of Democracy (political philosophy)
- History, US Government, and Current Affairs
- Civility, Critical Thinking, and Ethics
- Deep Questioning

Framework for Teaching Controversial Issues
 Andrew Fiala, Ph.D., Director of the Ethics Center at Fresno State



Is it fair?
 Is it true?
 Does it make sense?

The Virtues of Civility

Civility is self-restraint in a context of liberty. In its fundamental moral aspect, it is based upon respect for the other.
 Andrew Fiala, "The Virtue of Civility"

Teach them better, if you can. If not, remember that kindness, grace, and goodwill are given for moments such as these.
 Marcus Aurelius

22