Dismantling Democracy

Episode Guide

PART 1 – AMERICA, LAND OF THE FREE?
What is democracy? Who is free? Does it really matter if American democracy falls? In episode 1, we dive *into the history of democracy, its birth and the United States' unique take on this form of government. The episode looks at some uniquely American challenges that limit American democracy such as hyper-partisanship, negative partisanship, institutional constraints* (gerrymandering, the Electoral College, voter registration) public apathy and cynicism, influence of money in politics, and the public's media consumption habits. By looking at the recent past and failed democracies in other nations, the episode also explores what comes next if American democracy falls.

PART 2 – DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD
Is democracy at risk abroad? Do other countries face similar problems with upholding democratic freedoms? What lessons can we learn from failed democracies? In episode 2, we explore democracies around the world. We look at issues facing American democracy and how those issues transpire in other democratic countries, providing perspective for America's own democratic success and weaknesses.

PART 3 – THE WAY FORWARD
What is needed for democratic societies to thrive? How has media and social media in the U.S. affected our democracy? Does a two-party system and an electoral college still work today? In episode 3, we explore what is needed and what may need to change to preserve American democracy. By looking at the basic pillars of a democratic society — freedom of speech, free and fair elections and a focus on human rights — we are challenged to rise to the occasion, participate in civic discourse and take action.

APT WORLDWIDE * 55 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110, USA
Judy_Barlow@aptonline.org * Kevin_McKenna@aptonline.org * Tom_Davison@aptonline.org

APTWW.ORG