



Beyond Democracy: Why democracy does not lead to solidarity, prosperity and liberty but to social conflict, runaway spending and a tyrannical government

Frank Karsten, Karel Beckman

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Why democracy does not lead to solidarity, prosperity and liberty but to unrest, runaway spending and a tyrannical government.

Democracy is widely considered to be the best political system imaginable. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that democracy has become a secular religion. The largest political faith on earth. To criticize the democratic ideal is to risk being regarded an enemy of civilized society.

Yet that is precisely what Karel Beckman and Frank Karsten propose to do. In this provocative and highly readable book, they tackle the last political taboo: the idea that our salvation lies in democracy.

With simple, straightforward arguments they show that democracy, in contrast to popular belief, does not lead to freedom, civilization, prosperity, peace, and the rule of law, but the opposite: to loss of freedom, social conflict, runaway government spending, a lower standard of living and the subversion of individual rights.

They debunk 13 great myths with which democracy is usually defended. What is more, they offer an appealing alternative: a society based on individual freedom and voluntary social relations.

Do you wonder why government keeps growing bigger and the public debt keeps getting higher, while your freedom and prosperity look ever more threatened? After reading his book, you won't wonder anymore - you know why it is happening and what can be done about it.

Beyond Democracy is a groundbreaking and fascinating book for everyone who wants to better understand current social problems and the economic crisis.

Beyond Democracy: Why democracy does not lead to solidarity, prosperity and liberty but to social conflict, runaway spending and a tyrannical government Details

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From Reader Review Beyond Democracy: Why democracy does not lead to solidarity, prosperity and liberty but to social conflict, runaway spending and a tyrannical government for online ebook

Pedro Jorge says

while not a classic, it sure is a fun read that shows the layman why Democracy is not that good as the political correctness paints it. I would say it is a 3 out of 5 with a bonus point for the courage to go against the winds of our stupid modernity.

Fabricio Terán says

A synthesis of several arguments I have read in years of theoretical analysis. For the most intellectual is a refresh of different points from different origins/authors about the problems of democracy. For general public this book should be amazing because they can get deep arguments in an easy way. This introduction not only will be useful for the beginning of an intellectual journey, also for a change in the political agenda for many activists that still believes that freedom could be achieved although democracy.

Marcelo Reis says

Excelente livro em que os autores explicam, de forma bastante didática, porque a democracia leva ao aumento do Estado e diminuição da liberdade. Um livro que vai fazer você rever muitas das suas ideias.

Richy says

Wie jeder weiß ist Demokratie eines der großartigsten Erfindungen der Menschheit, der wir unseren Wohlstand, unseren derzeitigen Frieden und unser überlegenes Rechtssystem verdanken. Mit diesem und anderen Mythen wird in dem Buch kräftig aufgeräumt. Da ich mir bereits vor dem Buch Gedanken zu diesem Thema gemacht habe, war mir bekannt, dass vieles davon nicht wahr ist und wir unseren Wohlstand nicht wegen sondern eher trotz der Demokratie haben. Der Ursprung unseres heutigen Wohlstands war vielmehr die technische Entwicklung die Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts mit der Industrialisierung einsetzte, in Kombination mit fehlender Regulierung und einer liberalen Grundeinstellung.

Ein derartig ineffizientes System wie die Demokratie konnte sich nur in folge des zunehmenden Wohlstandes entwickeln, in dem es sich zunehmen mehr lohnt anderen, die einen Überschuss generiert haben, etwas wegzunehmen. Die politische Demokratie ist somit zum großen Teil ein äußerst perfides System des demokratisch legitimierten Wegnehmens. Da hierdurch jedoch kein Mehrwert generiert wird, ist dieses System äußerst schädlich und schadet der Gesellschaft in gleich zweifacher Hinsicht. Zum einen werden wertvolle Ressourcen für das bloße Wegnehmen vergeudet bzw. für die Abwehr gegen das Wegnehmen (z.B. NGOs die beim Staat um „Hilfsgelder“ einfordern oder Lobbyisten die um Steuerschlupflöcher ringen), zum anderen werden Anreize etwas zu schaffen gemindert, da sowieso der Staat

mehr als die Hälfte einbehält. In der Tat stagnieren die Reallöhne trotz der gewaltigen technischen Entwicklung in Europa oder sind sogar rückläufig.

Es werden jedoch nicht, wie bei den meisten Büchern mit politischer Themenstellung, irgendwelche Untergangszenarien ausmalt, die >>nur durch sofortiges konsequentes handeln abzuwehren sind<< (mit einer starken Führungsperson/-intuition), sondern es werden durchaus positive Zukunftsaussichten aufgezeigt. Zusammenfassend kann gesagt werden, dass die Lösung in der Zerstückelung der politischen Systeme in kleine politisch unabhängige Einheiten liegt, die jeweils in Konkurrenz untereinander stehen und somit um den Bürger als Kunden bemüht sind, statt wie derzeit den Bürger als Steuerzahler und Melkkuh betrachten.

