

Third Saturday Seminar 2016-2017

Humanity at a Crossroads

21 January 2017

<http://northstarinst.org/tss/16-17/04/TSS.16-17.Session.04.Notice.htm>

Session 4

“Our Brave New World”

“Are the world’s democracies losing their shine?”

(Don't (be) Panic(ked)

Curt Gibby

Discussion

**ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery
Conroe, Texas**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We now have a new President sitting in the White House: President Donald J. Trump, Number 45.

Some of us who live near and travel to The Woodlands on Monday **experienced a tornado (mercifully small, but apparently had an appetite for trampolines,** at least around Katy.) Could this may be Mother Nature giving us a sign of times? **There is such a maelstrom of information now flying about in America and the World; churned and delivered to us 24/7 by our media and out technology that trying to develop a manageable pertinent themes for the Third Saturday Seminar is taking on the magnitude of Heracles cleaning the Augean Stables.** (*Heracles succeeded by rerouting the rivers Alpheus and Peneus to wash out the filth.*) [Wikipedia](#) *Is the Potomac big enough to do the job?*
Curt Gibby

Our main discussion theme Saturday will be: **“Are the world’s democracies losing their shine”** with frequent reference to the discussion **in:**

The Take-A-Way

No democracy is perfect, it is constrained by a number of factors. Funds. Incompetence. Greed.

Just because a democracy has been established for many decades, there is no guarantee that it will continue forever.

A democracy can be used against itself by those who want to destroy it.

A democracy once lost to populism or authoritarianism cannot easily be recovered , if ever.

Calm down. We'll be fine no matter who wins.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/calm-down-well-be-fine-no-matter-who-wins/2016/11/04/e5ca3c32-a2d3-11e6-a44d-cc2898cfab06_story.html?utm_term=.3bf22488b0d5

By **Kathleen Parker** Opinion writer, November 4, (*Abbreviated*)

You can feel the tension. ... friends and neighbors greet each other as usual but avoid the elephant sauntering around like he owns the place. Thank God this will be over soon. Will it?

No one knows, but a sense of dread has attached to the “Day After.” This is because after 18 months of rabble-rousing and anger management (not in a good way), we’ve created a sort of Potemkin nightmare of partisan division and revolutionary strife. *Never before has this country been so divided*, goes the usual chorus of pundits and commentators.

Except, that is, for every other election year since voting began.

Our Founding Fathers, for all their cleverness, were hardly soft-spoken. The Civil War needs no editorial comment.

Calm down. We'll be fine no matter who wins.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/calm-down-well-be-fine-no-matter-who-wins/2016/11/04/e5ca3c32-a2d3-11e6-a44d-cc2898cfab06_story.html?utm_term=.3bf22488b0d5

In other words, our politics have always been thus, though with one significant difference. Whereas Paul Revere had to ride several hours on horseback to deliver the news that the British were coming, **we never stop receiving news of everything, everywhere in real time that passes before we can stand athwart history and gasp, “Oh, my God, no!”**

Through media in all its forms, we exhaust and are exhausted by the insignificant. To tune in is to believe that Western civilization is nearing collapse, **regardless of who holsters up and swaggers into the White House in January. Which is precisely what you're supposed to think. You're *supposed* to think everything is falling apart. You're *supposed* to believe that life has never been worse.**

Forms of government - 1

Populism is a political style of action that **mobilizes a large alienated element of population against a government seen as controlled by an out-of-touch closed elite** that acts on behalf of its own interests.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Populism>

Dictatorship is a form of government where a country or a group of countries is ruled by one person or political entity, and exercised through various mechanisms to ensure that the entity's power remains strong. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictatorship>

Forms of government - 2

Authoritarianism is a form of government characterized by strong central power and limited political freedoms.

Individual freedoms are subordinate to the state and there is no constitutional accountability under an authoritarian regime. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism>

A **tyrant** (Greek τύραννος, *tyrannos*), in its modern English usage, is an absolute ruler unrestrained by law or person, or one who has usurped legitimate sovereignty. Often described as a cruel character, a tyrant defends his position by oppressive means, tending to control almost everything in the state. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrant>

Forms of government - 3

Democracy (Greek: δημοκρατία, *Dēmokratía* literally "rule of the commoners"), in modern usage, is a system of government in which the citizens exercise power directly or elect representatives from among themselves to form a governing body, such as a parliament.^[1] Democracy is sometimes referred to as "rule of the majority"

