

CUTTING UP DEMOCRACY

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The Founders of America had debates about Democracy as a political system. James Madison in particular, a Princetonian just like myself, had found some interesting ideas of refining the sentiments and will of the masses into refinement in the Senate and House. This has produced fruit in America.

In this note I will do some elementary cutting up of Democracy and try to convince you that it is extremely primitive as a solution to the problem of a good political system.

First, let me tell you what is good about Democracy. We want Autonomy and we want not to be subject to arbitrary authority where our will is silenced and repressed. Democracy says, "your consent will be required for governance of this state". This is good. I don't want my will to be silenced and repressed and live in a world of tyranny of all sorts of laws and decrees where unaccountable and unseen powers govern my life and suddenly I feel like Josef K. of Kafka's *The Trial* where officers from some authority accost me. I don't want that, so I want my will to have a say in governance of the state. That's the good part of Democracy.

I won't go through James Madison's criticisms. I will take a different track for what is bad about Democracy. Democracy is extremely optimistic about the knowledge and experience and intelligence of every person to produce opinions that actually ensure that Well-Being of the entire human race is improved or maintained. If you only relied on taking votes on how things should be done according to their will, and pool them together, there is absolutely no guarantee whatsoever that the resulting set of rules and laws would promote the well-being of the entire human race at all. And that is a fatal flaw in the theory of Democracy. There is no guarantee that any particular metric of goodness of social well-being would be enhanced. So that is the bad side of Democracy.

During the Romantic Age, we roughly had a division in Europe at least of an either/or, a binary division. The division was either Monarchic Tyranny or Government by will of the people. But that division is not valid. There are many ways of considering political systems that keep the good part of Democracy and reduce the bad part. Around 53% of human race simply do not consider politics important at all in their lives. They are not going to be keen on spending huge amounts of effort pushing for all manner of laws for the world and society. That's part of human nature. There are options where the right and facility for intervening with one's political will is open while there are provisions for handling well-being for the human race as well. Tyranny is not the alternative to Democracy in its primitive form. And so we have to consider those alternatives. The world's population is 8 billion today, and well-being of 8 billion is not served by Democracy in the primitive form that exists today.