Der letzte Satz ist nicht als Aufforderung des Lesers zu Revolution zu verstehen, sondern ist eine natürliche Entwicklung, die sich in nächster Zeit vermutlich ganz von selbst einstellen wird, es muss nur ein einziger Staat damit anfangen.

?????? ???? says

KraFT says

Nice book that targets "democracy myths" and "stereotypes" that are attached to democracy, by default. I would have rated this book higher if authors did not use "those myths" and "stereotypes" as a jumping point towards libertarianism, that I value a lot, as a "point of view" only.

KraFT

Brian says

Excellent analysis of the serious shortfalls inherent in democracy.

Hadeer Jawad says

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César Serradas says

Li a versão portuguesa traduzida para o Instituto Mises Brasil e achei o livro pouco prolixo, eu diria até mal escrito.

Um bom compêndio de críticas à democracia. Não é um livro profundo e para os libertários mais informados será algo bastante superficial: à exceção de alguns exemplos não acrescentou muito. Gostaria que o livro tivesse uma abordagem ética e não apenas operacional/utilitarista. Recomendo para quem se esteja a inteirar do libertarianismo e para quem queira saber mais sobre o que realmente é a democracia.

Shane says

Three and a half stars. This was an interesting, although very short work with some good ideas. It starts off listing commonly accepted myths about democracy and attempting to refute them. I say attempting, because it uses vague allegory and analogy over concrete evidence and example. This is a generalization because there are a few solid examples, just not enough to make this a decisive work in my opinion.

When it comes to the 'Beyond' portion, it only offers again vague suggestions towards anarchy (anarcho-capitalism specifically). This book does put forward some interesting and enlightening new channels of

thought. It just reads as an opener to a conversation instead of the reference I was expecting.

This review may be a little more judgmental than rightfully deserved because I was reading *Problem of Political Authority: An Examination of the Right to Coerce and the Duty to Obey* by Michael Huemer at the same time. These books take a similar approach to different aspects of the same problem and even reach a similar conclusion (anarcho-capitalism). Huemer's work is just so much better it hardly compares.

??? ??? says

Luis says

não há livro que expõe melhor a democracia do que esse texto, sua função, erros e ocultações que acabam produzindo mais censura, empecilhos e menos liberdade.

Dennis Beery says

Jesus said that a bad tree bears bad fruit and that every tree is known by the fruit it produces. Can anyone deny that we are seeing a lot of bad fruit in America today: endless wars, ever more burdensome taxes, basic God-given rights eroded, and debts that we as a nation can never hope to repay. There is virtually no area of our life that our government does not attempt to regulate and/or tax. What is the tree that is bearing this awful fruit?

Most Americans seem to think if we can just get the right people into office (president/Congress/Supreme Court, etc.) then things will be better. In other words, what we need, they think, is more democracy. In their book "Beyond Democracy", authors Frank Karsten and Karel Beckman get to the root of the problem - the real tree producing the bad fruit - democracy itself. More specifically, our national democratic republic.

In the first section of their book Karsten and Beckman deal with the many myths that are put forth to show that we as a nation simply cannot live without democracy, myths such as:

- Every vote counts
- The people rule in a democracy
- The majority is right
- Democracy leads to prosperity
- Democracy equals freedom and tolerance
- There is no (better) alternative

In Part 2 of the book the authors show why the national democratic process is utterly incapable of fixing the very problems it produces, though it is quite adept at producing bureaucracy, parasitism, megalomania, welfarism, antisocial behavior and crime, mediocrity and lower standards, a culture of discontent and short-termism.

In Part 3 of the book the authors detail what that alternative is: namely, decentralization and individual liberty based on a contractual society. It should come as no surprise to students of American history that our founders had a profound distrust of democracy. In their view, a strong, central government (such as we have today) would be the death knell of liberty. And a strong, central government, where our liberties are in serious decline, is precisely what democracy has produced. The authors are quick to point out that a society based on individual liberty and decentralization will not be Utopia. But the many evils that have resulted from our democratic society, particularly since the Civil War, would be vastly reduced if not eliminated.

One weakness of the book is that the details of how a free society could come about in a country like the U.S. are not spelled out, though the authors do hold up Switzerland as a good, if imperfect, example of what a free society might look like. The authors do mention secession, but again details are few. Lord willing, I hope to review other books that go into more depth in this area. Overall, the authors have produced an extremely thought-provoking book for those who are willing to open their minds to an alternative to the bad tree of democracy.

Zachary says

I liked the critiques. Not so much the solutions

Thomas A. Burns, Jr. says

A very good read on election day, while you're standing in line hoping you're going to make a difference...
