

The day democracy cried

Mayra Porrata



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In a healthy society, economy always
follows ecology, and education precedes
them both.

Once upon a time it was believed that democratic systems and governments were the most evolved and aligned. This was based on the idea that individual rights, political stability, and societal well-being were important.

After all, a healthy democracy encourages multiple political parties and perspectives, and encourages a culture of tolerance and open debate.

As such it encourages education of all that is of interest to its citizens. In fact, it was supposed to foster and celebrate differences and protect the many expressions of God-- their shared heritage.





The democracy had some neat safety guards in place such as dividing governmental powers among separate branches—legislative, executive, and judicial.

The reason for this was to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch-- what they used to call “checks and balances”.

Government officials were answerable to the public for their actions, and governmental processes were open to scrutiny to promote trust and prevent corruption.

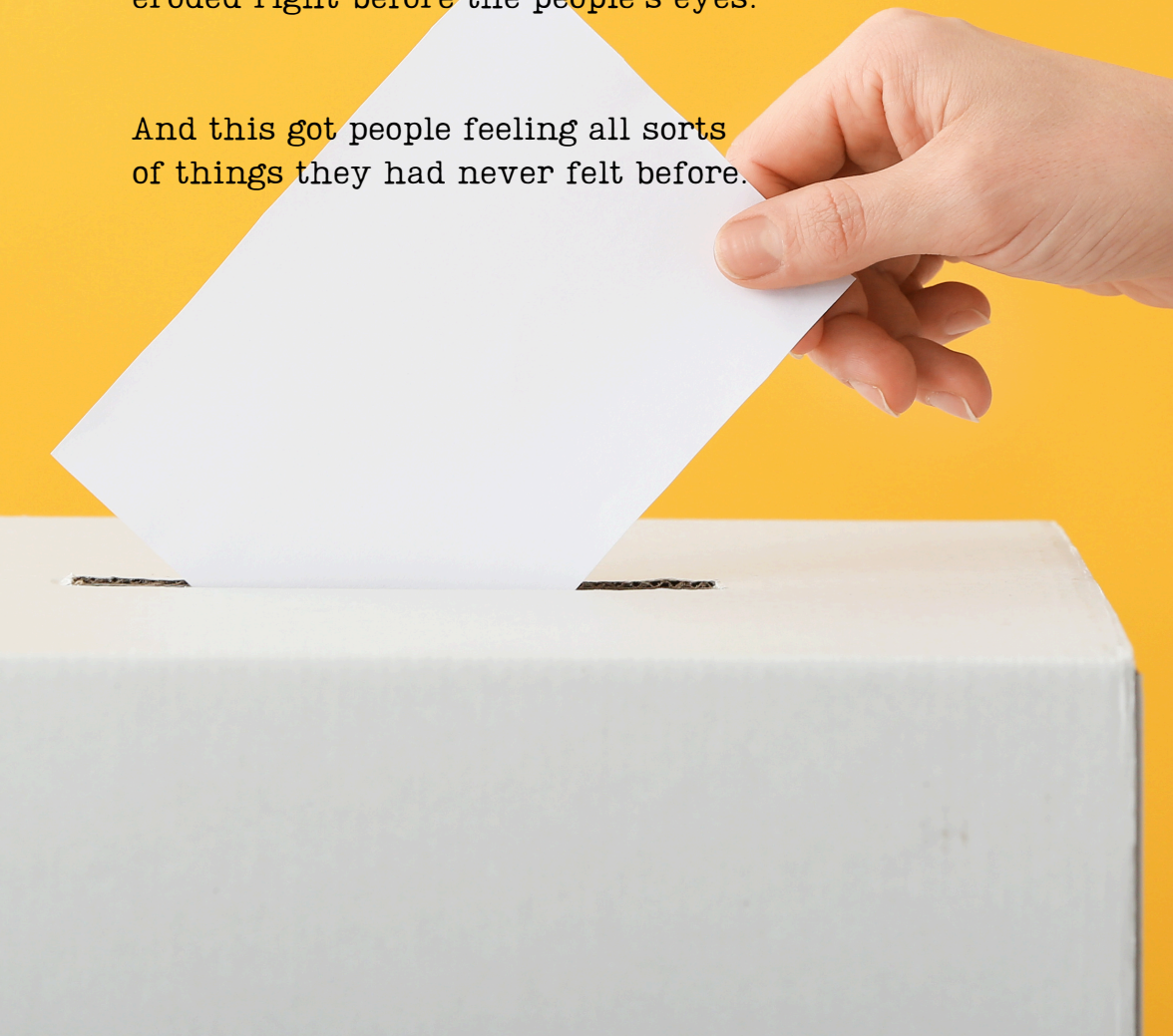
The government officials never acted like kings or CEO’s running a corporation, for that is not the role of a democratic leader. But the abrupt actions, without any public discourse, got people thinking.

