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## “The Issue With American Democracy”

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Democracy is a universal value shared by everyone. It is a universal right, not a privilege enjoyed only by a few. Despite its democratic system's basic flaws and questionable practices, the US has long claimed to be the "model of democracy." It has regularly meddled in the internal affairs of other countries and waged wars under the guise of "democracy," producing regional turmoil and humanitarian disasters. While America promotes itself as a society that exemplifies these ideals, it cannot be a genuine democracy, frequently utilizing it as a symbol for the country while demonizing entire races and making it tough to vote for any kind of reform.

Democracy isn't designed to be a show-off or a PR gimmick; rather, it's meant to help people solve issues. It is critical to determine if a country is democratic by seeing how its citizens govern themselves. Within government, it's necessary to check if individuals have the right to substantial engagement besides voting rights. One may find it important to examine what promises they made during an election campaign and how many of those promises are kept. It's crucial to look at what political procedures and rules a country's systems and laws establish, and, more significantly, whether these systems and laws are followed. It's crucial to determine if the norms and processes regulating the use of power are democratic, and, more critically, whether authority is subjected to public monitoring and balances.

The United States has struggled to get past the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow as a nation and a civilization. While formal desegregation and the definition of civil rights have achieved significant progress, unfair treatment of persons of color in practice remains a significant and persistent concern. Discrimination in the criminal justice system, from police violence against Black Americans to disproportionate incarceration of persons of color, harms US society and trust in government. America doesn't exactly make it simple for these groups of people to vote as well. A quote from the Guardian

shows the issue through statistics saying, "In 2016, pummeled by voter suppression in over 30 states, the black voter turnout plummeted by seven percentage points.... For America, it was a lethal assault on democracy." While many are fine to sit back and let injustice win, there is various policy reconditions to fix these issues. By eliminating needless voting hurdles that inhibit maximum participation and, in certain situations, disproportionately harm people of color as part of a broader effort to remedy racial inequality.

Democracy is frequently used in America as a symbol to foster patriotism, but this is a ruse. We may see it in the oppression of minority groups and the difficulty certain people have voting. While America advertises itself as a country that exemplifies these ideals, it lacks a government that is democratic, frequently using it as a symbol for the country while demonizing whole race groups and making it tough to vote for any kind of reform.