

how democracies die free download

how democracies die free download is a phrase that has captured the attention of readers interested in political science, current events, and the fate of democratic societies. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the bestselling book "How Democracies Die," its major themes, and the considerations around accessing free downloads of this influential work. You will find an in-depth look at the book's authors, the historical context, the impact on global conversations, and the legal and ethical aspects of downloading copyrighted materials. The article also highlights alternative ways to access the book legally, along with popular discussions and reviews. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply curious about the book's message, this guide offers a thorough resource for understanding "How Democracies Die" and the implications of seeking a free download. Continue reading for valuable insights and practical information relevant to this widely searched topic.

- Overview of "How Democracies Die"
- Authors and Background
- Major Themes and Insights
- The Popularity and Impact of the Book
- Understanding Free Download Options
- Legal and Ethical Considerations
- Alternative Legal Access to the Book
- Public Reception and Reviews
- Conclusion

Overview of "How Democracies Die"

"How Democracies Die" is a critically acclaimed book that explores the fragility of democratic systems in the modern era. Published in 2018, the book examines how established democracies can deteriorate and the warning signs that precede democratic decline. The authors draw on historical and contemporary examples to illustrate the vulnerabilities that democracies face, including the rise of authoritarian leaders, the erosion of democratic norms, and the consequences of political polarization. The book is frequently sought after by those interested in political theory, history, and current

affairs, making "how democracies die free download" a popular search among readers eager to access its content.

Authors and Background

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

The authors of "How Democracies Die," Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, are renowned political scientists with extensive backgrounds in comparative politics. Levitsky is a professor at Harvard University, specializing in Latin American politics and authoritarianism. Ziblatt, also at Harvard, is known for his research on European democracies and state development. Together, they bring decades of scholarly expertise to their analysis of democratic breakdowns.

Historical Context

Levitsky and Ziblatt wrote the book in response to growing concerns about democratic backsliding in Western countries and beyond. Their research spans cases from the 20th and 21st centuries, including Germany, Venezuela, Turkey, and the United States. By examining patterns of democratic decay, the authors provide a framework for understanding how democracies can be undermined from within, often by elected leaders who gradually dismantle institutional checks and balances.

Major Themes and Insights

Signs of Democratic Erosion

One of the central themes of "How Democracies Die" is the identification of key warning signs that signal the potential decline of democratic institutions. The authors highlight behaviors such as the rejection of democratic rules, denial of opponents' legitimacy, and encouragement of violence. These indicators are crucial for citizens and policymakers to recognize in order to protect democracy from subversion.

The Role of Political Norms

Levitsky and Ziblatt emphasize the importance of unwritten norms in maintaining democratic stability. While constitutions and laws are fundamental, informal practices—such as mutual toleration and institutional forbearance—play an equally critical role. When these norms break down,

democracies become vulnerable to authoritarian tendencies and political crises.

Case Studies and Real-World Examples

- Germany's Weimar Republic and the rise of Adolf Hitler
- Venezuela under Hugo Chávez
- Turkey's evolution under Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
- Contemporary challenges in the United States

By analyzing these cases, the book demonstrates how even robust democracies can be weakened when leaders undermine institutions and disregard democratic conventions. These stories provide readers with valuable lessons about the resilience and fragility of democratic governance.

The Popularity and Impact of the Book

Bestseller Status

Since its publication, "How Democracies Die" has achieved bestseller status and has been translated into multiple languages. The book is frequently referenced in academic studies, news articles, and policy discussions, underscoring its influence on global debates about democracy and authoritarianism.

Influence on Political Discourse

The book's timely analysis has made it a touchstone for conversations about democratic health, particularly in periods of political uncertainty. Scholars, journalists, and activists often cite its insights when discussing contemporary threats to democratic systems. Its relevance extends across ideological boundaries, making it a widely discussed resource in public forums.

Understanding Free Download Options

Common Search Motivations

The phrase "how democracies die free download" is commonly searched by students, educators, and general readers seeking to access the book without cost. Motivations include academic research, personal curiosity, and the desire to stay informed about political trends. The demand for free downloads reflects the book's widespread appeal and the growing interest in political education.

Risks and Limitations

While there are websites and platforms that claim to offer free downloads of "How Democracies Die," many of these sources are unauthorized and may pose risks to users. Downloading copyrighted material from unofficial sites can expose users to malware, data breaches, and potential legal consequences. It is important to understand the risks associated with accessing pirated content.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Copyright Protection

"How Democracies Die" is protected under copyright law, which prohibits the unauthorized reproduction and distribution of the book. Authors and publishers rely on copyright protections to maintain the integrity of their work and support the creative process. Downloading or sharing copyrighted material without permission is a violation of intellectual property rights.

Ethical Implications

Accessing copyrighted books through unofficial channels raises ethical concerns about respecting the labor of writers and the publishing industry. Supporting legitimate access models ensures that authors are compensated for their work and encourages the production of high-quality scholarly resources. Responsible consumption of intellectual property contributes to a healthy and sustainable literary ecosystem.

Alternative Legal Access to the Book

Public Libraries

Many readers can access "How Democracies Die" legally and for free through public libraries. Libraries often offer physical copies and digital versions via lending platforms, allowing users to borrow the book without violating copyright laws. Checking local library catalogs is a practical and ethical way to obtain the book.

Educational Institutions

Students and faculty affiliated with universities or colleges may have access to "How Democracies Die" through institutional libraries. Academic libraries frequently provide digital access to popular books for research and coursework. Utilizing these resources ensures compliance with copyright regulations.

Promotions and Excerpts

Publishers occasionally release sample chapters, excerpts, or promotional materials for public consumption. These resources offer readers a glimpse into the book's content and can inform decisions about purchasing or borrowing the full version. Monitoring publisher announcements is a useful strategy for accessing free materials legally.

Authorized eBook Retailers

- Discounted eBook sales during special events
- Subscription services with free trial periods
- Academic access programs

Exploring legitimate eBook retailers and subscription platforms may provide temporary access to "How Democracies Die" through free trials or discounted promotions. These methods respect copyright law while allowing readers to explore the book's insights.

Public Reception and Reviews

Critical Acclaim

"How Democracies Die" has received widespread praise from critics in major publications. Reviewers highlight the authors' clear writing style, rigorous research, and timely analysis. The book is often described as essential reading for anyone concerned about the future of democratic governance.

Reader Feedback

Readers across the globe have engaged with the book's arguments, sharing their perspectives in forums, book clubs, and social media discussions. Common themes in reader feedback include the relevance of historical case studies, the urgency of protecting democratic norms, and the importance of civic engagement. The book continues to inspire debate and reflection among diverse audiences.

