



The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad (Revised Edition)

By Fareed Zakaria

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“A work of tremendous originality and insight. ... Makes you see the world differently.”*Washington Post*

Translated into twenty languages *The Future of Freedom* is a modern classic that uses historical analysis to shed light on the present, examining how democracy has changed our politics, economies, and social relations. Prescient in laying out the distinction between democracy and liberty, the book contains a new afterword on the United States's occupation of Iraq and a wide-ranging update of the book's themes.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Democracy is not inherently good, Zakaria (From Wealth to Power) tells us in his thought-provoking and timely second book. It works in some situations and not others, and needs strong limits to function properly. The editor of Newsweek International and former managing editor of Foreign Affairs takes us on a tour of democracy's deficiencies, beginning with the reminder that in 1933 Germans elected the Nazis. While most Western governments are both democratic and liberal-i.e., characterized by the rule of law, a separation of powers, and the protection of basic rights-the two don't necessarily go hand in hand. Zakaria praises countries like Singapore, Chile and Mexico for liberalizing their economies first and then their political systems, and compares them to other Third World countries "that proclaimed themselves democracies immediately after their independence, while they were poor and unstable, [but] became dictatorships within a decade." But Zakaria contends that something has also gone wrong with democracy in America, which has descended into "a simple-minded populism that values popularity and openness." The solution, Zakaria says, is more appointed bodies, like the World Trade Organization and the U.S. Supreme Court, which are effective precisely because they are insulated from political pressures. Zakaria provides a much-needed intellectual framework for many current foreign policy dilemmas, arguing that the United States should support a liberalizing dictator like Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf, be wary of an elected "thug" like Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and take care to remake Afghanistan and Iraq into societies that are not merely democratic but free.

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From Library Journal

Newsweek International's editor exposes the down side of democracy, i.e., the assumption that what's popular is right.

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From [Booklist](#)

The spread of democracy threatens freedom? So argues journalist Zakaria in a provocative critique of political trends fast democratizing the entire globe. In numerous newly democratic countries, Zakaria sees elections serving not as a guarantee of liberty but rather as a legitimization of tyranny. Liberty, he argues, depends less on the will of the majority than it does on institutional safeguards for the rights of minorities. Lacking such safeguards, rude democracy has swept countries such as Venezuela, Russia, and the Central African Republic toward illiberal authoritarianism. Even in the U.S., Zakaria warns, the slide away from constitutional republicanism toward reflexive populism portends civic malaise. More broadly, Zakaria worries that a democratized American culture that panders to popular taste even in its museums, courtrooms, and churches may be losing the cultural resources necessary to sustain a regime of liberty. Zakaria does express buoyant hopes for a future in which capitalists liberalize international politics--even in China and Iraq--but he also lays out the sobering task of resolving the dilemmas of untrammelled democracy. *Bryce Christensen*

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