

## Liberty, Anarchy, and Democracy

The difference between liberty and anarchy is fundamentally population density. One person doing whatever he or she wants is liberty. A million people doing whatever they want is anarchy. There's a fundamental and necessary inverse relationship between population density and freedom. This has created a divergent cultural evolution with very different perspectives on how government should work.

The higher the population density, the more complex the need for law and order. In areas of high population density, people are surrounded by rules and regulations. Law and order are institutionalized and generally accepted as necessary for maintaining a civil society.

In the past, in areas of low population density, people spent their days relatively unencumbered by rules and regulations. Until recently, the farmers, ranchers, and miners living in states with low population density haven't had much use for government. Because of their relative isolation, their cultural perspectives have been local, and their communal accomplishments tended to be cooperative rather than legislated. Many of the rules and regulations necessary to maintain civilization in the city were unnecessary and often misguided and counterproductive, generating a culture of resentment towards an incompetent and intrusive Federal Government. Much of this culture has moved into the city, but the culture remains, causing much discord.

Because the size of the house of representatives is based on population, but the size of the senate is based on states, our current system of election primaries has allowed a minority who don't see the need for democracy to have excessive voting power and [under the guise of 'draining the swamp'], are rapidly dismantling our democracy. This is compounded by the filibuster. Originally designed to prevent short sighted mistakes, the filibuster has been corrupted to the point where it's just a tool of obstruction by a minority. The result has been the stagnation of the federal government, and a growing disdain and distrust for our incompetent democratic government that's not getting it done. Democracy is always messy and prone to mistakes, but the alternatives are much worse.

Donald Trump has played this into a very heavily armed group of militias that have openly declared war on the United States Government. January 6 was just a dress rehearsal. Trump's sales pitch is no different than Adolph Hitler's. Fear, greed, a pack of lies, and a paycheck. How ready is the US military to deal with a looming coup? We're certainly not doing well with the cyber war of disinformation that's sucked the Republican Party down a cesspool of ignorance and lies.

Throughout history, after every advance in communication technology, there was a period of dishonesty, often followed by catastrophe. Hitler had three at once [radio, movie theaters, and loudspeakers that could create a huge crowd mentality] and it took WWII to get past it. Now the internet is responsible for more dishonesty than in all the rest of human history. Attempting to police internet content is not enough. The polarity we see is mostly about ignorance and knowledge. Ignorant people are easily duped. Trump and the leaders of his cult are well aware that if you repeat a lie often enough, people will believe it, especially if you bait it with fear and outrage, and hide the truth. We need to call out every lie for what it is each and every time, and somehow we need to get it past the information firewall of the radical right.