Conclusion

The search for "how democracies die free download" reflects a growing interest in the challenges facing democratic societies. While the desire to access the book freely is understandable, readers should be aware of the legal and ethical implications of unauthorized downloads. Fortunately, there are many legitimate avenues for obtaining "How Democracies Die," including libraries, educational institutions, and authorized retailers. The book's enduring popularity underscores its impact on political discourse and its value as a resource for understanding the dynamics of democracy. By exploring responsible access options, readers can benefit from the authors' insights while respecting intellectual property rights.

Q: What is "How Democracies Die" about?

A: "How Democracies Die" examines the warning signs and processes that lead to the breakdown of democratic systems, drawing on historical and contemporary examples. The authors analyze how democracies can be undermined from within, often by elected leaders who erode institutions and norms.

Q: Who are the authors of "How Democracies Die"?

A: The book is written by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, both professors of political science at Harvard University. They are recognized experts in the study of comparative politics and democratic institutions.

Q: Is it legal to download "How Democracies Die" for free?

A: Downloading the full book for free from unofficial sources is generally illegal due to copyright protections. Legal access can be obtained through libraries, educational institutions, or authorized retailers.

Q: Are there any risks in downloading copyrighted books from unofficial websites?

A: Yes, downloading copyrighted materials from unauthorized websites can expose users to malware, security threats, and legal consequences. It is safer to use legitimate sources for accessing books.

Q: How can I access "How Democracies Die" legally and for free?

A: You can borrow the book from public libraries or academic institutions. Many libraries offer digital lending services that provide access to eBooks without violating copyright laws.

Q: What are the main themes discussed in "How Democracies Die"?

A: Major themes include the erosion of democratic norms, the rise of authoritarian leaders, the importance of political tolerance, and historical case studies illustrating democratic decline.

Q: Why is "How Democracies Die" considered influential?

A: The book has shaped debates about democracy worldwide, providing a clear framework for understanding threats to democratic systems. Its timely insights have made it a bestseller and a widely cited resource.

Q: Can students access "How Democracies Die" through their university libraries?

A: Yes, many university libraries offer access to both print and digital versions of the book, making it available for students and faculty engaged in research or coursework.

Q: Are there sample chapters or excerpts of "How Democracies Die" available online?

A: Publishers sometimes release sample chapters or excerpts for promotional purposes. These can be found through official publisher announcements and may provide a preview of the book's content.

Q: What alternatives exist to buying "How Democracies Die"?

A: Alternatives include borrowing from public or academic libraries, accessing promotional excerpts, and utilizing eBook subscription services with free trial periods or discounted sales.

[How Democracies Die Free Download](#)

Find other PDF articles:

<https://fc1.getfilecloud.com/t5-goramblers-03/files?dataid=Mew24-2200&title=despues-del-examen-medico-que-sigue.pdf>

How Democracies Die: Free Download & Understanding the Risks

Are you concerned about the fragility of democratic institutions? Do you want to understand the subtle and not-so-subtle ways democracies can crumble? This post explores Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt's seminal work, "How Democracies Die," offering insights into its core arguments and examining why understanding its principles is crucial for safeguarding our freedoms. While a free download of the entire book isn't legally available, we'll dissect its key concepts and provide resources to help you grasp its vital message.

Understanding the Central Argument of "How Democracies Die"

Levitsky and Ziblatt's "How Democracies Die" isn't a doom-and-gloom prophecy; it's a pragmatic analysis of how seemingly gradual erosion can lead to authoritarianism. The authors argue that democracies don't typically die through dramatic coups, but rather through a slow, insidious process of "democratic backsliding." This involves the gradual weakening of democratic norms and institutions, often orchestrated by those within the system itself.

The Four Pillars of Democratic Norms: A Deep Dive

The book highlights four key norms that, when undermined, pave the way for democratic decline:

1. Mutual Tolerance:

This refers to the acceptance of opponents as legitimate rivals, not enemies. A healthy democracy requires a willingness to compromise and coexist with those holding differing viewpoints. The erosion of mutual tolerance creates an environment of polarization and demonization, making cooperation impossible.

2. Institutional Forbearance:

This principle emphasizes self-restraint by political actors, particularly those in power. It involves resisting the temptation to exploit formal powers for partisan gain. When forbearance breaks down, politicians prioritize winning at all costs, pushing the boundaries of established rules and norms.

3. Commitment to Fair Play:

This norm dictates a shared commitment to the integrity of democratic processes, such as free and fair elections. When fair play is disregarded, manipulated elections or suppression of opposition voices become commonplace, undermining the legitimacy of the system.

4. Shared Belief in Democratic Norms:

The underlying belief in the democratic process itself is critical. Without a shared understanding and commitment to democratic principles, the system becomes vulnerable to manipulation and subversion.

Identifying Warning Signs: Recognizing Democratic Backsliding

"How Democracies Die" provides a framework for identifying warning signs of democratic decline. These signs aren't always dramatic; they are often subtle shifts in behavior and rhetoric. Key indicators include:

Increased executive power: Concentrating excessive power in the hands of the executive branch, bypassing checks and balances.

Erosion of the rule of law: Weakening of judicial independence and undermining legal processes to favor those in power.

Suppression of opposition: Restricting freedom of speech, assembly, and the press to silence dissent.

Use of disinformation and propaganda: Spreading misinformation to manipulate public opinion and undermine trust in institutions.

Normalization of anti-democratic rhetoric: The acceptance and even celebration of anti-democratic sentiments and actions.

Protecting Democracy: What Can We Do?

The book doesn't end on a pessimistic note. Levitsky and Ziblatt suggest several strategies for protecting democracies, including:

Strengthening democratic institutions: Protecting the independence of the judiciary, promoting transparency, and ensuring the integrity of electoral processes.

Promoting civic education: Empowering citizens with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate effectively in a democracy.

Fostering a culture of mutual respect: Encouraging dialogue, compromise, and a willingness to engage with differing viewpoints.

Holding political leaders accountable: Demanding transparency and accountability from elected officials.

Conclusion

"How Democracies Die" isn't a free download in its entirety, but its central message – the importance of vigilance and proactive defense of democratic norms – is readily available through summaries, reviews, and discussions. By understanding the four pillars of democratic norms and recognizing the warning signs of democratic backsliding, we can work collectively to protect and strengthen our democratic institutions. The book's wisdom remains crucial in today's increasingly polarized political landscape.

