

struggle for democracy

struggle for democracy has shaped societies across the globe, impacting political systems, civil rights, and the everyday lives of citizens. This comprehensive article explores the historical context, key movements, challenges, and ongoing efforts involved in the fight for democratic governance. Readers will gain insight into the origins and evolution of democracy, the obstacles faced by reformers, and the influence of technology and global cooperation on democratic progress. Through detailed analysis and factual accounts, this article uncovers the complexities and significance of the struggle for democracy, offering valuable perspectives for students, educators, policy makers, and anyone interested in understanding the forces that drive democratic change. Continue reading to discover the main stages, crucial events, and contemporary issues surrounding this vital topic.

- Historical Roots of the Struggle for Democracy
- Major Movements and Key Figures in Democratic Struggles
- Challenges in Achieving and Sustaining Democracy
- Contemporary Efforts and Global Perspectives
- The Role of Technology in the Struggle for Democracy
- Future Directions and Enduring Importance

Historical Roots of the Struggle for Democracy

Early Philosophical Foundations

The struggle for democracy has deep historical roots, dating back to ancient civilizations. Early philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle debated the merits and challenges of popular rule. The concept of democracy first emerged in ancient Greece, notably in Athens, where citizens participated directly in political decision-making. These philosophical underpinnings provided a foundation for later democratic ideals and inspired future generations to challenge autocracy and tyranny.

Influence of Enlightenment Thought

During the Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries, thinkers like John Locke, Montesquieu, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau advanced notions of individual rights, separation of powers, and social contracts. Their ideas fundamentally shaped the struggle for democracy, fueling revolutions and reforms in Europe and the Americas. The emergence of representative government, constitutionalism, and universal suffrage can be traced to this pivotal era.

Key Historical Events and Documents

- The Magna Carta (1215): Limited the power of monarchs and established legal rights for subjects.
- The American Declaration of Independence (1776): Asserted the right of people to self-governance.
- The French Revolution (1789): Challenged absolute monarchy and established principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): Set global standards for democratic rights and freedoms.

Major Movements and Key Figures in Democratic Struggles

Revolutions and Reform Movements

Throughout history, the struggle for democracy has manifested in revolutions, reform movements, and grassroots campaigns. Notable examples include the American Revolution, which established a democratic republic, and the French Revolution, which laid the groundwork for modern democratic principles. In the 20th century, movements such as the Indian independence struggle, the civil rights movement in the United States, and anti-colonial campaigns in Africa and Asia further advanced the cause of democracy.

Influential Leaders and Activists

Key figures have played vital roles in advancing democracy worldwide. Mahatma Gandhi championed nonviolent resistance and self-rule in India, while Martin Luther King Jr. led the fight for racial equality and civil rights in America. Nelson Mandela's leadership ended apartheid in South Africa and established

democratic governance. These individuals, among others, inspired millions to join the struggle for democracy and continue to influence reformers today.

Women's Role in Democratic Movements

Women have been instrumental in democratic struggles, advocating for suffrage, equal rights, and political participation. Leaders such as Susan B. Anthony, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Malala Yousafzai have challenged societal norms and fought for inclusion in decision-making processes. Their efforts have broadened the scope of democracy, ensuring that it encompasses the rights and voices of all citizens.

Challenges in Achieving and Sustaining Democracy

Authoritarianism and Political Repression

One of the most persistent obstacles in the struggle for democracy is the presence of authoritarian regimes and political repression. Governments that centralize power and limit freedoms often resist democratic reforms, using censorship, violence, and intimidation to maintain control. Citizens and activists in such environments face significant risks as they work to promote transparency, accountability, and human rights.

Corruption and Weak Institutions

Corruption undermines democratic principles by eroding public trust and impeding fair governance. Weak institutions, such as ineffective judiciaries and legislatures, struggle to protect rights and enforce laws. Addressing these issues is crucial for building resilient democracies that serve the interests of all people.

Social and Economic Inequality

- Limited access to education and resources can restrict political participation.
- Disparities in wealth create uneven power dynamics, undermining equal representation.
- Marginalized groups often face barriers to voting, advocacy, and leadership roles.