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy>

Forms of government – 4

Liberal democracy is a liberal political ideology and a form of government in which representative democracy operates under the principles of classical liberalism. It is also called western democracy. It is characterised by fair, free, and competitive elections between multiple distinct political parties, a separation of powers into different branches of government, the rule of law in everyday life as part of an open society, and the equal protection of human rights, civil rights, civil liberties, and political freedoms for all people.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_democracy

Forms of government - 5

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_democracy

Forms of government - 6

An **illiberal democracy**, also called a **partial democracy**, **low intensity democracy**, **empty democracy**, or **hybrid regime**,^[1] is a governing system in which, although elections take place, citizens are cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who exercise real power because of the lack of civil liberties. It is not an "open society".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illiberal_democracy

Forms of government - 7

A **republic** (from Latin: *res publica*) is a sovereign state, country, or government^[1] which is organized with a form of government in which power resides in elected individuals representing the citizen body^{[2][3]} and government leaders exercise power according to the rule of law. In modern times, the definition of a republic is commonly referred to a government which excludes a monarch.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic>

Forms of government – 8

A **benevolent dictatorship** is a theoretical form of government in which an authoritarian leader exercises absolute political power over the state but does so for the benefit of the population as a whole. A benevolent dictator may allow for some economic liberalization or democratic decision-making to exist, such as through public referenda or elected representatives with limited power. It might be seen as a republican form of enlightened despotism.

The label has been applied to leaders such as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (Turkey),^[1] Josip Broz Tito (Yugoslavia),^[2] Lee Kuan Yew (Singapore),^[3] Abdullah II of Jordan,^[4] Paul Kagame (Rwanda), and Qaboos bin Said al Said (Oman).

Also, you may remember 12 March last year our **Session 6** was a primer on American Authoritarianism

<http://northstarinst.org/tss/15-16/06/TSS.15-16.Session.06.Notice.htm> and you may want to review the **Presentation** Slides.

Threats To Democracy Here And Abroad

Wednesday, Dec 21 2016 • 10 a.m. (ET)

<http://thedianerehmsshow.org/shows/2016-12-21/threats-to-democracy-here-and-abroad>

[Listen](#) [Transcript](#) - [Related Links](#)



Several thousand people protested on December 17, 2016, outside the presidential palace in Warsaw over alleged vote fraud and the rightwing government's plans to impose new restrictions on media coverage of parliament. WOJTEK RADWANSKI/AFP/Getty Images

Many political scientists who study democracy are alarmed by developments in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere in the world.

In Europe, right-wing or anti-establishment parties have gained influence in Poland, France, Greece and other nations. In South America, Venezuelans have seen their democratic freedoms plummet. And **in the U.S., many political scientists see warning signs of democratic erosion.** They point to the campaign rhetoric of Donald Trump, his open admiration for Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin and his choices for top positions in his administration.

Diane and her guests discuss threats to liberal democracy at home and abroad.

<http://thedianerehmsshow.org/shows/2016-12-21/threats-to-democracy-here-and-abroad>

Diane's Guests:

Moises Naim distinguished fellow, **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, author of "**The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What It Used to Be**" (We used the "*End of Power*" for discussion in [Session 7](#), 20 Aprilm 13, 2012-13)

Alina Polyakova deputy director of the **Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center**, author of "**Dark Side of European Integration**"

Yascha Mounk lecturer on government at **Harvard University**; fellow in the political reform program at New America; author of "**Stranger in My Own Country**"

<http://thedianerehmsshow.org/shows/2016-12-21/threats-to-democracy-here-and-abroad>

10:08:24

MOUNKI think it's really important to understand that **our political system has two elements** that have often gone together, but they don't necessarily have to go together. So the first is that they are democracies. **I think the best way of thinking about what democracy means is simply that it's a mechanism for translating popular views into public policies, that it's a system in which we have electoral institutions and other institutions and other institutions so that what people want and believe can be translated into what we do politically**

