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 Trust, Facts and Democracy

Globally, Broad Support for Representative and Direct Democracy

But many also endorse nondemocratic alternatives

BY **RICHARD WIKE, KATIE SIMMONS, BRUCE STOKES AND JANELL FETTEROLF**

A deepening anxiety about the future of democracy around the world has spread over the past few years. Emboldened autocrats and rising populists have shaken assumptions about the future trajectory of liberal democracy, both in nations where it has yet to flourish and countries where it seemed strongly entrenched. Scholars have documented a global “**democratic recession**,” and some now **warn** that even long-established “consolidated” democracies could lose their commitment to freedom and slip toward more authoritarian politics.