



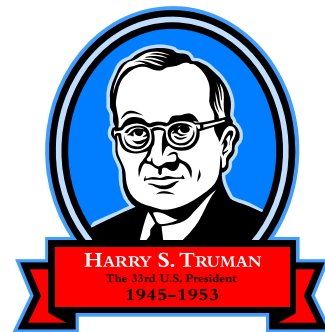
Democracy is deeply rooted in talk... Wherever we find spirited voices raised in debate, where there is tumult and faction and unceasing talk, where men and women muddle their way to provisional solutions for permanent problems, - and so clumsily do for themselves what tyrants or bureaucrats might have achieved more neatly and efficiently for them - there we can feel assured that we are on the

precious turf of democracy. Because democracy is finally - more than any other form of government - about people, just plain people. To be democratic is to disagree about what democracy is.

~ Patrick Watson and Benjamin Barber, *The Struggle for Democracy*, Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2000, p. 11.

Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others that have been tried. ~ Sir Winston Churchill

No government is ever perfect. One of the chief virtues of a democracy, however, is that its defects are always visible and under democratic processes can be pointed out and corrected. ~ Harry S. Truman



Force, violence, pressure, or compulsion with a view to conformity are both uncivilized and undemocratic. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Democracy is not something you believe in or a place to hang your hat, but it's something you do. You participate. If you stop doing it, democracy crumbles.

~ Abbie Hoffman

Democracy and Quality of Life

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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

The most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security enjoyed by minorities. ~ Lord Acton

A free and open society is an ongoing conflict, interrupted periodically by compromises. ~ Saul Alinsky

The USA was founded in the name of democracy, equality and individual freedom, but is failing to deliver the fundamental promise of protecting rights for all.

~ Amnesty International

The best weapon of a dictatorship is secrecy, but the best weapon of a democracy should be the weapon of openness. ~ Niels Bohr

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter. ~ Sir Winston Churchill



Churchill

All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and shortest means to accomplish it. ~ Alexis de Tocqueville



Gandhi

In matters of conscience, the law of majority has no place. ~ Mahatma Gandhi