Efforts to reduce inequality are essential in strengthening democratic societies and ensuring that all citizens have a voice in shaping their future.

Contemporary Efforts and Global Perspectives

Democratic Transitions in Modern Times

In recent decades, numerous countries have undergone democratic transitions, moving away from authoritarianism and embracing representative government. Examples include the fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, democratic reforms in Latin America, and the expansion of multiparty systems in Africa. These transitions are often complex, requiring careful negotiation, institution-building, and international support.

International Organizations and Democracy Promotion

Global organizations play a significant role in supporting the struggle for democracy. The United Nations, European Union, and other bodies provide resources, monitoring, and advocacy to strengthen democratic governance worldwide. They offer technical assistance, observe elections, and promote the rule of law, contributing to the advancement of democratic norms and practices.

Current Threats to Democracy

Despite progress, democracy faces ongoing threats, including populism, disinformation, and the erosion of civil liberties. Polarization, manipulation of media, and attacks on judicial independence can destabilize democratic systems. Vigilance and active engagement are required to defend democratic values and institutions in the modern era.

The Role of Technology in the Struggle for Democracy

Digital Activism and Civic Engagement

Technology has transformed the struggle for democracy, enabling new forms of activism and participation. Social media platforms allow citizens to organize protests, share information, and mobilize support for democratic causes. Digital tools facilitate transparency, encourage dialogue, and empower individuals to hold

governments accountable.

Challenges of Disinformation and Cybersecurity

- False information can undermine public trust and disrupt democratic processes.
- Cyberattacks threaten electoral integrity and the security of democratic institutions.
- Regulating online content while preserving freedom of expression remains a challenge.

Balancing the opportunities and risks of technology is essential for protecting and advancing democratic governance in the digital age.

Future Directions and Enduring Importance

Emerging Trends in Democratic Struggles

The struggle for democracy continues to evolve, shaped by global events, technological advancements, and shifting social dynamics. Grassroots movements, youth activism, and increased awareness of human rights are driving new waves of democratic change. As societies confront challenges such as climate change, migration, and inequality, the demand for inclusive and accountable governance grows stronger.

The Lasting Impact of Democracy

Democracy remains a cornerstone of freedom, justice, and development. Its enduring importance lies in the ability to adapt, respond to new challenges, and empower citizens to shape their destinies. Understanding the history, challenges, and future prospects of the struggle for democracy is essential for building resilient societies and promoting global peace and prosperity.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about Struggle for Democracy

Q: What are the main causes behind the struggle for democracy?

A: The main causes include demands for political representation, protection of individual rights, resistance to authoritarian rule, and aspirations for social and economic equality. Historical injustices and limited freedoms often spark movements seeking democratic reform.

Q: How has technology influenced the struggle for democracy?

A: Technology has enabled digital activism, increased access to information, and facilitated civic engagement. However, it also presents challenges such as disinformation, cyber threats, and the need to balance regulation with free expression.

Q: Which historical events have been pivotal in the global struggle for democracy?

A: Pivotal events include the Magna Carta, the American and French Revolutions, the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, and the Arab Spring. These events have significantly influenced the spread and development of democratic ideals.

Q: What are the most significant threats to democracy today?

A: Significant threats include political polarization, disinformation, authoritarian resurgence, corruption, and attacks on judicial independence. These factors can destabilize democratic systems and undermine public trust.

Q: Why is the struggle for democracy important for marginalized groups?

A: Democracy provides marginalized groups with opportunities for political participation, advocacy, and equal representation. The struggle ensures that all voices are heard and that rights are protected for every individual.

Q: Who are some key figures in the history of democratic movements?

A: Key figures include Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Susan B. Anthony, and Malala Yousafzai. Their leadership and activism have advanced democratic principles worldwide.

Q: What role do international organizations play in supporting

democracy?

A: International organizations provide resources, technical assistance, election monitoring, and advocacy to promote democratic governance and human rights globally.

Q: How do social and economic inequalities affect democratic progress?

A: Inequalities restrict access to education, resources, and political participation, creating uneven representation and power dynamics. Addressing these disparities is essential for strengthening democracy.

Q: What challenges do emerging democracies face?