FAQs

1. Where can I find reliable summaries and reviews of "How Democracies Die"? Many reputable news outlets and academic journals offer comprehensive reviews and summaries of the book. You can also find insightful discussions and analyses on various podcasts and online forums.
2. Is there a legal way to access excerpts from the book? Yes, many libraries offer access to the full text, and online bookstores often allow for a preview of several pages.
3. How does the book relate to current events? The book's themes resonate strongly with contemporary political events worldwide, providing a framework to understand and analyze the challenges to democratic systems.
4. What are some alternative resources for understanding democratic backsliding? Numerous academic papers, articles, and reports delve into the topic of democratic decline. Look for resources from organizations dedicated to promoting democracy and good governance.
5. What role does social media play in the erosion of democratic norms, as described in the book?

While not explicitly the central theme, the book implicitly addresses how the spread of misinformation and polarization through social media can contribute to the breakdown of mutual tolerance and shared belief in democratic norms.

how democracies die free download: How Democracies Die Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt, 2019-01-08 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Comprehensive, enlightening, and terrifyingly timely.”—The New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice) WINNER OF THE GOLDSMITH BOOK PRIZE • SHORTLISTED FOR THE LIONEL GELBER PRIZE • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post • Time • Foreign Affairs • WBUR • Paste Donald Trump's presidency has raised a question that many of us never thought we'd be asking: Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than twenty years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America, and they believe the answer is yes. Democracy no longer ends with a bang—in a revolution or military coup—but with a whimper: the slow, steady weakening of critical institutions, such as the judiciary and the press, and the gradual erosion of long-standing political norms. The good news is that there are several exit ramps on the road to authoritarianism. The bad news is that, by electing Trump, we have already passed the first one. Drawing on decades of research and a wide range of historical and global examples, from 1930s Europe to contemporary Hungary, Turkey, and Venezuela, to the American South during Jim Crow, Levitsky and Ziblatt show how democracies die—and how ours can be saved. Praise for *How Democracies Die* “What we desperately need is a sober, dispassionate look at the current state of affairs. Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, two of the most respected scholars in the field of democracy studies, offer just that.”—The Washington Post “Where Levitsky and Ziblatt make their mark is in weaving together political science and historical analysis of both domestic and international democratic crises; in doing so, they expand the conversation beyond Trump and before him, to other countries and to the deep structure of American democracy and politics.”—Ezra Klein, Vox “If you only read one book for the rest of the year, read *How Democracies Die*. . . . This is not a book for just Democrats or Republicans. It is a book for all Americans. It is nonpartisan. It is fact based. It is deeply rooted in history. . . . The best commentary on our politics, no contest.”—Michael Morrell, former Acting Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (via Twitter) “A smart and deeply informed book about the ways in which democracy is being undermined in dozens of countries around the world, and in ways that are perfectly legal.”—Fareed Zakaria, CNN

how democracies die free download: Electoral Systems and Democracy Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, 2006-09 As the number of democracies has increased around the world, a heated debate has emerged among political scientists about which system best promotes the consolidation of democracy. This book compares the experiences of diverse countries, from Latin America to southern Africa, from Uruguay, Japan, and Taiwan to Israel, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

how democracies die free download: How Democracy Ends David Runciman, 2018-06-05 How will democracy end? And what will replace it? A preeminent political scientist examines the past, present, and future of an endangered political philosophy Since the end of World War II, democracy's sweep across the globe seemed inexorable. Yet today, it seems radically imperiled, even in some of the world's most stable democracies. How bad could things get? In *How Democracy Ends*, David Runciman argues that we are trapped in outdated twentieth-century ideas of democratic failure. By fixating on coups and violence, we are focusing on the wrong threats. Our societies are too affluent, too elderly, and too networked to fall apart as they did in the past. We need new ways of thinking the unthinkable -- a twenty-first-century vision of the end of democracy, and whether its collapse might allow us to move forward to something better. A provocative book by a major political philosopher, *How Democracy Ends* asks the most trenchant questions that underlie the disturbing patterns of our contemporary political life.

how democracies die free download: To Kill A Democracy Debasish Roy Chowdhury, John Keane, 2021-06-24 India is heralded as the world's largest democracy. Yet, there is now growing

alarm about its democratic health. *To Kill a Democracy* gets to the heart of the matter. Combining poignant life stories with sharp scholarly insight, it rejects the belief that India was once a beacon of democracy but is now being ruined by the destructive forces of Modi-style populism. The book details the much deeper historical roots of the present-day assaults on civil liberties and democratic institutions. Democracy, the authors also argue, is much more than elections and the separation of powers. It is a whole way of life lived in dignity, and that is why they pay special attention to the decaying social foundations of Indian democracy. In compelling fashion, the book describes daily struggles for survival and explains how lived social injustices and unfreedoms rob Indian elections of their meaning, while at the same time feeding the decadence and iron-fisted rule of its governing institutions. Much more than a book about India, *To Kill A Democracy* argues that what is happening in the country is globally important, and not just because every third person living in a democracy is an Indian. It shows that when democracies rack and ruin their social foundations, they don't just kill off the spirit and substance of democracy. They lay the foundations for despotism.

how democracies die free download: Politics Is for Power Eitan Hersh, 2020-01-14 A brilliant condemnation of political hobbyism—treating politics like entertainment—and a call to arms for well-meaning, well-informed citizens who consume political news, but do not take political action. Who is to blame for our broken politics? The uncomfortable answer to this question starts with ordinary citizens with good intentions. We vote (sometimes) and occasionally sign a petition or attend a rally. But we mainly “engage” by consuming politics as if it’s a sport or a hobby. We soak in daily political gossip and eat up statistics about who’s up and who’s down. We tweet and post and share. We crave outrage. The hours we spend on politics are used mainly as pastime. Instead, we should be spending the same number of hours building political organizations, implementing a long-term vision for our city or town, and getting to know our neighbors, whose votes will be needed for solving hard problems. We could be accumulating power so that when there are opportunities to make a difference—to lobby, to advocate, to mobilize—we will be ready. But most of us who are spending time on politics today are focused inward, choosing roles and activities designed for our short-term pleasure. We are repelled by the slow-and-steady activities that characterize service to the common good. In *Politics Is for Power*, pioneering and brilliant data analyst Eitan Hersh shows us a way toward more effective political participation. Aided by political theory, history, cutting-edge social science, as well as remarkable stories of ordinary citizens who got off their couches and took political power seriously, this book shows us how to channel our energy away from political hobbyism and toward empowering our values.