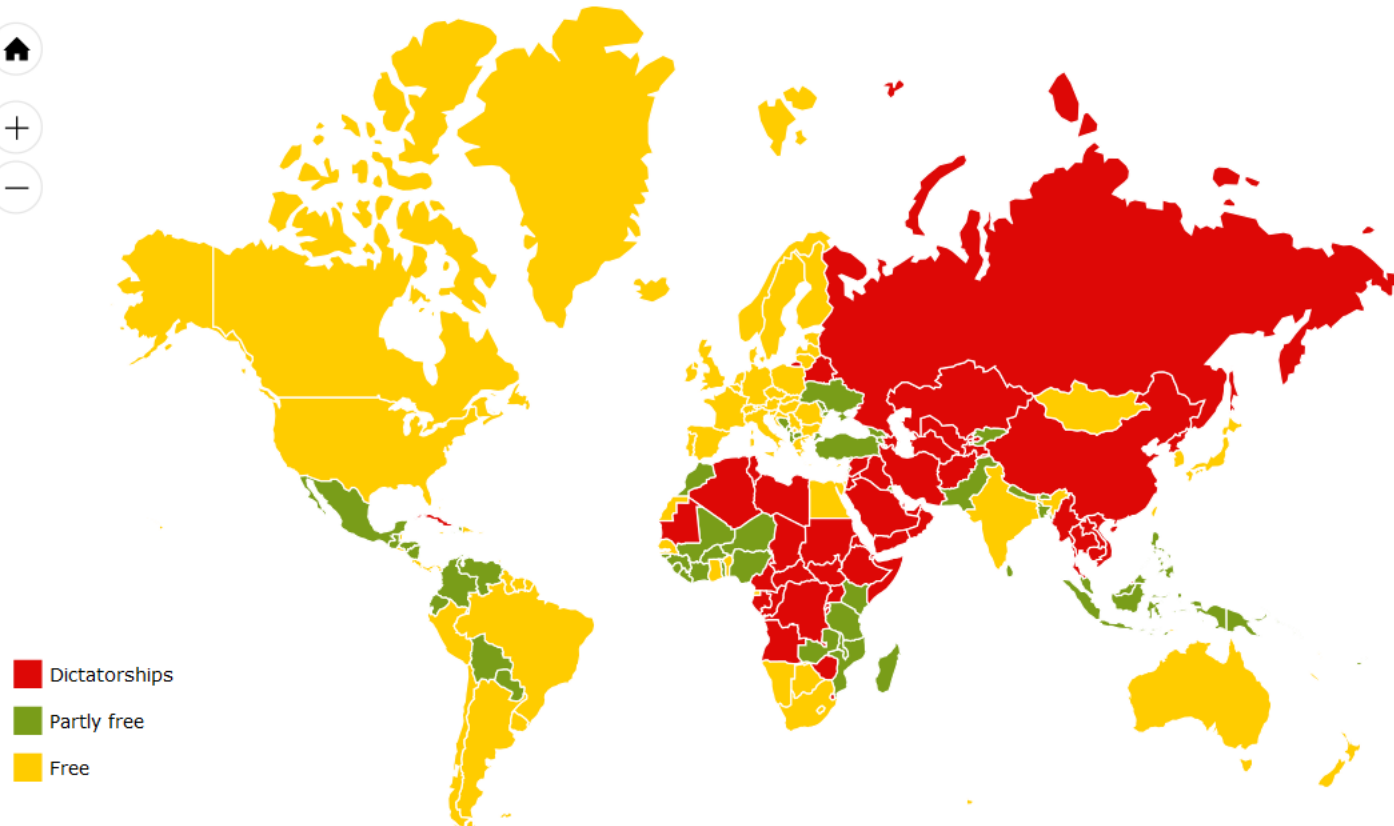
10:08:53

MOUNK **The other element is the liberal element.** And that doesn't mean liberal/conservative. **It doesn't mean Democrat/Republican.** It means for **protection of individual rights, the rule of law, respect for ethnic and religious minorities.** And my sense is that what's happening in the world at the moment is that these two things that have often gone together are coming apart more and more. That we see a rise of **two new regime forms, illiberal democracy or democracy without rights** on the one side and forms of **animocratic liberalism or rights without democracy,** places where **the rule of law is respected,** but where **people's views aren't heard** on the other side.

Current World Dictators

712
Like

Here is a comprehensive, up-to-date list of the current world dictators and authoritarian regimes. As of today, there are **50 dictatorships in the world (21 in Africa, 19 in Asia, 8 in the Middle East, 1 in Europe and 1 in the Caribbean)**. We define a dictator as the ruler of a land rated “Not Free” by the Freedom House in their annual survey of freedom. See the interactive map and filterable list of photos below or click to visit the [current dictators](#) category.



10:09:34

REHMSo you've identified three primary factors as a kind of early warning system. Give us a sense of that.

10:09:47

MOUNKYeah. So political scientists have long believed that what they call Democratic consolidation as a one-way street, that once a country is relatively affluent, once you've had a couple of turnovers of government through free and fair elections, you really don't have to worry about the stability of democracy anymore. Democracy has become what they call the only game in town. And so in my recent research with my colleague, Roberto Stefan Foa, we start to think about and look a little bit at whether or not democracy still is the only game in town.