A: Emerging democracies often encounter issues such as weak institutions, corruption, lack of public trust, and external interference. Building resilient systems requires comprehensive reforms and citizen engagement.

Q: How can individuals contribute to the struggle for democracy?

A: Individuals can contribute by participating in elections, advocating for reforms, supporting civil society organizations, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance.

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The Struggle for Democracy: A Global Perspective

****Introduction****

The struggle for democracy is a persistent and evolving challenge faced by nations worldwide. Democracy, characterized by free and fair elections, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights, is often seen as the ideal form of governance. However, the path to achieving and maintaining democracy is fraught with obstacles. This article explores the global struggle for democracy, highlighting key historical events, contemporary challenges, and the ongoing efforts to promote democratic values.

****Historical Context****

The concept of democracy dates back to ancient Greece, where citizens participated directly in decision-making. However, modern democracy, as we know it, began to take shape in the 18th century with the American and French Revolutions. These revolutions emphasized the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, laying the groundwork for democratic governance.

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, many countries transitioned from monarchies and colonial rule to democratic systems. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union marked a significant victory for democracy, leading to the democratization of Eastern Europe.

****Contemporary Challenges****

Despite these advancements, the struggle for democracy continues. Several factors contribute to the ongoing challenges faced by democratic movements around the world:

1. ****Authoritarianism****: In many countries, authoritarian regimes suppress democratic movements through censorship, imprisonment, and violence. Leaders in these regimes often manipulate elections and undermine democratic institutions to maintain power³.
2. ****Corruption****: Corruption erodes public trust in democratic institutions and processes. When government officials engage in corrupt practices, it undermines the principles of transparency and accountability that are essential for democracy³.
3. ****Economic Inequality****: Economic disparities can hinder democratic participation. When a significant portion of the population is struggling to meet basic needs, they may be less likely to engage in political processes. Additionally, wealthier individuals and corporations can exert undue influence on politics³.
4. ****Disinformation****: The spread of false information through social media and other platforms can distort public perception and undermine democratic processes. Disinformation campaigns can polarize societies and erode trust in democratic institutions³.
5. ****Globalization****: While globalization has brought economic growth and technological advancements, it has also led to cultural homogenization and the erosion of local identities. This can create tensions and resistance to democratic values³.

****Case Studies****

1. ****Hong Kong****: The struggle for democracy in Hong Kong has garnered international attention. Pro-democracy activists have faced significant challenges from the Chinese government, which has implemented laws to curb dissent and limit political freedoms³.
2. ****Belarus****: In Belarus, the 2020 presidential election sparked widespread protests against President Alexander Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994. The government's violent crackdown on protesters highlighted the ongoing struggle for democratic reforms³.
3. ****Myanmar****: Myanmar's transition to democracy was abruptly halted in 2021 when the military seized power in a coup. The subsequent crackdown on pro-democracy activists and ethnic minorities has drawn international condemnation³.

****Efforts to Promote Democracy****

Despite these challenges, numerous organizations and movements continue to advocate for democratic values:

1. **International Organizations**: Organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization of American States work to promote democracy through diplomatic efforts, election monitoring, and support for civil society³.
2. **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**: NGOs like Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International play a crucial role in advocating for human rights and democratic governance. They provide support to activists, document abuses, and raise awareness about the importance of democracy³.
3. **Grassroots Movements**: Local activists and grassroots movements are often at the forefront of the struggle for democracy. These movements mobilize communities, organize protests, and advocate for political reforms³.
4. **Education and Awareness**: Promoting democratic values through education is essential for building a culture of democracy. Educational programs that emphasize critical thinking, civic engagement, and human rights can empower individuals to participate in democratic processes³.

The Role of Technology

Technology has a dual role in the struggle for democracy. On one hand, it can be a powerful tool for promoting democratic values. Social media platforms and digital communication tools enable activists to organize, share information, and mobilize support. On the other hand, technology can also be used to suppress dissent and spread disinformation. Authoritarian regimes often employ sophisticated surveillance technologies to monitor and control their populations³.

Conclusion

The struggle for democracy is an ongoing and multifaceted challenge. While significant progress has been made over the past centuries, contemporary issues such as authoritarianism, corruption, economic inequality, disinformation, and globalization continue to pose threats to democratic governance. However, the efforts of international organizations, NGOs, grassroots movements, and educational initiatives provide hope for the future of democracy. By understanding and addressing these challenges, we can work towards a more democratic and just world.

