Democracy is sick. Democracy is dying. Democracy is dead. Pick your headline. They all mean the same thing, with varying levels of exaggeration. They all mean, “Democracy is sick, dying, or dead, and there was nothing anyone could have done”. They’re all true.

What happened? How did one of the Great Values turn old-school, without anyone noticing? When did noble Democracy shuffle off her moral coil? In a single generation, she has been stripped of every shred of dignity and meaning; in less than a quarter of a century, she has become shabby, dusty, and as easy to ignore as old people. She’s the library, in a download world. She’s the post office, in an email era. She’s beta. She’s version 1.0. She’s strictly 2D. She’s analog.

She’s analog.

It’s probably rude to speak of a creature who may only be sick or dying as if she were already dead, but I know she’ll never find out; she’s not on Facebook. She never went digital. Democracy never really made the transition from paper and pen. Virtual constitutions are less