how democracies die free download: Liberty and Security Conor Gearty, 2013-04-03 All aspire to liberty and security in their lives but few people truly enjoy them. This book explains why this is so. In what Conor Gearty calls our 'neo-democratic' world, the proclamation of universal liberty and security is mocked by facts on the ground: the vast inequalities in supposedly free societies, the authoritarian regimes with regular elections, and the terrible socio-economic deprivation camouflaged by cynically proclaimed commitments to human rights. Gearty's book offers an explanation of how this has come about, providing also a criticism of the present age which tolerates it. He then goes on to set out a manifesto for a better future, a place where liberty and security can be rich platforms for everyone's life. The book identifies neo-democracies as those places which play at democracy so as to disguise the injustice at their core. But it is not just the new 'democracies' that have turned 'neo', the so-called established democracies are also hurtling in the same direction, as is the United Nations. A new vision of universal freedom is urgently required. Drawing on scholarship in law, human rights and political science this book argues for just such a vision, one in which the great achievements of our democratic past are not jettisoned as easily as were the socialist ideals of the original democracy-makers.

how democracies die free download: Competitive Authoritarianism Steven Levitsky, Lucan A. Way, 2010-08-16 Based on a detailed study of 35 cases in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and post-communist Eurasia, this book explores the fate of competitive authoritarian regimes between 1990 and 2008. It finds that where social, economic, and technocratic ties to the West were

extensive, as in Eastern Europe and the Americas, the external cost of abuse led incumbents to cede power rather than crack down, which led to democratization. Where ties to the West were limited, external democratizing pressure was weaker and countries rarely democratized. In these cases, regime outcomes hinged on the character of state and ruling party organizations. Where incumbents possessed developed and cohesive coercive party structures, they could thwart opposition challenges, and competitive authoritarian regimes survived; where incumbents lacked such organizational tools, regimes were unstable but rarely democratized.

how democracies die free download: *Democracy and Education* John Dewey, 2012-04-27
DIVThe distinguished educator and philosopher discusses his revolutionary vision of education, stressing growth, experience, and activity as factors that promote a democratic character in students and lead to the advancement of self and society. /div

how democracies die free download: *Living in Democracy* Rolf Gollob, Peter Krapf, 2008-01-01 This is a manual for teachers in Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE), EDC/HRE textbook editors and curriculum developers. Nine teaching units of approximately four lessons each focus on key concepts of EDC/HRE. The lesson plans give step-by-step instructions and include student handouts and background information for teachers. In this way, the manual is suited for trainees or beginners in the teaching profession and teachers who are receiving in-service teacher training in EDC/HRE. The complete manual provides a full school year's curriculum for lower secondary classes, but as each unit is also complete in itself, the manual allows great flexibility in use. The objective of EDC/HRE is the active citizen who is willing and able to participate in the democratic community. Therefore EDC/HRE strongly emphasize action and task-based learning.

how democracies die free download: *The Life and Death of Democracy* John Keane, 2009-06-01 John Keane's *The Life and Death of Democracy* will inspire and shock its readers. Presenting the first grand history of democracy for well over a century, it poses along the way some tough and timely questions: can we really be sure that democracy had its origins in ancient Greece? How did democratic ideals and institutions come to have the shape they do today? Given all the recent fanfare about democracy promotion, why are many people now gripped by the feeling that a bad moon is rising over all the world's democracies? Do they indeed have a future? Or is perhaps democracy fated to melt away, along with our polar ice caps? The work of one of Britain's leading political writers, this is no mere antiquarian history. Stylishly written, this superb book confronts its readers with an entirely fresh and irreverent look at the past, present and future of democracy. It unearths the beginnings of such precious institutions and ideals as government by public assembly, votes for women, the secret ballot, trial by jury and press freedom. It tracks the changing, hotly disputed meanings of democracy and describes quite a few of the extraordinary characters, many of them long forgotten, who dedicated their lives to building or defending democracy. And it explains why democracy is still potentially the best form of government on earth -- and why democracies everywhere are sleepwalking their way into deep trouble.

how democracies die free download: *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy* Daniel Ziblatt, 2017-04-18 How do democracies form and what makes them die? Daniel Ziblatt revisits this timely and classic question in a wide-ranging historical narrative that traces the evolution of modern political democracy in Europe from its modest beginnings in 1830s Britain to Adolf Hitler's 1933 seizure of power in Weimar Germany. Based on rich historical and quantitative evidence, the book offers a major reinterpretation of European history and the question of how stable political democracy is achieved. The barriers to inclusive political rule, Ziblatt finds, were not inevitably overcome by unstoppable tides of socioeconomic change, a simple triumph of a growing middle class, or even by working class collective action. Instead, political democracy's fate surprisingly hinged on how conservative political parties - the historical defenders of power, wealth, and privilege - recast themselves and coped with the rise of their own radical right. With striking modern parallels, the book has vital implications for today's new and old democracies under siege.

how democracies die free download: *Political Entrepreneurship* Josef Lentsch, 2018-11-20

This book demonstrates how political entrepreneurs – entrepreneurially minded citizens who launch innovative political start-ups – can drive political change. Building on unique insights, rich examples and personal stories of centrist political entrepreneurs distilled from 40 in-depth interviews, the author guides readers through key stages of political entrepreneurship, and shows how to master them. By equally highlighting successes and failures, the book reveals how political entrepreneurs actually go about producing transformative political change. In light of the populist challenge and the decline of traditional political parties, the book also offers an entertaining backstage view and first-hand insights into the successes of En Marche in France, Ciudadanos in Spain, NEOS in Austria and other centrist political startups. It provides practical advice on how to learn from and replicate their successes. Political practitioners and other politically interested readers will find a useful theory of Political Entrepreneurship – what it is, how it works, and what its role is in 21st century democracies. Most of all, they will find essential, reproducible tools and methods. “You have read a lot about startups in business, but if you want to know how Silicon Valley style startups look in politics, read this. Its author is not only writing about political entrepreneurs, he is one of them.” Ivan Krastev (Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, and permanent Fellow at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna) “No one understands better what it takes to take a political start up from ideation to the parliament than Josef Lentsch. In ‘Political Entrepreneurship’ he combines first-hand experience with a thoughtful review of what we know about entrepreneurship in the interest of society.” Johanna Mair (Professor of Organization, Strategy and Leadership at the Hertie School of Governance, and Co-Director Global Innovation for Impact Lab at Stanford University) “Josef Lentsch has produced a fascinating, commanding guide to the new, insurgent players shaking up traditional party systems and reinvigorating liberal politics. Political Entrepreneurship is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand today's fragmented and disrupted European politics - and the European politics of the future.” Jeremy Cliffe (Charlemagne columnist, The Economist) The rarest of events has occurred - a new political species has appeared in the European eco-system, the centrist political start up. From Macron's En Marche in France to Spain's Ciudadanos, a new type of political actor has emerged. Few are better positioned to tell this Europe-wide story than Josef Lentsch who has had a front-seat view on this important political transformation that is shaking Europe. A dramatic and important account. Daniel Ziblatt (Eaton Professor of Government, Harvard University and co-author of *How Democracies Die*)

how democracies die free download: *Structuring the State* Daniel Ziblatt, 2006 This study explores the following puzzle: Upon national unification, why was Germany formed as a federal state and Italy a unitary state? Ziblatt's answer to this question will be of interest to scholars of international relations, comparative politics, political development, and political and economic history.