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analyse the challenge of building democracy in the countries of the former Yugoslavia riven by conflict, and in neighboring states. They focus on oppositional activity, political cultures that often favour strong presidentialism, the role of nationalism, and basic socioeconomic trends. Karen Dawisha and Bruce Parrott provide theoretical and comparative chapters on post communist political development across the region. This book will provide students and scholars with detailed analysis by leading authorities, plus the latest research data on recent political and economic developments in each country.

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Behind this laudable record, however, lurk problems that are numerous and deep, ranging from an ominous resurgence of antidemocratic and economically irresponsible populism to the fragility and unreliability of key democratic institutions. A new addition to the Journal of Democracy series, this volume ponders both the successes and the difficulties that color Latin American politics today. The book brings together recent articles from the journal and adds new and updated material. In these essays, a distinguished roster of contributors thoughtfully examines democratic problems and prospects from the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego. The first section assesses regionwide trends, including the forces behind the much-discussed political "turn to the left," the travails of the presidential form of government, the challenges of integrating newly mobilized indigenous populations into politics, the need for major reform in labor markets, and the implications of rising populism for democratic institutions and governance. The second section features important case studies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. The final section surveys Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Contributors: Jorge G. Castañeda, Matthew R. Cleary, Catherine M. Conaghan, Javier Corrales, Consuelo Cruz, Lucía Dammert, Daniel P. Erikson, Luis Estrada, Eric Farnsworth, Steven Levitsky, Scott Mainwaring, Cynthia McClintock, Marco A. Morales, María Victoria Murillo, Michael Penfold, Alejandro Poiré, Eduardo Posada-Carbó, Christopher Sabatini, Hector E. Schamis, Andreas Schedler, Mitchell A. Seligson, Lourdes Sola, Arturo Valenzuela, Donna Lee Van Cott

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Katrin Voltmer, Christian Christensen, Irene Neverla, Nicole Stremlau, Barbara Thomass, Nebojša Vladislavljević, Herman Wasserman, 2020-09-06 This book investigates the role of media and communication in processes of democratization in different political and cultural contexts. Struggles for democratic change are periods of intense contest over the transformation of citizenship and the reconfiguration of political power. These democratization conflicts are played out within an increasingly complex media ecology where traditional modes of communication merge with new digital networks, thus bringing about multiple platforms for journalists and political actors to promote and contest competing definitions of reality. The volume draws on extensive case study research in South Africa, Kenya, Egypt and Serbia to highlight the ambivalent role of the media as force for democratic change, citizen empowerment, and accountability, as well as driver of polarization, radicalization and manipulation.

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struggle for democracy: Citizen Louise W. Knight, 2008-09-15 Jane Addams was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Now *Citizen*, Louise W. Knight's masterful biography, reveals Addams's early development as a political activist and social philosopher. In this book we observe a powerful mind grappling with the radical ideas of her age, most notably the ever-changing meanings of democracy. *Citizen* covers the first half of Addams's life, from 1860 to 1899. Knight recounts how Addams, a child of a wealthy family in rural northern Illinois, longed for a life of larger purpose. She broadened her horizons through education, reading, and travel, and, after receiving an inheritance upon her father's death, moved to Chicago in 1889 to co-found Hull House, the city's first settlement house. *Citizen* shows vividly what the settlement house actually was—a neighborhood center for education and social gatherings—and describes how Addams learned of the abject working conditions in American factories, the unchecked power wielded by employers, the impact of corrupt local politics on city services, and the intolerable limits placed on women by their lack of voting rights. These experiences, Knight makes clear, transformed Addams. Always a believer in democracy as an abstraction, Addams came to understand that this national ideal was also a life philosophy and a mandate for civic activism by all. As her story unfolds, Knight astutely captures the enigmatic Addams's compassionate personality as well as her flawed human side. Written in a strong narrative voice, *Citizen* is an insightful portrait of the formative years of a great American leader. "Knight's decision to focus on Addams's early years is a stroke of genius. We know a great deal about Jane Addams the public figure. We know relatively little about how she made the transition from the 19th century to the 20th. In Knight's book, Jane Addams comes to life. . . . *Citizen* is written neither to make money nor to gain academic tenure; it is a gift, meant to enlighten and improve. Jane Addams would have understood."—Alan Wolfe, *New York Times Book Review* "My only complaint about the book is that there wasn't more of it. . . . Knight honors Addams as an American original."—Kathleen Dalton, *Chicago Tribune*

