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Real patriotism means standing up for what one believes is right for the good of the people in one’s country and the world. It means being aware of the social economic and political issues of the modern era and being willing to fight to create a fair and just society for all people living within our system and beyond. Real patriotism does not rely on the acceptance of large corporations and billionaires dictating what we think and do but instead relies on personal perseverance and courage. The willingness to criticize one’s government and society in order to manifest change was a core principle that lead to America’s founding, and if we allow ourselves to abandon that principle, then we are allowing ourselves to accept the ongoing degradation of our society. The way that the plutocrats are allowed to control our government, media, jobs, and living conditions should not be tolerated by those concerned with personal freedom and liberty. If the general public refuses to accept their fate as wage slaves while one percent of the population controls all of the wealth and power, then we may be able to fight back against the injustices that we face in society today. Democracy is evolved through the popular struggle for a fair and just society. Patriotism is about recognizing this fact and acting on this obligation that comes with living in a democratic society. The struggle for African Americans to be treated equally by law enforcement, the struggle for women to be paid fair wages for their work, and the struggle of any working class citizen to not have to struggle to survive can be realized through resilience and the unwavering belief in “freedom and justice for all.” The state will have no choice but to change with the ever-growing movements for freedom, no matter how grueling an strenuous the process. In essence, patriotism is about never abandoning the belief in fairness and equality.

Pluralism for the few refers to the fact that the government is largely dictated by those who control the most amount of wealth and therefore power. Large corporations and investors have a major influence on political elections and the media. Even though no one corporation or organization controls everything that happens in the government, many of these groups and organizations cooperate with each other in order to sustain their best interests while giving little thought to the rest of the general population that does not have as much power as they do. Politicians accept large sums of money to create laws that only benefit the rich and do not do much to help the middle lower income earners. Reform in these regards is likely always going to be limited (The Limits of Reform) because it would not make logical sense for the elites in our society to surrender power that they have in order to benefit a class of people that are not their own. Large corporations are not likely to help lower-income communities monetarily because businesses are predicated on personal gain and growth and not for the betterment of society.

I believe that real democracy to focus on what the general population desires when not forced into certain beliefs and views by the government and the plutocrats. The government should not be dominated by a two-party system in which only two core ideologies are acknowledged while other opinions are set to the sidelines to never be realized. Democracy should be based upon the influence of the people on the government rather than the government being influenced by wealthy corporations and billionaires. *Democracy for the Few* suggests that we focus our attention on dismantling these systems by creating social reforms that will benefit more classes than the rich. One such reform would be to tax the rich at a steep rate in order to bring money into low-income communities and families. Another reform would be to put a cap on campaign spending so that smaller parties and candidates have a better chance of winning elections and being represented in the government. These are just a few simple reforms that would create a more fair and just society, which American’s have struggled to achieve since its founding, and which can be achieved through the perseverance and dedication of the everyday citizen.