how democracies die free download: *Democracy in Crisis* Robert Goodrich, 2022-12-07 *Democracy in Crisis* explores one of the world's greatest failures of democracy in Germany during the so-called Weimar Republic, 1919-33—a failure that led to the Third Reich. For more than a decade after World War I, liberalism, nationalism, conservatism, social democracy, Christian democracy, communism, fascism, and every variant of these movements struggled for power. Although Germany's constitutional framework boldly enshrined liberal democratic values, the political spectrum was so broad and fully represented that a stable parliamentary majority required constant negotiations. The compromises that were made subsequently alienated citizens, who were embittered by national humiliation in the war and the ensuing treaty and struggling to survive economic turmoil and rapidly changing cultural norms. As positions hardened, the door was opened to radical alternatives. In this game, students, as delegates of the Reichstag (parliament), must contend with intense parliamentary wrangling, uncontrollable world events, street fights, assassinations, and insurrections. The game begins in late 1929, just after the U.S. stock market crash, as the Reichstag deliberates the Young Plan (a revision to the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I). Students belonging to various political parties must debate these matters and more as the combination of economic stress, political gridlock, and foreign pressure turn Germany into a

volcano on the verge of eruption.

how democracies die free download: Fascism: A Warning Madeleine Albright, 2019-01-29 #1 New York Times Bestseller A personal and urgent examination of Fascism in the twentieth century and how its legacy shapes today's world, written by one of the most admired public servants in American history, the first woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state A Fascist, observed Madeleine Albright, "is someone who claims to speak for a whole nation or group, is utterly unconcerned with the rights of others, and is willing to use violence and whatever other means are necessary to achieve the goals he or she might have." The twentieth century was defined by the clash between democracy and Fascism, a struggle that created uncertainty about the survival of human freedom and left millions dead. Given the horrors of that experience, one might expect the world to reject the spiritual successors to Hitler and Mussolini should they arise in our era. *Fascism: A Warning* is drawn from Madeleine Albright's experiences as a child in war-torn Europe and her distinguished career as a diplomat to question that assumption. Fascism, as she shows, not only endured through the twentieth century but now presents a more virulent threat to peace and justice than at any time since the end of World War II. The momentum toward democracy that swept the world when the Berlin Wall fell has gone into reverse. The United States, which historically championed the free world, is led by a president who exacerbates division and heaps scorn on democratic institutions. In many countries, economic, technological, and cultural factors are weakening the political center and empowering the extremes of right and left. Contemporary leaders such as Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un are employing many of the tactics used by Fascists in the 1920s and 30s. *Fascism: A Warning* is a book for our times that is relevant to all times. Written by someone who not only studied history but helped to shape it, this call to arms teaches us the lessons we must understand and the questions we must answer if we are to save ourselves from repeating the tragic errors of the past.

how democracies die free download: Democracies Divided Thomas Carothers, Andrew O'Donohue, 2019-09-24 "A must-read for anyone concerned about the fate of contemporary democracies."—Steven Levitsky, co-author of *How Democracies Die* 2020 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Why divisions have deepened and what can be done to heal them As one part of the global democratic recession, severe political polarization is increasingly afflicting old and new democracies alike, producing the erosion of democratic norms and rising societal anger. This volume is the first book-length comparative analysis of this troubling global phenomenon, offering in-depth case studies of countries as wide-ranging and important as Brazil, India, Kenya, Poland, Turkey, and the United States. The case study authors are a diverse group of country and regional experts, each with deep local knowledge and experience. *Democracies Divided* identifies and examines the fissures that are dividing societies and the factors bringing polarization to a boil. In nearly every case under study, political entrepreneurs have exploited and exacerbated long-simmering divisions for their own purposes—in the process undermining the prospects for democratic consensus and productive governance. But this book is not simply a diagnosis of what has gone wrong. Each case study discusses actions that concerned citizens and organizations are taking to counter polarizing forces, whether through reforms to political parties, institutions, or the media. The book's editors distill from the case studies a range of possible ways for restoring consensus and defeating polarization in the world's democracies. Timely, rigorous, and accessible, this book is of compelling interest to civic activists, political actors, scholars, and ordinary citizens in societies beset by increasingly rancorous partisanship.

how democracies die free download: Edge of Chaos Dambisa Moyo, 2018-04-24 From an internationally acclaimed economist, a provocative call to jump-start economic growth by aggressively overhauling liberal democracy Around the world, people who are angry at stagnant wages and growing inequality have rebelled against established governments and turned to political extremes. Liberal democracy, history's greatest engine of growth, now struggles to overcome unprecedented economic headwinds -- from aging populations to scarce resources to unsustainable debt burdens. Hobbled by short-term thinking and ideological dogma, democracies risk falling prey

to nationalism and protectionism that will deliver declining living standards. In *Edge of Chaos*, Dambisa Moyo shows why economic growth is essential to global stability, and why liberal democracies are failing to produce it today. Rather than turning away from democracy, she argues, we must fundamentally reform it. *Edge of Chaos* presents a radical blueprint for change in order to galvanize growth and ensure the survival of democracy in the twenty-first century.