struggle for democracy: *Recapturing Democracy* Mark Purcell, 2008-03-25 *Recapturing Democracy* is a short yet synoptic introduction to urban democracy in our era of political neoliberalism and economic globalization. Combining an original argument with a number of case studies, Mark Purcell explores the condition of democracy in contemporary Western cities. Whereas many scholars focus on what Purcell calls procedural democracy – i.e., electoral politics and access to it – he instead assesses substantive democracy. By this he means the people's ability to have some say over issues of social justice, material well being, and economic equality. Neoliberalism, which advocates a diminished role for the state and increasing power for mobile capital, has diminished substantive democracy in recent times, he argues. He looks at case studies where this has occurred

and at others that show how neoliberalism can be resisted in the name of substantive democracy. Ultimately, he utilizes Henri Lefebvre's notion of the right to the city, which encompasses substantive as well as procedural democracy for ordinary urban citizens.

struggle for democracy: Repression And Resistance Edelberto Torres-rivas, 2019-07-11 This book summarizes the multiple origins of the crisis that Central Americans are suffering today. It focuses on an analysis of the revolutionary popular movements as a form of social movement capable of joining together a diversity of class-based groups.

struggle for democracy: Narrating Democracy in Myanmar Tamas Wells, 2021-04-30 This book analyses what Myanmar's struggle for democracy has signified to Burmese activists and democratic leaders, and to their international allies. In doing so, it explores how understanding contested meanings of democracy helps make sense of the country's tortuous path since Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won historic elections in 2015. Using Burmese and English language sources, Narrating Democracy in Myanmar reveals how the country's ongoing struggles for democracy exist not only in opposition to Burmese military elites, but also within networks of local activists and democratic leaders, and international aid workers.

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struggle for democracy: The Struggle for Democracy in Germany Gabriel Abraham Almond, Eugene Newton Anderson, 1965

struggle for democracy: Toward Democracy James T. Kloppenberg, 2016 James T. Kloppenberg presents the history of democracy from the perspective of those who established its principles, offering a fresh look at how ideas about representative government, suffrage, and the principles of self-rule and ideals have shifted over time and place.

struggle for democracy: Organizing Civil Society Philip D. Oxborn, 2010-11-01

struggle for democracy: The Chiapas Rebellion Neil Harvey, 1998 Through a pathbreaking study of the Zapatista rebellion of 1994, looks at the complexities of the political movement for Chiapas's indigenous peoples.

struggle for democracy: Struggle for Democracy Edward S. Greenberg, 1997-01-01

struggle for democracy: Fragile Democracy James L. Leloudis, Robert R. Korstad, 2020-08-06 America is at war with itself over the right to vote, or, more precisely, over the question of who gets to exercise that right and under what circumstances. Conservatives speak in ominous tones of voter fraud so widespread that it threatens public trust in elected government. Progressives counter that fraud is rare and that calls for reforms such as voter ID are part of a campaign to shrink the electorate and exclude some citizens from the political life of the nation. North Carolina is a battleground for this debate, and its history can help us understand why--a century and a half after ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment--we remain a nation divided over the right to vote. In Fragile Democracy, James L. Leloudis and Robert R. Korstad tell the story of race and voting rights, from the end of the Civil War until the present day. They show that battles over the franchise have played out through cycles of emancipatory politics and conservative retrenchment. When race has been used as an instrument of exclusion from political life, the result has been a society in which vast

numbers of Americans are denied the elements of meaningful freedom: a good job, a good education, good health, and a good home. That history points to the need for a bold new vision of what democracy looks like.