10:10:17

MOUNKNow, what does it mean for democracy to be **the only game in town?** Well, three things should have to be true. Most people give a lot of value to democracy, they're in favor of democracy, **they think it's important to live in a democracy,** that's a first. The second is that they really don't -- **aren't open to other alternatives to democracy.** They don't like the idea of dictatorship or military rule or technocrats running things. And the third is that **there aren't any parties, politicians, political movements that are really powerful that undermine democratic norms, that in many ways, want to abolish the system** or radically change the system.

10:10:51

MOUNK And we started to look at **some of these warning signs in the United States and other places and what we found has been pretty concerning.**

10:10:59

REHM Moises Naim, what about examples of liberal democracies elsewhere in Latin America, for example?

10:11:13

NAIM Latin America has a long history of swinging before the -- **between autocracies and (word?) democracies. Democracies are always imperfect in Latin America and elsewhere.** And then, we have these wide swings, very often propelled by financial crisis, by economic crashes. And in general, **Latin America has been a pioneer, sadly, in the world that we now see where there is a huge gap between expectations and government performance. That has always existed and exists everywhere.**

10:11:46

NAIM Governments always tend to underperform compared to the expectations of the voters of the population. But in recent years, we have seen the gap going even further because, first, their expectations are higher and second, governments, democracies, are having a harder time delivering because of financial constraints, because of political gridlock for a variety of reasons that create conditions that lead people to hope that perhaps a non democracy can have a better performance, which is not the case, except that they are more able to hide their underperformance and repress those that challenge and protest against the government.

10:12:43

POLYAKOVA Well, looking at both Western, Eastern Europe today, of course we see **the surge of these populist far-right political parties and leaders** that very much **subscribe to this anti-liberal, we say, managed democracy** view of the world. A view of the world that is very much **at odds with** what we come to understand as **Western liberalism** more broadly. And this is driven by similar factors across Western and Eastern Europe and also in the United States. I think it's important to remember these are **not isolated incidents**, what's happening in **South America**, what's happening across **Europe** and what's happening in the **United States**.

10:13:20

POLYAKOVA It's part of a **bigger historical moment**, as I see it, that is **giving the rise to these populist authoritarian leaders** who may come to power in democratic countries, but then can **incrementally roll back some of those democratic constitutions** that we came to believe were not possible to dismantle so easily.

10:13:40

REHM Moises, specifically, what do you see happening in **Venezuela**?

10:13:48

NAIM Yeah, Venezuela is **an extreme example of a government that one election became -- started as a democrat government and started undermining democracy from the inside**. It used its powers **to limit checks and balances**, to treat political people, the opposition, **criminalizing the opposition** and going down the list that we have seen around the world. They do that in **some places very stealthily** and in **some places more openly**. But we see a pattern.

10:14:26

NAIM There is a, you know, a behavior that is now global in how these governments that win elections and **initially democratic governments end up becoming highly centralized, autocratic** and, as I said, **undermining the democracy that allowed them to win.**

10:14:46

REHM At the same time, Yascha Mounk, to **what extent are populations themselves and, indeed, the media complicit when democracies begin to falter?**

10:15:03

MOUNKThe really worrying thing at the moment is the extent to which people are falling out of love with democracy and becoming open to alternatives to it. And so we were talking earlier about these three warning signs. They are flashing red, at the moment, in the United States. When you ask people how important is it to you to live in a democracy, you ask people who were born in the 1930s and the 1940s, over two-thirds say ten out of ten, really important. You get to millennials, born since 1980, less than one-third say that it's really important to them.

10:15:37

REHM Do they **understand** what you mean **by the term democracy**?

10:15:43

MOUNK So I think **they know what we mean by the term democracy**. They **may not know what the alternatives to it are**. People feel very differently about the world **when they've lived through Communism or fascism** or when they or their **parents have fought against Communism and fascism**. You know, a lot of younger people don't have experience with those regime forms and so **they take what's good about our system for granted** and they **only focus on the negative sides and the injustices**. And **there are real injustices in our society**, without a doubt.

