

# Thoughts on Democracy

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Democracy... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder; and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike.

- *Plato, Republic Book VIII*

The highest measure of democracy is neither the "extent of Freedom" nor the "extent of equality," but rather the highest measure of participation.

- *A. de Benoist*

As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy.

- *Abraham Lincoln*

Democracy does not create strong ties between people. But it does make living together easier.

- *Alexis de Tocqueville*

Tyranny and despotism can be exercised by many, more rigorously, more vigorously, and more severely, than by one.

- *Andrew Johnson*

If liberty and equality are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.

- *Aristotle*

Democracy is when the indigent [the poor], and not the men of property, are the rulers.

- *Aristotle*

A democrat need not believe that the majority will always reach a wise decision. He should, however, believe in the necessity of accepting the decision of the majority, be it wise or unwise, until such a time that the majority reaches another decision.

- *Bertrand Russell*

Democracy means decision by those concerned.

- *Carl-Friedrich von Weizsaecker*

In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant.

- *Charles de Gaulle*

Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage.

- *Dwight D. Eisenhower*



*Lincoln*

Only the educated are free.

- *Epictetus*

Fifty-one percent of a nation can establish a totalitarian regime, suppress minorities and still remain democratic.

- *Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn*

My notion of democracy is that under it the weakest shall have the same opportunities as the strongest.

- *Gandhi*



Gandhi

The cure for the evils of democracy is more democracy.

- *H.L. Mencken*

It is not always the same thing to be a good man and a good citizen.

- *Aristotle*

Our constitution does not copy the laws of neighbouring states; we are rather a pattern to others than imitators ourselves. Its administration favours the many instead of the few; this is why it is called a democracy. If we look to the laws, they afford equal justice to all in their private differences; if no social standing, advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with merit; nor again does poverty bar the way, if a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by the obscurity of his condition.

- *Thucydides*



Aristotle

The argument seems to show that, whether in oligarchies or in democracies, the number of the governing body, whether the greater number, as in a democracy, or the smaller number, as in an oligarchy, is an accident due to the fact that the rich everywhere are few, and the poor numerous.

- *Aristotle*