struggle for democracy: *The Struggle for Egypt* Steven A. Cook, 2011-10-07 The recent revolution in Egypt has shaken the Arab world to its roots. The most populous Arab country and the historical center of Arab intellectual life, Egypt is a lynchpin of the US's Middle East strategy, receiving more aid than any nation except Israel. This is not the first time that the world has turned its gaze to Egypt, however. A half century ago, Egypt under Nasser became the putative leader of the Arab world and a beacon for all developing nations. Yet in the decades prior to the 2011 revolution, it was ruled over by a sclerotic regime plagued by nepotism and corruption. During that time, its economy declined into near shambles, a severely overpopulated Cairo fell into disrepair, and it produced scores of violent Islamic extremists such as Ayman al-Zawahiri and Mohammed Atta. In this new and updated paperback edition of *The Struggle for Egypt*, Steven Cook--a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations--explains how this parlous state of affairs came to be, why the revolution occurred, and where Egypt is headed now. A sweeping account of Egypt in the modern era, it incisively chronicles all of the nation's central historical episodes: the decline of British rule, the rise of Nasser and his quest to become a pan-Arab leader, Egypt's decision to make peace with Israel and ally with the United States, the assassination of Sadat, the emergence of the Muslim Brotherhood, and--finally--the demonstrations that convulsed Tahrir Square and overthrew an entrenched regime. And for the paperback edition, Cook has updated the book to include coverage of the recent political events in Egypt, including the election of the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi as President. Throughout Egypt's history, there has been an intense debate to define what Egypt is, what it stands for, and its relation to the world. Egyptians now have an opportunity to finally answer these questions. Doing so in a way that appeals to the vast majority of Egyptians, Cook notes, will be difficult but ultimately necessary if Egypt is to become an economically dynamic and politically vibrant society.

struggle for democracy: *The Quest for Democracy in Iran* Fakhreddin Azimi, 2010-09-30 The Constitutional Revolution of 1906 launched Iran as a pioneer in a broad-based movement to establish democratic rule in the non-Western world. In a book that provides essential context for understanding modern Iran, Fakhreddin Azimi traces a century of struggle for the establishment of representative government. The promise of constitutional rule was cut short in the 1920s with the rise of the Pahlavi dynasty. Reza Shah, whose despotic rule Azimi deftly captures, maintained the façade of a constitutional monarch but greeted any challenge with an iron fist: "I will eliminate you," he routinely barked at his officials. In 1941, fearful of losing control of the oil-rich region, the Allies forced Reza Shah to abdicate but allowed Mohammad Reza to succeed his father. Though promising to abide by the constitution, the new Shah missed no opportunity to undermine it. The Anglo-American-backed coup of 1953, which ousted reformist premier Mohammed Mosaddeq, dealt a blow to the constitutionalists. The Shah's repressive policies and subservience to the United States radicalized both secular and religious opponents, leading to the revolution of 1979. Azimi argues that we have fundamentally misunderstood this event by characterizing it as an "Islamic" revolution when it was in reality the expression of a long-repressed desire for popular sovereignty. This explains why the clerical rulers have failed to counter the growing public conviction that the Islamic Republic, too, is impervious to political reform--and why the democratic impulse that began with the Constitutional Revolution continues to be a potent and resilient force.

struggle for democracy: *The Spirit of Democracy* Larry Diamond, 2008-01-08 One of America's preeminent experts on democracy charts the future prospects for freedom around the world in the aftermath of Iraq and deepening authoritarianism. Over three decades, the world was transformed. In 1974, nearly three-quarters of all countries were dictatorships; today, more than half are democracies. Yet recent efforts to promote democracy have stumbled, and many democratic governments are faltering. In this bold and sweeping vision for advancing freedom around the world, social scientist Larry Diamond examines how and why democracy progresses. He demonstrates that

the desire for democracy runs deep, even in very poor countries, and that seemingly entrenched regimes like Iran and China could become democracies within a generation. He also dissects the causes of the democratic recession in critical states, including the crime-infested oligarchy in Russia and the strong-armed populism of Venezuela. Diamond cautions that arrogance and inconsistency have undermined America's aspirations to promote democracy. To spur a renewed democratic boom, he urges vigorous support of good governance—the rule of law, security, protection of individual rights, and shared economic prosperity—and free civic organizations. Only then will the spirit of democracy be secured.

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