10:16:15

MOUNK And so they become very open rebelling against it. One of the things that worries me, you know, Moises was talking about Venezuela. Well, you know, for a long time, **political scientists thought that democracy in Venezuela was relatively well established**, quite consolidated. **In the early 1990s, they thought that Venezuela was one of the best cases in Latin America.** And **when you go back to that time**, a similar number of people were saying, **it's not important to me to live in a democracy.** A lot of people in Venezuela were saying, you know what, **I'm open to an authoritarian alternative** just like we are today in the **United States**, where **the number of people who are open to army rule has gone up from 1 in 16, 20 years ago, to 1 in 6 today.**

10:16:56

MOUNK So Venezuela, to me, is one of the cases -- but it's very different from the United States in many ways, that chose that when people turn against democracy, in a way they now seem to be turning to some degree against democracy in the United States, what happens 10, 15, 20 years down the line can be really bad and the political situation in Venezuela today is really bad.

10:17:15

REHM Alina, do you see the same thing happening here?

10:17:19

POLYAKOVA Well, I just -- Yascha brought up the youth. And just to stay with that for just one second. It's interesting to also see that in Europe, for example, young people are still much more pro-European than older generations. But at the same time, they are turning towards these populist parties in much greater proportions than they were, you know, 10, 15 years ago. And I think this is a really worrying trend of polarization that we're seeing across the EU and we're seeing this in the United States as well.

First Break in Discussion

‘Prediction professor’ who called Trump’s big win also made another forecast: Trump will be impeached

By Peter W. Stevenson November 11 (Excerpted)

“I’m going to make another prediction,” he said. “This one is not based on a system; it’s just my gut. They don’t want Trump as president, because they can’t control him. He’s unpredictable. They’d love to have Pence — an absolutely down-the-line, conservative, controllable Republican. And I’m quite certain Trump will give someone grounds for impeachment, either by doing something that endangers national security or because it helps his pocketbook.”

So while Republican voters clearly came home before Nov. 8 — network exit polls show **90 percent of GOP voters cast ballots for Trump** — **it’s less clear that the party leadership is on board.** (Lichtman actually isn’t the only person to predict a Trump impeachment; this morning, the New York Times’s **David Brooks** suggested that a **Trump impeachment or resignation was “probably” in the cards** sometime within the next year.)

The Take-A-Way

No democracy is perfect, it is constrained by a number of factors. Funds. Incompetence. Greed.

Just because a democracy has been established for many decades, there is no guarantee that it will continue forever.

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A democracy once lost to populism or authoritarianism cannot easily be recovered , if ever.

DON'T PANIC!

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!

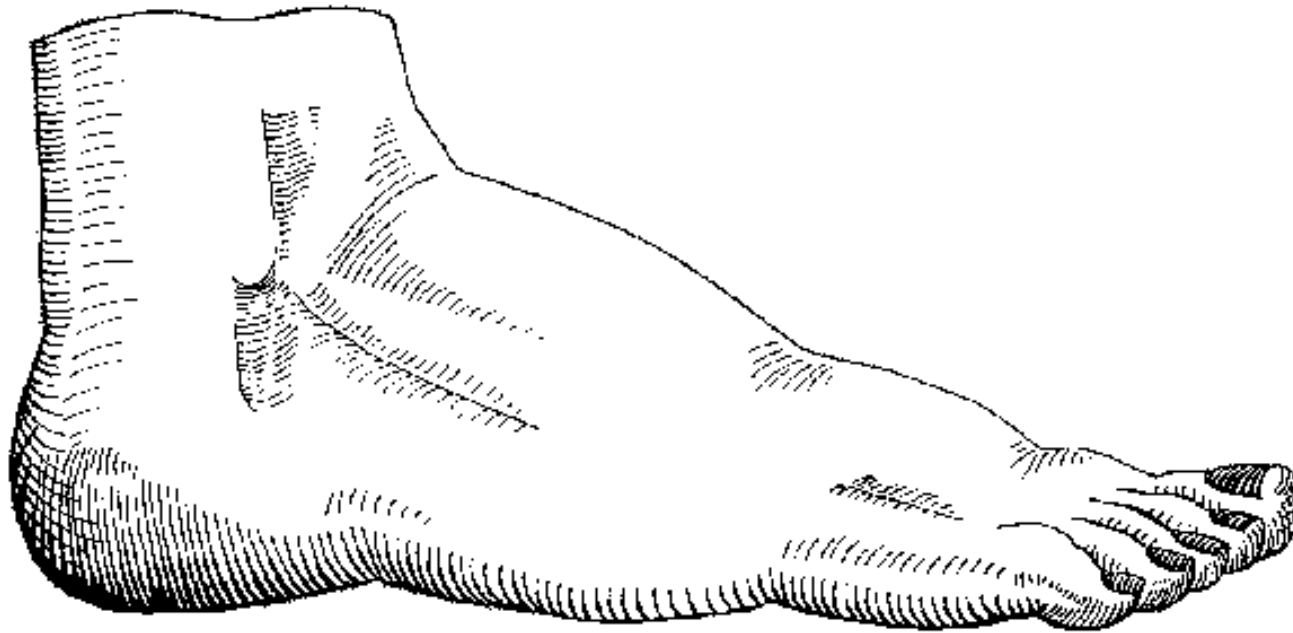
See you **November 19, 2016. (Third Saturday)**