how democracies die free download: The Decline and Rise of Democracy David Stasavage, 2020-06-02 One of the most important books on political regimes written in a generation.—Steven Levitsky, New York Times–bestselling author of *How Democracies Die* A new understanding of how and why early democracy took hold, how modern democracy evolved, and what this history teaches us about the future Historical accounts of democracy’s rise tend to focus on ancient Greece and pre-Renaissance Europe. *The Decline and Rise of Democracy* draws from global evidence to show that the story is much richer—democratic practices were present in many places, at many other times, from the Americas before European conquest, to ancient Mesopotamia, to precolonial Africa. Delving into the prevalence of early democracy throughout the world, David Stasavage makes the case that understanding how and where these democracies flourished—and when and why they declined—can provide crucial information not just about the history of governance, but also about the ways modern democracies work and where they could manifest in the future. Drawing from examples spanning several millennia, Stasavage first considers why states developed either democratic or autocratic styles of governance and argues that early democracy tended to develop in small places with a weak state and, counterintuitively, simple technologies. When central state institutions (such as a tax bureaucracy) were absent—as in medieval Europe—rulers needed consent from their populace to govern. When central institutions were strong—as in China or the Middle East—consent was less necessary and autocracy more likely. He then explores the transition from early to modern democracy, which first took shape in England and then the United States, illustrating that modern democracy arose as an effort to combine popular control with a strong state over a large territory. Democracy has been an experiment that has unfolded over time and across the world—and its transformation is ongoing. Amidst rising democratic anxieties, *The Decline and Rise of Democracy* widens the historical lens on the growth of political institutions and offers surprising lessons for all who care about governance.

how democracies die free download: Can It Happen Here? Cass R. Sunstein, 2018-03-06 “What makes Trump immune is that he is not a president within the context of a healthy Republican government. He is a cult leader of a movement that has taken over a political party – and he specifically campaigned on a platform of one-man rule. This fact permeates “Can It Happen Here? . . . which concludes, if you read between the lines, that “it” already has.” – New York Times Book Review From New York Times bestselling author Cass R. Sunstein, a compelling collection of essays by the brightest minds in America on authoritarianism. With the election of Donald J. Trump, many people on both the left and right feared that America’s 240-year-old grand experiment in democracy was coming to an end, and that Sinclair Lewis’ satirical novel, *It Can’t Happen Here*, written during the dark days of the 1930s, could finally be coming true. Is the democratic freedom that the United States symbolizes really secure? Can authoritarianism happen in America? Acclaimed legal scholar, Harvard Professor, and New York Times bestselling author Cass R. Sunstein queried a number of the nation’s leading thinkers. In this thought-provoking collection of essays, these distinguished thinkers and theorists explore the lessons of history, how democracies crumble, how propaganda works, and the role of the media, courts, elections, and fake news in the modern political landscape—and what the future of the United States may hold. Contributors include: Martha Minow, dean of Harvard Law School Eric Posner, law professor at the University of Chicago Law School Tyler Cowen, economics professor at George Mason University Timur Kuran, economics and political science professor at Duke University Noah Feldman, professor of law at Harvard Law School Jonathan Haidt, social psychologist and Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University’s Stern School of Business Jack Goldsmith, Professor at Harvard Law School, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, and co-founder of Lawfare Stephen Holmes, Professor of Law at New York University Jon Elster,

Professor of the Social Sciences at Columbia University Thomas Ginsburg, Professor of International Law and Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Cass R. Sunstein, Robert Walmsley University Professor, Harvard University Duncan Watts, sociologist and principal researcher at Microsoft Research Geoffrey R. Stone, University of Chicago Law school professor and noted First Amendment scholar

how democracies die free download: *Can Democracy Handle Climate Change?* Daniel J. Fiorino, 2018-06-22 Global climate change poses an unprecedented challenge for governments across the world. Small wonder that many experts question whether democracies have the ability to cope with the causes and long-term consequences of a changing climate. Some even argue that authoritarian regimes are better equipped to make the tough choices required to tackle the climate crisis. In this incisive book, Daniel Fiorino challenges the assumptions and evidence offered by sceptics of democracy and its capacity to handle climate change. Democracies, he explains, typically enjoy higher levels of environmental performance and produce greater innovation in technology, policy, and climate governance than autocracies. Rather than less democracy, Fiorino calls for a more accountable and responsive politics that will provide democratically-elected governments with the enhanced capacity for collective action on climate and other environmental issues.

how democracies die free download: *The Meaning of Democracy and the Vulnerability of Democracies* Vincent Ostrom, 1997 Considers the social requirements for a thriving democracy

how democracies die free download: *Europe* Jürgen Habermas, 2014-11-05 The future of Europe and the role it will play in the 21st century are among the most important political questions of our time. The optimism of a decade ago has now faded but the stakes are higher than ever. The way these questions are answered will have enormous implications not only for all Europeans but also for the citizens of Europe's closest and oldest ally - the USA. In this new book, one of Europe's leading intellectuals examines the political alternatives facing Europe today and outlines a course of action for the future. Habermas advocates a policy of gradual integration of Europe in which key decisions about Europe's future are put in the hands of its peoples, and a 'bipolar commonality' of the West in which a more unified Europe is able to work closely with the United States to build a more stable and equitable international order. This book includes Habermas's portraits of three long-time philosophical companions, Richard Rorty, Jacques Derrida and Ronald Dworkin. It also includes several important new texts by Habermas on the impact of the media on the public sphere, on the enduring importance religion in post-secular societies, and on the design of a democratic constitutional order for the emergent world society.

how democracies die free download: *Democracy and Power* Noam Chomsky, Jean Drèze, 2014-12-07 Noam Chomsky visited India in 1996 and 2001 and spoke on a wide range of subjects, from democracy and corporate propaganda to the nature of the world order and the role of intellectuals in society. He captivated audiences with his lucid challenge of dominant political analyses, the engaging style of his talks, and his commitment to social equality as well as individual freedom. Chomsky's early insights into the workings of power in the modern world remain timely and compelling. Published for the first time, this series of lectures also provides the reader with an invaluable introduction to the essential ideas of one of the leading thinkers of our time.

how democracies die free download: *PEGIDA and New Right-Wing Populism in Germany* Hans Vorländer, Maik Herold, Steven Schäller, 2018-03-08 This book provides the first systematic and comparative analysis of the German right-wing populist protest movement "PEGIDA". It offers an in-depth reconstruction of the movement's historical development, its organisational structure and its programmatic orientation. It depicts the protestors and their motivations, reactions in politics, media and society, and PEGIDA's European network. The volume presents and compares the results of scientific surveys among PEGIDA-participants and brings them into the context of long-time studies on political culture in Germany, representing a comprehensive study of the emergence of contemporary right-wing populist movements. The book will be of interest to researchers, academics and students focusing on comparative politics, (right-wing) populism, protest movements in western democracies, and political culture in Germany, as well as journalists, political

educators and policy makers.

