

# 3. Narratives of fundamentalism, negative capability and the democratic imperative

*Alan Bainbridge and Linden West*

## The starting point: Fundamentalism is ordinary

The notion that 'we', as individuals, whole groups or cultures, possess the truth and nothing but the truth, unlike the other and otherness, seems to be a universal discursive tendency, colonizing diverse minds and hearts, across different historical times and geographical spaces. The truth and nothing but the truth of politics, religion, economics, and of myth and diverse ideologies - here lies the province of the fundamentalist; and maybe the fundamentalist lurking in every one of our psychologies and cultures. Fundamentalism, we argue, is quite ordinary.

The word fundamentalism was coined in California and its origins lie in Protestant movements in nineteenth century America. These movements consisted of people who wanted to assert the inerrancy of the Bible - the direct creation of the world and humanity *ex nihilo* by God as opposed to Darwinian evolution - and the authenticity of miracles and the Virgin birth. But fundamentalism and related discourses of absolute truth encompass very different phenomena (Ruthven, 2007). Following Wittgenstein, the word, heuristically, is helpful in a search for discursive similarities across different forms. Of course, not every person we call a fundamentalist reaches for a Kalashnikov or pipe bomb. But, broadly speaking, fundamentalism can be thought of as a retreat from engagement with others and otherness, rooted, perhaps, in feelings of disrespect, marginalization and or psychological or even cultural vulnerability. It works at the level of discourse or metanarrative, colonizing inner space: the other - whether Jew, 'white trash', 'people of colour', Muslims, working class people, etc - is to blame for a range of ills. Fundamentalism also presents itself as beyond contestation, that there is simply no alternative available, as in the kind of market fundamentalism pervading the contemporary world. In the case of racism and Islamism people turn to

# Democratic Imperative

**A Gutmann**



## **Democratic Imperative:**

**Democratic Imperative** The Gregory A. Fossedal,1989-05-08

**Democratic Imperative** Robert Corfe,2013-04-22

Democracy understood as people power which is the only proper definition of the word is put forward in this book as the panacea for resolving the most pressing issues of our time But democracy as a practicable system hinges on many conditions which are seldom appreciated by our world leaders international institutions or relevant bodies of learning The evolution of democracy as a system of government and way of life and the problems to which the former gives rise is broadly discussed by the author Of most significance are those situations in both East and West when democracy is ideologically used as a cover for ulterior purposes It is powerfully argued that the left right divide which for 200 years has served as the rationale for advancing social progress in sustaining democracy is now destroying it as partly witnessed through the collapse of both party memberships and voting figures in most advanced industrial economies This has occurred through the transformation of society and the world of work over the past 60 years and has left our parliamentary representatives trapped in a time warp of the past in their inability to meet the actuality of contemporary issues It is clearly shown through a variety of reasons that democracy as an all inclusive system of government is only workable within the nation state This partly explains the crises of the EU and the shortcomings of the UN s Security Council The greatest threat to democracy since it limits the power of the nation state to carry through electoral promises is international finance and transnational corporations which are unaccountable to any responsible authority and liable to bring economic catastrophe in their wake This is a book which seeks to empower our national politicians irrespective of party so they may more effectively represent the interests of their electorates A way must be found for our politicians to resolve their predicament even though it may entail a shift in their attitudes and ideals

*Designing Democracy* G. Pridham,2005-05-11

*Designing Democracy* is the first systematic and in depth study of the effects of the EU s democratic conditionality originally set out in the Copenhagen conditions of 1993 on the new political systems of Central and Eastern Europe Using new material drawn from extensive elite interviews in several of these countries as well as in Brussels the book throws much light on how far the EU enlargement process has really strengthened these new post Communist democracies following their transitions in the 1990s

**The Cancellation of Election Results** European Commission for Democracy through Law,2010-01-01 Electoral law like all other fields of law Is effective only if it provides for sanctions The cancellation of elections results The most serious of sanctions Is in general linked To The most serious of irregularities especially when its effects are felt beyond a small constituency However small technical inaccuracies may affect election results if the difference in votes is minimal As recent examples such as the notorious 2000 United States presidential elections have shown This book aims to determine when electoral disputes should lead to such a consequence based on the practice of national constitutional and supreme courts throughout Europe As well as on the practice of the European Court of Human Rights This publication contains the reports presented at the Seminar on

Cancellation of Election Results organised by the Venice Commission in co operation with the Constitutional Court of Malta And The Maltese Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs On 14 and 15 November 2008