<http://northstarinst.org/TSS/>

Enrichment Material and Random Leftovers

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

The Trump Effect - Jon Stewart



<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/jon-stewart-the-daily-show-former-host-election-2016-donald-trump-republicans/>

21 January 2017

Our Brave New World

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“Threats To Democracy Here And Abroad” – NPR The Diane Rehm Show, 21 Dec 2016

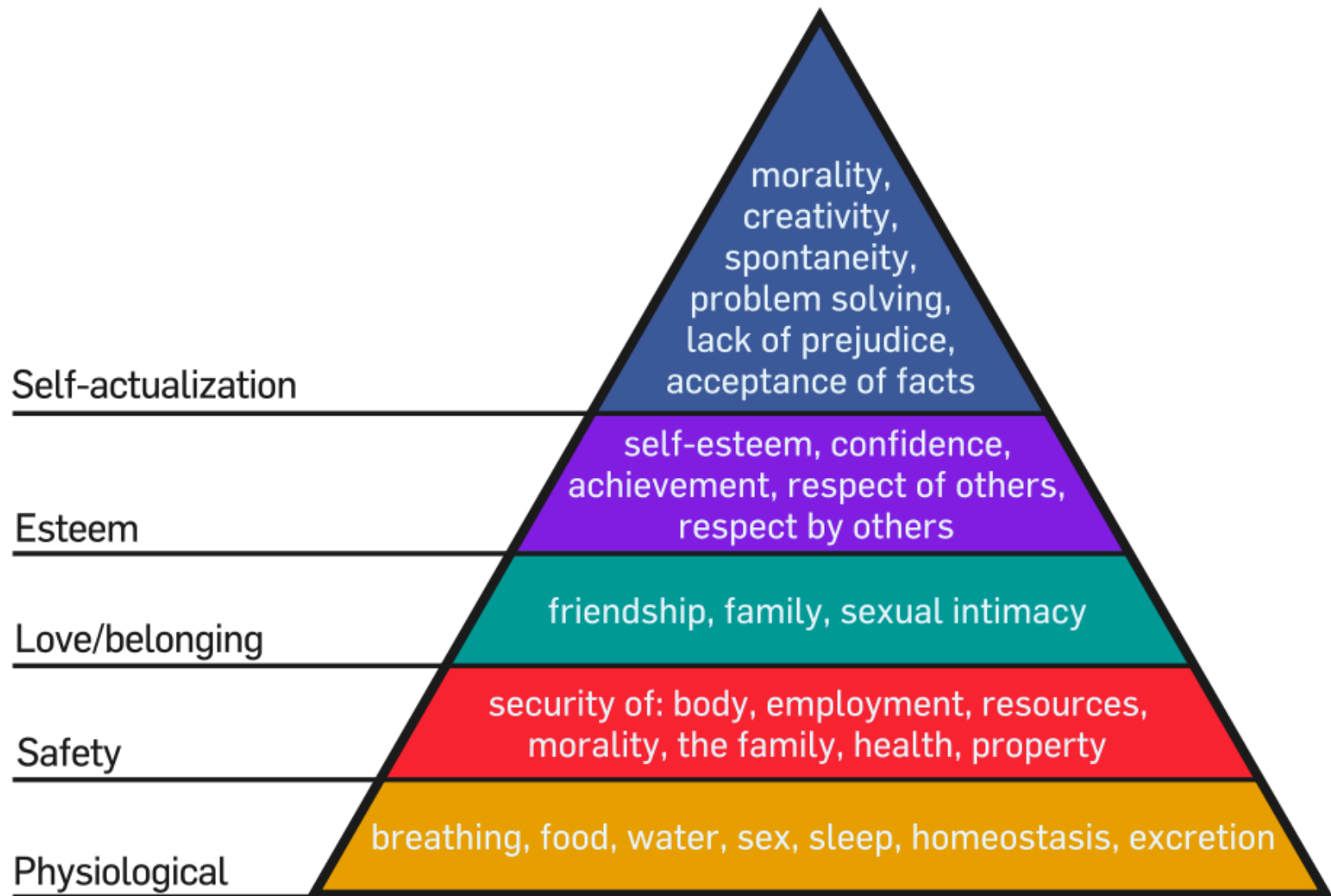
Many political scientists who study democracy are alarmed by developments in Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. In Europe, right-wing or anti-establishment parties have gained influence in Poland, France, Greece and other nations. In South America, Venezuelans have seen their democratic freedoms plummet. And in the U.S., many political scientists see warning signs of democratic erosion. They point to the campaign rhetoric of Donald Trump, his open admiration for Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin and his choices for top positions in his administration. Diane and her guests discuss threats to liberal democracy at home and abroad.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before they die?”