how democracies die free download: *End of History and the Last Man* Francis Fukuyama, 2006-03-01 Ever since its first publication in 1992, the New York Times bestselling *The End of History and the Last Man* has provoked controversy and debate. Profoundly realistic and important...supremely timely and cogent...the first book to fully fathom the depth and range of the changes now sweeping through the world. —The Washington Post Book World Francis Fukuyama's prescient analysis of religious fundamentalism, politics, scientific progress, ethical codes, and war is as essential for a world fighting fundamentalist terrorists as it was for the end of the Cold War. Now updated with a new afterword, *The End of History and the Last Man* is a modern classic.

how democracies die free download: *Twilight of Democracy* Anne Applebaum, 2020-07-21 A finalist for the Lionel Gelber Prize One of Barack Obama's Favourite Books of the Year A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian explains, with electrifying clarity, why elites in democracies around the world are turning toward nationalism and authoritarianism. From the United States and Britain to continental Europe and beyond, liberal democracy is under siege, while authoritarianism is on the rise. In *Twilight of Democracy*, Anne Applebaum, an award-winning historian of Soviet atrocities who was one of the first American journalists to raise an alarm about antidemocratic trends in the West, explains the lure of nationalism and autocracy. In this captivating essay, she contends that political systems with radically simple beliefs are inherently appealing, especially when they benefit the loyal to the exclusion of everyone else. Despotism does not rule alone; they rely on political allies, bureaucrats, and media figures to pave their way and support their rule. The authoritarian and nationalist parties that have arisen within modern democracies offer new paths to wealth or power for their adherents. Applebaum describes many of the new advocates of illiberalism in countries around the world, showing how they use conspiracy theory, political polarization, social media, and even nostalgia to change their societies. Elegantly written and urgently argued, *Twilight of Democracy* is a brilliant dissection of a world-shaking shift and a stirring glimpse of the road back to democratic values.

how democracies die free download: *Democracy and Crisis* Wolfgang Merkel, Sascha Kneip, 2018-03-08 In light of the public and scholarly debates on the challenges and problems of established democracies, such as a lack of participation, declining confidence in political elites, and the deteriorating capabilities of democratic institutions, this volume discusses the question whether democracy as such is in crisis. On the basis of the shared concept of embedded democracy, it develops a range of conceptual approaches to empirically analyzing the challenges of democracy and their potential transformation into crisis phenomena. The book is divided into three parts, the first of which highlights various aspects of political participation, such as political inequality in voting. In turn, Part II focuses on problems of political representation, while Part III assesses whether processes such as globalization, deregulation, and the withdrawal of the state from important policy areas have limited the political control and legitimacy of democratically elected governments.

how democracies die free download: *Democracy in Africa* Nic Cheeseman, Nicholas Cheeseman, 2015-05-12 This book provides the first comprehensive overview of Africa's history of democracy, grappling with important questions facing Africa today.

how democracies die free download: *Global Health and International Relations* Colin McInnes, Kelley Lee, 2013-05-02 The long separation of health and International Relations, as distinct academic fields and policy arenas, has now dramatically changed. Health, concerned with the body, mind and spirit, has traditionally focused on disease and infirmity, whilst International Relations has been dominated by concerns of war, peace and security. Since the 1990s, however, the two fields have increasingly overlapped. How can we explain this shift and what are the implications for the future development of both fields? Colin McInnes and Kelley Lee examine four key intersections between health and International Relations today - foreign policy and health diplomacy, health and the global political economy, global health governance and global health security. The explosion of interest in these subjects has, in large part, been due to real world concerns - disease outbreaks, antibiotic resistance, counterfeit drugs and other risks to human health amid the spread

of globalisation. Yet the authors contend that it is also important to understand how global health has been socially constructed, shaped in theory and practice by particular interests and normative frameworks. This groundbreaking book encourages readers to step back from problem-solving to ask how global health is being problematized in the first place, why certain agendas and issue areas are prioritised, and what determines the potential solutions put forth to address them? The palpable struggle to better understand the health risks facing a globalized world, and to strengthen collective action to deal with them effectively, begins - they argue - with a more reflexive and critical approach to this rapidly emerging subject.

how democracies die free download: The Resurgence of the Latin American Left Steven Levitsky, Kenneth M. Roberts, 2011-09-01 Latin America experienced an unprecedented wave of left-leaning governments between 1998 and 2010. This volume examines the causes of this leftward turn and the consequences it carries for the region in the twenty-first century. The Resurgence of the Latin American Left asks three central questions: Why have left-wing parties and candidates flourished in Latin America? How have these leftist parties governed, particularly in terms of social and economic policy? What effects has the rise of the Left had on democracy and development in the region? The book addresses these questions through two sections. The first looks at several major themes regarding the contemporary Latin American Left, including whether Latin American public opinion actually shifted leftward in the 2000s, why the Left won in some countries but not in others, and how the left turn has affected market economies, social welfare, popular participation in politics, and citizenship rights. The second section examines social and economic policy and regime trajectories in eight cases: those of leftist governments in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Venezuela, as well as that of a historically populist party that governed on the right in Peru. Featuring a new typology of Left parties in Latin America, an original framework for identifying and categorizing variation among these governments, and contributions from prominent and influential scholars of Latin American politics, this historical-institutional approach to understanding the region's left turn—and variation within it—is the most comprehensive explanation to date on the topic.

how democracies die free download: Democracy Without Shortcuts Cristina Lafont, 2020 This book defends the value of democratic participation. It aims to improve citizens' democratic control and vindicate the value of citizens' participation against conceptions that threaten to undermine it.

how democracies die free download: Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, and Democracy Jose Antonio Cheibub, 2007 This book questions the reasons why presidential democracies more likely to break down than parliamentary ones.

how democracies die free download: Reflections on Empire Antonio Negri, Michael Hardt, Danilo Zolo, 2008-07-08 This new book from Antonio Negri, one of the most influential political thinkers writing today, provides a concise and accessible introduction to the key ideas of his recent work. Giving the reader a sense of the wider context in which Negri has developed the ideas that have become so central to current debates, the book is made up of five lectures which address a series of topics that are dealt with in his world-famous books empire, globalization, multitude, sovereignty, democracy. Reflections on Empire will appeal to anyone interested in current debates about the ways in which the world is changing today, to the many people who are followers of Negri's work and to students and scholars in sociology, politics and cultural studies.

how democracies die free download: The Politics Aristotle, 1981-09-17 Twenty-three centuries after its compilation, 'The Politics' still has much to contribute to this central question of political science. Aristotle's thorough and carefully argued analysis is based on a study of over 150 city constitutions, covering a huge range of political issues in order to establish which types of constitution are best - both ideally and in particular circumstances - and how they may be maintained. Aristotle's opinions form an essential background to the thinking of philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli and Jean Bodin and both his premises and arguments raise questions that are as relevant to modern society as they were to the ancient world.