While decisions in the democracy were historically made by majority vote, the rights of minority groups were always protected to prevent tyranny and ensure diversity. But not anymore.

Overtime, many democratic principles were confused and weaponized. In fact, they were leveraged to divide the population and to place blame on vulnerable groups as the reason for 'why' things were so bad.

New "key messages" and powerful "marketing" hid the fact that the democratic process was being eroded right before the people's eyes.

And this got people feeling all sorts of things they had never felt before.





The people knew that the authority of the government was derived from their consent -- that the power resided with the people. But somehow this was lost in a sea of confusion and lightning speed policy changes.

The newly elected leaders believed that it was their duty to make the democracy "great", but what they didn't realize was that they were actually undermining it.

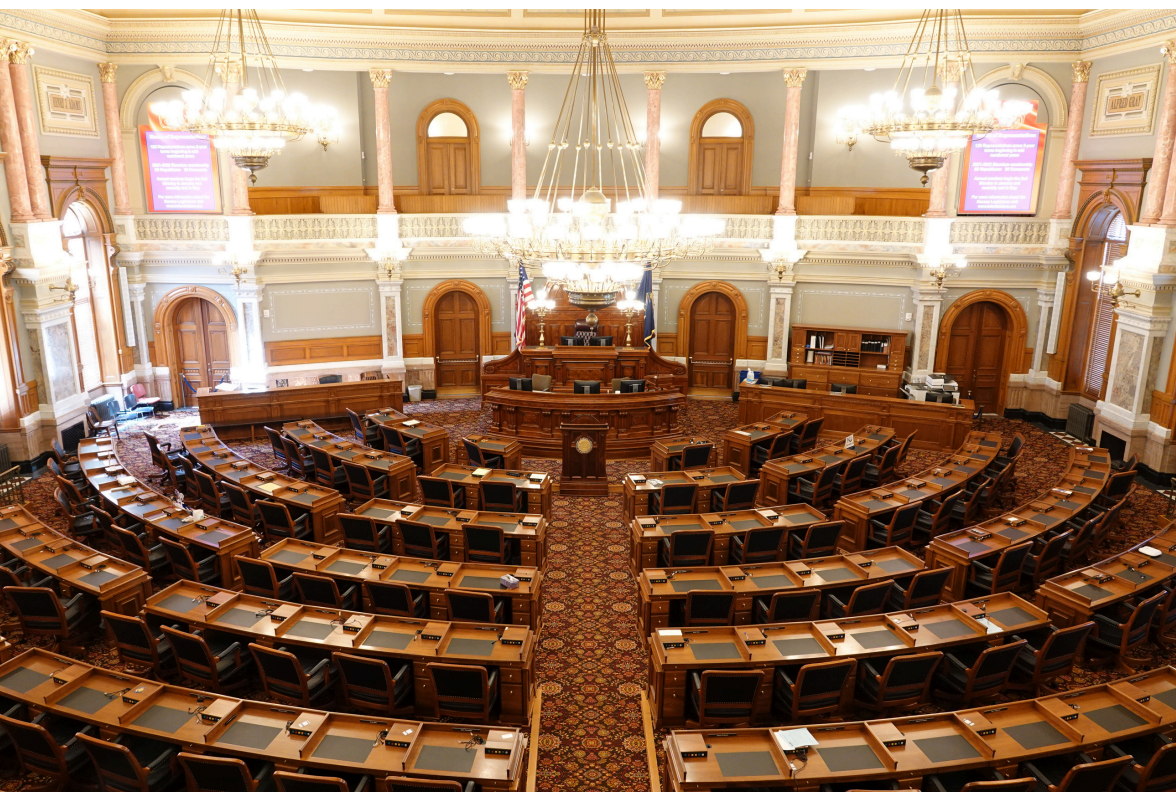
It was not clear if they knew that a democratic government is owned collectively by the citizens of a country-- that the leaders are accountable to them through democratic processes and that this required education. But in this democracy, votes no longer carried the same weight and education was demoted and criticized.