Mazlow's Hierarchy of Needs



The day before Lafayette left to return to France, on Sept. 6, 1825, he again appeared before a joint session of the Congress.

<http://www.schillerinstitute.org/educ/hist/lafayette.html>

... I have had proudly to recognize a result of the republican principles for which we have fought, and a glorious demonstration to the most timid and prejudiced minds, of the superiority, over degrading aristocracy or despotism, of popular institutions founded on the plain rights of man, and where the local rights of every section are preserved under a constitutional bond of union. The cherishing of that union between the states, as it has been the farewell entreaty of our great paternal Washington, and will ever have the dying prayer of every American patriot, so it has become the sacred pledge of the emancipation of the world, an object in which I am happy to observe that the American people, while they give the animating example of successful free institutions, in return for an evil entailed upon them by Europe, and of which a liberal and enlightened sense is everywhere more and more generally felt, show themselves every day more anxiously interested....

<http://www.historynet.com/hail-lafayette.htm#sthash.5sLm6eZJ.dpuf>

Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

Fear - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

Pain - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

Cold - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

Hunger - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

Fatigue - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

Boredom & Loneliness - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.

Discussion

After a relatively brief few hundred years that humankind has experienced The Enlightenment that allowed the flowering of rational thought, scientific revelation and exploration of our world and universe during which, in spite of wars and challenges of nature and corruption we had momentarily freed ourselves of oppression, and of the unquestioned domination of feudal and ecclesiastical powers. In fact personal wealth began to be accumulated by the laborer. Now our world is again starting to contract to satisfy the dictates of our corporate overlords who will use our own technology and institutions to gently coax us to assimilate into a compliant proletariat.

**The corporates are perfecting their control over our Congress, our executive branch, and especially the Supreme Court ...
“Resistance is futile!” or, is it?**

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

The courage to change the things I can,

And the wisdom to know the difference.

The **Serenity Prayer** is the common name for a [prayer](#) authored by the American theologian [Reinhold Niebuhr](#)^{[1][2]} (1892–1971). It has been adopted by [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) and other [twelve-step programs](#).

*We live in a world where power is very unbalanced.
Power imbalances are at the root of most social
problems.*

*Correcting power imbalances will go a long way
towards solving many problems at once.
We'd be wise to attend to this no matter what issues we
work on.*

Dr. John S. Atlee, with Tom Atlee
[Co-Intelligence Institute](#)

Political Power defined

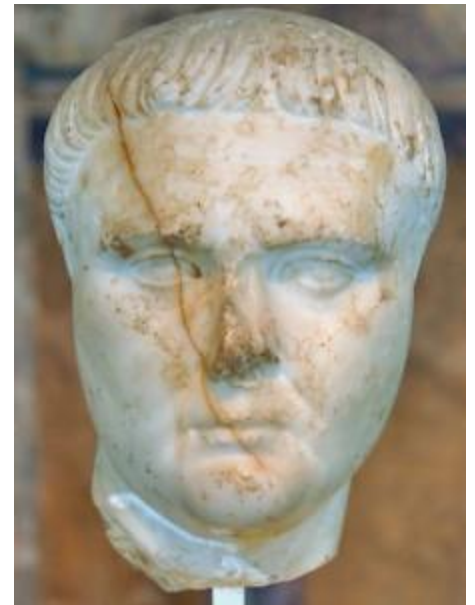
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_\(social_and_political\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_(social_and_political))

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In social science and politics, **power** is the ability to influence or outright control the behavior of people. The term "authority" is often used for power perceived as legitimate by the social structure. Power can be seen as evil or unjust, but the exercise of power is accepted as endemic to humans as social beings. In business, power is often expressed as being "upward" or "downward". With downward power, a company's superior influences subordinates. When a company exerts upward power, it is the subordinates who influence the decisions of their leader or leaders.^[1]

In a state where The Future of Political Power abounds, laws must be very numerous. Tacitus

Read more at: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/t/tacitus.html>



28 Pages

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-911-classified-report-steve-kroft/>

Former Sen. Bob Graham and others urge the Obama administration to declassify redacted pages of a report that holds 9/11 secrets' Correspondent Steve Kroft, 2016 Apr 10

The following script is from "28 Pages" which aired on April 10, 2016. Steve Kroft is the correspondent. Howard Rosenberg and Julie Holstein, producers.

