



A SYSTEM FOR THE PEOPLE WHEN THE ROBOTS
WILL PULL THE STRINGS

Former American President, Abraham Lincoln quoted that "Democracy is for the people, by the people, of the people." Democracy — the system of electing representatives — has existed in our planet for the past 2,500 years. But when Artificial Intelligence (AI) has caused huge changes in various fields, we can't help but ask... What is the future of ~~democracy~~ democracy? Will it aid mankind till its unfortunate yet inevitable death or be just a word that'll slowly die and lose its value? And more importantly, what can students — the leaders of tomorrow — do to keep it alive?

Democracy's first form was seen in the most prominent city state⁽¹⁾ in Greece, Athens. Unlike Corinth, Thebes or Sparta, they had a unique system to solve issues. Four times a year, men above the age of 30 gathered to discuss matters and ~~to~~ made decisions on the basis of collective opinion. Though 2,500 years ago, it's termed as the first form

[^{PTD}
(1) City states are formed when a city & surrounding villages combine]

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of democracy. After a few centuries - 6th century ~~BE~~ AD. to be precise - the propagators of Buddhism followed the system. Though these two systems are similar, the latter allowed women and people of all classes to participate.

After our nation's freedom from the brutal colonial rule, B.R. Ambedkar and many others worked together to create the longest written constitution. There are many words like 'sovereign', 'Republic', 'socialist', and 'Fraternity', all of which help spread the ~~new~~ idea of democracy. The constitution has helped in its maintenance, helping our nation in many ways. However, there are many challenges faced by people. As mentioned in Arundhati Roy's memoir, 'Mother Mary Comes to Me', people called democracy 'demon-crazy' when the government decided to construct the Sardar Sarovar Multipurpose River Valley Project in Narmada river.

Democracy cannot be complete without proper ~~measures~~ measures. When we implement it, the minorities, backward classes, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes should participate with equal importance. After all,

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democracy can only exist when the rich is ~~no more than~~ treated the same as the poor, when ~~a man is equal~~ a woman and a man (and even a transgender!) are the same, and when a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, and others are treated with equal respect and dignity.

Though we're better than most nations doesn't mean we're perfect. Since democracy exists ^{only} in the higher levels of a society doesn't mean we shouldn't inculcate these values in the grassroots level. Every family and every individual should be responsible enough to have a clear picture and definition for democracy. It's the negligence of these matters that lead to disparities and aggressions, causing riots, inequality, and deterioration of one's values and humanity.

As we've examined the past and present of democracy, ~~therefore~~ it's important to be ready for the changes that'll happen to democracy. Because of the constant changes in society, democracy must change. Like how women were able to vote, and how transgenders were accepted, democracy changes as the worldview of people change. But nowadays, I believe we should consider robots and AI



as well. From being just an idea and an experiment to a household name and a worldwide ~~sensation~~ sensation, AI (and Large Language Models in particular) ~~have~~ has changed everything — schools, media, science, medicine, technology, research, etc. With the first AI minister, Algeria has ~~been~~ introduced a leader that has no bias. ~~and~~ But when we consider the fact that AI has a voice that's solely dependent on the media it consumes, a bigger question arises — is a state of zero bias ever possible for AI? Though I'm no AI expert whatsoever, I'm sure the answer is 'No'. There'll always be a bias in media, which in turn leads to a bias in AI and its decisions.

Speaking of biases, I recall a very crucial study on AI and its bias. When the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation, the police of USA) gave some data on prisoners and convicted criminals to help them punish people faster, the AI blatantly said that a person should be given a higher sentence just because of their race. Though opting for AI in democracy might be a move ~~for~~ ^{for} adjusting with the near future, there are some ethical dilemmas and problems we should look out for.