**Savage Democracy: Institutional Change and Party Development in Mexico , Accountability, Pragmatic Aims, and the American University** Ana M. Martínez-Alemán,2012-03-12 Accountability Pragmatic Aims and the American University frames the debates on teaching and learning accountability in Higher Education By examining significant historic periods in Higher Education Mart nez Alem n explores the present apprehension about accountability in today s colleges and universities Throughout the book s chapters Mart nez Alem n uses the pragmatic philosophy of John Dewey to enlighten current understandings of professional freedoms and she also discusses democratic imperatives in light of accountability obligations the teaching of undergraduates data and empirical research on college teaching and learning and the institutional policies for graduate student and faculty teaching development This book reveals the tensions between the democratic character of the university qualities that may seem irreconcilable with accountability metrics and the corporate or managerial economies of modern American universities Higher Education faculty administrators public policy makers and students enrolled in Higher Education Masters and PhD programs will find that this book informs their practice and will serve to contribute to the debates on accountability for years to come

Journalism and Free Speech John Steel,2013-06-17 Journalism and Free Speech brings together for the first time an historical and theoretical exploration of journalism and its relationship with the idea of free speech Though freedom of the press is widely regarded as an essential ingredient to democratic societies the relationship between the idea of freedom of speech and the practice of press freedom is one that is generally taken for granted Censorship in general terms is an anathema This book explores the philosophical and historical development of free speech and critically examines the ways in which it relates to freedom of the press in practice The main contention of the book is that the actualisation of press freedom should be seen as encompassing modes of censorship which place pressure upon the principled connection between journalism and freedom of speech Topics covered include The Philosophy of Free Speech Journalism and Free Speech Press Freedom and the Democratic Imperative New Media and the Global Public Sphere Regulating Journalism Privacy and Defamation National Security and Insecurity Ownership News Language Culture and Censorship This book introduces students to a wide range of issues centred around freedom of speech press freedom and censorship providing an accessible text for courses on journalism and mass media

Democracy in Spite of the Demos Larry Alan Busk,2020-02-14 The value of democracy is taken for granted today even by those interested in criticizing the fundamental structures of society Things would be better the argument goes if only things were more democratic The word democracy means the power of the people and scholars with a critical and progressive outlook often invoke this meaning as a way of justifying the honorific status accorded to the term the power of the people to resist racism sexism imperialism climate change etc But if the people have the power to resist these structures of domination and inequality they also have the power to reinforce them By treating

democracy as an end in itself political theorists of a critical bent overwhelmingly assume that the demos if given the opportunity will advance progressive or even radical politics But given the recent successes of right wing populism and the persistence of pathological views such as climate skepticism is this assumption still warranted If not then can democracy really save us Audience Development and Cultural Policy Steven Hadley,2021-03-17 Encouraging more and different people to attend the arts remains a vital issue for the cultural sector The question of who consumes culture and why is key to our understanding of the arts This book examines the relationship of audience development to cultural policy and offers a ground breaking perspective on how the practice of audience development is connected to ideas of democratic access to culture Providing a detailed overview of arts marketing audience development and cultural democracy the book argues that the work of audience development has been profoundly misunderstood by the field of arts management Drawing from a rich range of interviews with key individuals in the audience development field the book argues for a re conceptualisation of audience development as an ideological function of cultural policy Of importance for students academics and researchers working in arts management and cultural policy the book is also vital reading for anyone working in the arts cultural and heritage sectors with an interest in understanding how our relationship with the audience has been constructed

**Proceedings of the First-seventeenth Conference for Education in the South ... . 1898-1914** ,1905 **The Strategic Presidency** James P. Pfiffner,1996 The best book on the importance of presidential transitions to the long term successes of administrations Contemporary scholars and practitioners will be especially interested in Pfiffner s treatment of the problems that surrounded the Clinton administration s troubled start Mark J Rozell author of Executive Privilege

**Pamphlets on Wages** ,1919 **New York Court of Appeals. Records and Briefs.** New York (State)., Political Science Quarterly Columbia University. Faculty of Political Science,1914 A review devoted to the historical statistical and comparative study of politics economics and public law *It's Show Time!* David Andrew Schultz,2000 However as these essays will reveal this socialization is not all benign Instead this book reveals a corporate media increasingly trapped by the demands to inform entertain and make a profit often at times distorting reality by transforming criminals into heroes assassination theories into fact and participatory government into a spectator sport **Racial Imitations** James S. Miller,1998 **Congressional Record** ,1897 **African Geopolitics** ,2001 **The New Philosophy of Modern Science** William Walker Strong,1920 **The Role of the Media in Promoting Democracy and Good Governance** Philliat Matsheza,Noel Kututwa,2005

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