how democracies die free download: How to Save a Constitutional Democracy Tom Ginsburg, Aziz Z. Huq, 2018-10-05 Democracies are in danger. Around the world, a rising wave of populist leaders threatens to erode the core structures of democratic self-rule. In the United States, the tenure of Donald Trump has seemed decisive turning point for many. What kind of president intimidates jurors, calls the news media the “enemy of the American people,” and seeks foreign assistance investigating domestic political rivals? Whatever one thinks of President Trump, many think the Constitution will safeguard us from lasting damage. But is that assumption justified? How to Save a Constitutional Democracy mounts an urgent argument that we can no longer afford to be complacent. Drawing on a rich array of other countries’ experiences with democratic backsliding, Tom Ginsburg and Aziz Z. Huq show how constitutional rules can both hinder and hasten the decline of democratic institutions. The checks and balances of the federal government, a robust civil society and media, and individual rights—such as those enshrined in the First Amendment—often fail as bulwarks against democratic decline. The sobering reality for the United States, Ginsburg and Huq contend, is that the Constitution’s design makes democratic erosion more, not less, likely. Its structural rigidity has had unforeseen consequence—leaving the presidency weakly regulated and empowering the Supreme Court conjure up doctrines that ultimately facilitate rather than inhibit rights violations. Even the bright spots in the Constitution—the First Amendment, for example—may have perverse consequences in the hands of a deft communicator who can degrade the public sphere by wielding hateful language banned in many other democracies. We—and the rest of the world—can do better. The authors conclude by laying out practical steps for how laws and constitutional design can play a more positive role in managing the risk of democratic decline.

how democracies die free download: The Freedom to Read American Library Association, 1953

how democracies die free download: The Dictator's Handbook Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, 2011-09-27 A groundbreaking new theory of the real rules of politics: leaders do whatever keeps them in power, regardless of the national interest. As featured on the viral video Rules for Rulers, which has been viewed over 3 million times. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith's canonical book on political science turned conventional wisdom on its head. They started from a single assertion: Leaders do whatever keeps them in power. They don't care about the national interest-or even their subjects-unless they have to. This clever and accessible book shows that democracy is essentially just a convenient fiction. Governments do not differ in kind but only in the number of essential supporters, or backs that need scratching. The size of this group determines almost everything about politics: what leaders can get away with, and the quality of life or misery under them. The picture the authors paint is not pretty. But it just may be the truth, which is a good starting point for anyone seeking to improve human governance.

how democracies die free download: Liberal Democracy Max Meyer, 2020-01-01 This open access book aims to show which factors have been decisive in the rise of successful countries. Never before have so many people been so well off. However, prosperity is not a law of nature; it has to be worked for. A liberal economy stands at the forefront of this success - not as a political system, but as a set of economic rules promoting competition, which in turn leads to innovation, research and enormous productivity. Sustainable prosperity is built on a foundation of freedom, equal opportunity and a functioning government. This requires a stable democracy that cannot be defeated by an autocrat. Autocrats claim that illiberalism is more efficient, an assertion that justifies their own power. Although autocrats can efficiently guide the first steps out of poverty, once a certain level of prosperity has been achieved, people begin to demand a sense of well-being - freedom and codetermination. Only when this is possible will they feel comfortable, and progress will continue. Respect for human rights is crucial. The rules of the free market do not lean to either the right or left politically. Liberalism and the welfare state are not mutually exclusive. The conflict concerns the amount of government intervention. Should there be more or less? As a lawyer, entrepreneur, and board member with over 40 years of experience in this field of conflict, the author clearly describes the conditions necessary for a country to maintain its position at the top.

how democracies die free download: Why We're Polarized Ezra Klein, 2020-01-28 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2022 One of Bill Gates's "5 books to read this summer," this New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller shows us that America's political system isn't broken. The truth is scarier: it's working exactly as designed. In this "superbly researched" (The Washington Post) and timely book, journalist Ezra Klein reveals how that system is polarizing us—and how we are polarizing it—with disastrous results. "The American political system—which includes everyone from voters to journalists to the president—is full of rational actors making rational decisions given the incentives they face," writes political analyst Ezra Klein. "We are a collection of functional parts whose efforts combine into a dysfunctional whole." "A thoughtful, clear and persuasive analysis" (The New York Times Book Review), *Why We're Polarized* reveals the structural and psychological forces behind America's descent into division and dysfunction. Neither a polemic nor a lament, this book offers a clear framework for understanding everything from Trump's rise to the Democratic Party's leftward shift to the politicization of everyday culture. America is polarized, first and foremost, by identity. Everyone engaged in American politics is engaged, at some level, in identity politics. Over the past fifty years in America, our partisan identities have merged with our racial, religious, geographic, ideological, and cultural identities. These merged identities have attained a weight that is breaking much in our politics and tearing at the bonds that hold this country together. Klein shows how and why American politics polarized around identity in the 20th century, and what that polarization did to the way we see the world and one another. And he traces the feedback loops between polarized political identities and polarized political institutions that are driving our system toward crisis. "Well worth reading" (New York magazine), this is an "eye-opening" (O, The Oprah Magazine) book that will change how you look at politics—and perhaps at yourself.

how democracies die free download: Me the People Nadia Urbinati, 2019-08-06 A timely and incisive assessment of what the success of populism means for democracy. Populist movements have recently appeared in nearly every democracy around the world. Yet our grasp of this disruptive political phenomenon remains woefully inadequate. Politicians of all stripes appeal to the interests of the people, and every opposition party campaigns against the current establishment. What, then, distinguishes populism from run-of-the-mill democratic politics? And why should we be concerned by its rise? In *Me the People*, Nadia Urbinati argues that populism should be regarded as a new form of representative government, one based on a direct relationship between the leader and those the leader defines as the "good" or "right" people. Populist leaders claim to speak to and for the people without the need for intermediaries—in particular, political parties and independent media—whom they blame for betraying the interests of the ordinary many. Urbinati shows that, while populist governments remain importantly distinct from dictatorial or fascist regimes, their dependence on the will of the leader, along with their willingness to exclude the interests of those deemed outside the bounds of the "good" or "right" people, stretches constitutional democracy to its limits and opens a pathway to authoritarianism. Weaving together theoretical analysis, the history of political thought, and current affairs, *Me the People* presents an original and illuminating account of populism and its relation to democracy.

Back to Home: <https://fc1.getfilecloud.com>