In 10 days, President Obama will visit Saudi Arabia at a time of deep mistrust between the two allies, and lingering doubts about the Saudi commitment to fighting violent Islamic extremism.

It also comes at a time when the White House and intelligence officials are reviewing whether to declassify one of the country's most sensitive documents -- known as the "28 pages." They have to do with 9/11 and the possible existence of a Saudi support network for the hijackers while they were in the U.S.

<http://time.com/4262897/five-facts-global-corruption/>

These 5 Facts Explain the State of Global Corruption

[Ian Bremmer @ianbremmer](#)

March 17, 2016

Andre Penner—AP Demonstrators hold a sign that reads in Portuguese "Dilma out" during a protest demanding the impeachment of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Aug. 16, 2015 **As Brazil grapples with an earth-shaking corruption scandal, a look at the state of global honesty**

You can learn a lot about a country's politics by looking closely at its corruption scandals. Who is investigating whom? What do the investigators really hope to achieve? And what do the investigations tell us about the country's true balance of power? These five facts offer examples and answers.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/01/19/corruption-revolt>

Dept. of Development

January 19, 2015 Issue

Corruption and Revolt

Does tolerating graft undermine national security?

By Patrick Radden Keefe

Much of the hundred billion dollars the U.S. spent to rebuild Afghanistan was stolen. Illustration by Shout In October, 1951, a band of thieves hijacked a large shipment of opium in the port town of Punggol, in northeast Singapore. ...

Preamble to the Constituion

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Which is ethical or moral to you?

The Golden Rule – all people are entitled to the same respect and opportunity. We are all obligated to support each other in a way we would like to be supported. (Jesus, Buddha, Mohammad)

Social Darwinism – Survival of the fittest. It is right that the strongest, and most adaptable will survive, dominate, control the available resources. They may subjugate other people in order to do this. This may be benevolent, sharing resources or totalitarian, whichever works best.

Ethical

Being in accordance with the accepted principles of right and wrong.

Moral

Of or concerned with the judgment of the goodness or badness of human action and character

A Conservatives View.. (Metaphor)

- The world is divided into good and evil.
- To remain good in the face of evil (to "stand up to" evil), one must be morally strong.
- One becomes morally strong through self-discipline and self-denial.
- Someone who is morally weak cannot stand up to evil and so will eventually commit evil.
- Therefore, moral weakness is a form of immorality.
- Lack of self-control (the lack of self-discipline) and self-indulgence (the refusal to engage in self-denial) are therefore forms of immorality.

**Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust by George Lakoff (1995)**

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff>

The metaphor of Moral Strength imposes a strict us-them moral dichotomy. The metaphor that morality is strength induces a view of evil as the force that moral strength is needed to counter. Evil must be fought. You do not empathize with evil, nor do you accord evil some truth of its own. You just fight it.

Moral strength, importantly, imposes a form of asceticism. To be morally strong you must be self-disciplined and self-denying. Otherwise you are self-indulgent, and such moral flabbiness ultimately helps the forces of evil.

In the conservative mind, the metaphor of moral strength has the highest priority. Though it clusters with other metaphors that we consider shortly, it is the one that matters most. It determines much of conservative thought and language -- as well as social policy. It is behind the view that social programs are immoral and promote evil because they are seen as working against self-discipline and self-reliance.

**Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust by George Lakoff (1995)**

<http://www.wwcd.org/issues/Lakoff>

Responding to perceived and actual threats GCG

We will investigate our own and others' responses to potential threat.

We will ask are these our own or are we being manipulated by others to get us to respond in a certain way, spend money, accept added control of authority

Realized threats (Those that actually happened)

Were we prepared? Was the threat as bad as threatened (promised, warned)

And ask ourselves

Did the our politicians deliver? did our responders and managers respond and manage? Was the amount of damage caused or prevented real or perceived

What role does the media actually play in a crisis?

Does it?

- Inform (Whose message(s) does it carry?)
- Educate
- Titillate
- Was it useful to see emotions, anger, confusion, etc.