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India is a growing country—moving from its traumatic past to a bright future—but there are many issues we should solve for democracy to thrive in the future. First, I ~~think~~ believe that we should clean up all the gender inequalities we have. I'm not talking about women, but neither about transgenders. It's quite disheartening to see that many individuals see them as a joke. ~~the~~ same thing goes for the LGBTQIA+ community, who face trouble in countries like USA (^{a place} ~~which~~ most people see as a first-class ticket to prosperity, money, and goodwill), and with homophobic and transphobic leaders who demand for Nobel Prizes. Things are ~~taking a turn for the~~ going south.

Though the system might be good, the outcomes are not so good to be honest. With many allegations against elected members who have influenced the youth very much, I'm starting to believe that most leaders (no offence) are disguising themselves. And with their popularity and leverage, they're able to escape not once, but two times. To make democracy meaningful, the leaders should have ethics, morals, and a sense of what's right and wrong. Otherwise, it'll cause more harm than good.

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A common misconception I've seen among my peers is that politics is bad and it should be avoided at all costs. With only scandals circulating in media, ~~some~~ ^{some} kids have completely stopped reading newspapers! With such a wrong mindset among kids about politics and democracy, it's obvious that the system will face a lot of trouble... For the thriving of democracy in the future, I think it should be taken more seriously among kids and it should be a living system — not just a paragraph they've come across in their textbooks.

Our nation is in a much better place than most countries. Somalia has been in a civil war for the past 34 years. Afghanistan is under the Taliban rule. North Korea is under dictatorship, and will be for the entire century, considering how powerless ~~the~~ the normal people are. People do get publicly beheaded in some countries. Shooting people, detonating bombs, and planting mines are normal in many of our neighbouring countries. Nepo babies are thriving when normal families are struggling. We have a good start. Now all we should do is to move forward. Not by guessing, but by knowing.



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Within the last 20 or so months, the gen-Z's of Bangladesh and Nepal have overthrown the government by using social media. A social media ~~influencer~~ influencer won an election. Being the most powerful networking tool we have ~~now~~ now, social media will surely influence democracy. Even election songs have improved — from old songs to the parody of the most trending ones, it wouldn't be a surprise if 'Kuttuma Kuttu' becomes the next #1 election parody. Social media can construct or destruct — it depends on how we use it.

Democracy can only be ensured when everyone believes that they're equal. Unreal standards pushed by influencers — though it may sound silly — can deeply affect one's self esteem. I believe that social media influencers could also help in the future of democracy. Even when they're involved, we should ask ourselves why we should focus on democracy. It's not just for us. It's for everyone — for their ~~brother's~~ lives, equality, and sense of belonging. It'll not only help us to understand the true power of democracy, but also develop a sense of selflessness and other values.



There was one Ashok Leyland advertisement on how they're responsible to carry the future in their vehicles. But in the same way, students should be responsible enough to carry their nation. When many aren't able to pursue education, we should use it as a blessing to help us increase our ability. Even when we have a good job with a good income and a good home, we should work for our nation. Ensuring democracy shouldn't be a goal, it should be a checkpoint.

Democracy has survived ^{for} more than ~~over~~ two millennia. It'll be a loss and a shame to let it die due to our mistakes, misunderstandings, and ~~into~~ biases. As a student, the future of democracy will be promising if we use the right technologies the right way. It has evolved a lot — from not allowing women, artisans, and slaves to participate to being inclusive and accepting people from all genders, religions, and ethnicities. If democracy gets the attention and improvements it deserves, it'll change from a system ~~or~~ to a part of ourselves. The future of democracy shouldn't be seen as impending doom, with the evil of AI lurking in the darkness. Like many things



in our lives, all it needs is some positivity, a lot of thought, clarity, and hope. Instead of doing this for 'us' or our generation, we should consider the generations to come. ~~the youth who are angry, Bangladesh and Nepal~~ Our future generations shouldn't be silenced and forced to accept the broken systems handed down to them. They shouldn't suffer like the youth in Nepal and Bangladesh, who were forced to act out. Like how Jane Goodall said, "Hope is the one thing that has helped the human race to exist for so long. With some hope, let's dream for a future ~~where~~ in which democracy reaches everywhere, sheds light for those in the dark, and becomes the voice for the voiceless."