The democracy had been corrupted, from the inside, by its own people. And this made everyone very sad.

It was then that the citizens demanded a special hearing. In preparation, delegates invited 3- minute video testimonials from 10 individuals in each state who were representative of the population in each state.

Then, additional testimony was secured from individuals with disabilities, veterans, mothers, and caregivers. Then across age groups, and finally across race and cultural lines.

It was the most inclusive government hearing in human history. It took 40 days to complete and was made available via EarthTube to everyone on the land.





Several reports were created, cross-referenced and publicly published. Meetings were held across the land to explain some of the sticky concepts and to ensure that many more citizens understood their power and rights. But more so, so that elected officials understood that they worked for the people-- not for their own desires or gains.

This process took nearly 8 months to complete and engaged thousands of citizens across every state. It was something unprecedented and magical.

Among the key summary points from the citizens' testimonials:

- A democratic government is supposed to operate based on several core principles that ensure fair and inclusive governance.
- The authority of the government is derived from the consent of the governed, meaning that power resides with the people.
- Every citizen has equal rights and opportunities to participate in the political process, ensuring that each individual's vote carries the same weight.
- Both citizens and government officials are subject to the law, which is applied uniformly and fairly, preventing abuses of power.
- Democracies uphold essential freedoms, including speech, religion, assembly, and the press, safeguarding individual liberties.
- Governments are elected through periodic, transparent elections that offer genuine competition and reflect the will of the people.
- While decisions are made by majority vote, the rights of minority groups are protected to prevent tyranny and ensure diversity.

- Dividing governmental powers among separate branches—legislative, executive, and judicial—prevents the concentration of power and enables checks and balances.
- And finally, government officials are answerable to the public for their actions, and governmental processes are open to scrutiny to promote trust and prevent corruption.

They also referenced another report that listed the consequences of the dilution or dissolving of a democracy.

In another part of the report, many high-ranking government officials explained that:

“Government exists to serve the public interest by providing essential services like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, aiming to improve the well-being of all citizens.”- a wise senator

“We are required to operate transparently, with open records and public access to information to maintain accountability.” - an enlightened leader

“It is our duty as elected officials to provide services that are essential for society, including those that may not be profitable, such as public safety and welfare programs.” - a wise governor

“Most importantly, our divine charge is to provide for the long-term stability and continuity, with structures that persist beyond individual leaders or administrations.”- a sage military director

That last comment in the report was felt deeply throughout the land--the realization that the government had simply been going back and forth for 100 years and that progress previously advanced by one administration was canceled or destroyed, not improved upon by the next.

The government had become an eternal ping-pong game and at times a boxing match and brawl because no one had realized they were trapped in the game of winning.

And that was the day democracy cried.

She cried tears of joy-- for all of humanity and for the people of the land.

She cried for everyone who had suffered. She cried for all the unjust and unwise rules. But mostly she cried because she was proud of her people-- the fact that they had finally chosen liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness.



Undermining a democratic government leads to several significant consequences

Loss of personal freedoms

In a democracy, individuals enjoy rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly. Removing democratic structures often results in the suppression of these freedoms, leading to censorship and restricted personal expression.

Concentration of power

Without democratic checks and balances, power becomes centralized in the hands of a few, increasing the risk of authoritarian rule and potential abuse of authority.

Erosion of rule of law

Democracies uphold the rule of law, ensuring that laws apply equally to all citizens. The absence of democracy can lead to arbitrary enforcement, where laws are applied inconsistently, undermining justice.

Economic decline

Democratic systems often promote economic stability through transparent policies and accountability. Their removal can lead to economic mismanagement, corruption, and a decline in investor confidence, adversely affecting the economy.

Social unrest

The suppression of public participation and dissent can lead to widespread dissatisfaction, protests, and even violent conflicts, as citizens seek to express their grievances.

International isolation

Nations that abandon democratic principles may face sanctions, reduced diplomatic relations, and loss of credibility on the global stage, isolating them from the international community.

Undermined public trust The dismantling of democratic institutions erodes citizens' trust in governance, leading to apathy, disengagement, and a weakened civil society. The people are doomed.

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