Addendum: Notes on Democracy

I. Democracy
   A. Etymology: demos = people, kratia = rule
   B. Essential Elements
      1. A governmental organization *effectively controlled* by the people
         a. direct elections ordinarily for limited terms of service
         b. public service open to all qualified persons
         c. freedom of choice in selecting policy making officials
      2. Liberal Suffrage
         a. universal manhood suffrage
         b. equality of voting power
      3. Fundamental *Political Equality*
         a. equal voting power
         b. equal justice under law?
      4. Fundamental Freedoms
         a. freedom of speech/expression
         b. freedom of the press
         c. freedom of assembly
         d. protection against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment
         e. freedom to participate in the political process
      5. Individualism (government exists to serve the individual not the other way around)
      6. A willingness to abide by the rules
         a. majority rule
            1) *not* “absolute majoritarianism”
            2) minority rights
         b. constitutionalism
            1) the acceptance of government by law (*limited government*)
            2) *not simply a* written constitution *but* the *spirit of the law*
      7. Compromise

II. Arguments Against Democracy
   A. Democracy is impossible (“Democracy is a myth”)
      1. There is only *oligarchy* (rule by the few)
      2. Elections are frauds by the few on the gullible voter.
      3. The “freedoms” of democracy do not affect the decisions of the few.
      4. Oligarchy is an organizational necessity.
   B. Democracy is undesirable
      1. The “people” are *unqualified to govern.*
         a. Man is naturally unequal.
         b. Democracy favors “the lowest common denominator”.
         c. The “people” are easily deceived, swayed by emotion, poorly informed
      2. Democracies are inefficient, ineffective, corrupt
      3. Democracy breeds hatred of non-conformists, genius, dissenters
4. Democracy is an obstacle to progress.
5. Democracy leads to greater demands for equalizations harmful to the society and the individual.

III. In Defense of Democracy
A. To say democracy is impossible and a myth misunderstands what democracy is and what it involves.
   1. Democracy merely requires that the few be chose from the many
   2. The people have *ample opportunity* to influence decision making.
   3. The people have a *choice* between competing oligarchies.
B. There is little evidence to support the negative charges against democracy.
   1. People of outstanding ability are free to participate.
   2. “Average” people possess sound judgment and common sense.
   3. Democracies compare favorably to non-democratic regimes.
   4. No form of government is free from corruption.
   5. The charge of the “Tyranny of the Majority” is undeserved.
   6. History does not support the charge democracy obstructs progress.
   7. Whether further equalizations are good or bad depends on one’s point of view.

IV. In Support of Democracy
A. Democratic government is a matter of *natural rights* (John Locke).
   1. In the “state of nature” man is free and equal.
   2. The “social contract” is created to form a government in order to escape “inconveniences, uncertainties, and dangers”.
   3. The purpose of government is to protect man’s *natural rights to life, liberty, and property*.
   4. Government is “legitimate” only if it has *the consent of the governed*.
   5. When government no longer has the consent of the people, the people have the right to revolution.
B. Democracy is the most effective way of promoting the “general welfare”.
   1. All the people feel the effects and costs of their decisions.
   2. It is the closest form of government in harmony with social thought.
   3. The “general prosperity” increases and spreads as the number of participants increase.
   4. It is the best form of government for “the improvement of mankind” (John Stuart Mill).
C. Democracy is the best safeguard against arbitrary governments and authoritarian regimes.
D. Democracy is the best way of securing unity in diversity.
   1. It *tolerates* differences while advocating common interests.
   2. It permits change in a peaceful and orderly manner.
E. The value of democracy is its acceptance of fundamental human values.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Radical</th>
<th>Liberal</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Reactionary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition:</td>
<td>drastic reform, extreme liberalism</td>
<td>generous, pertaining to freedom</td>
<td>temperate, avoids extreme opinions</td>
<td>to preserve the status quo, to be cautious</td>
<td>to react, regress, extreme conservatism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method or Approach To Life:</td>
<td>idealism, emotionalism, violence, obstinacy</td>
<td>rationalism, experimentalism, skepticism, negotiation</td>
<td>pragmatism, common sense, empiricism, compromise</td>
<td>historicism, traditionalism, faith (religion), negotiation</td>
<td>mysticism, emotionalism, violence, obstinacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View of Humanity:</td>
<td>corrupt but “redeemable”</td>
<td>good, rational, malleable</td>
<td>both good and bad</td>
<td>imperfect, foolish, and aggressive</td>
<td>sinful and violent</td>
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<td>View of The Past:</td>
<td>one of brutality, superstition, and injustice</td>
<td>avoid the mistakes &amp; fix the injustices</td>
<td>study the mistakes and achievements, &amp; learn from both</td>
<td>a source of knowledge about man &amp; his world</td>
<td>“the best of times”</td>
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<td>View of The Future:</td>
<td>pessimistic at first, it envisions a utopian future</td>
<td>optimistic, has faith in human progress</td>
<td>unknown, man lives one day at a time</td>
<td>hopeful, but some problems are insolvable</td>
<td>there will be an Armageddon; the strong will survive</td>
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<td>View of Change:</td>
<td>essential and inevitable, by revolution</td>
<td>highly desirable, change is natural, as is evolution</td>
<td>it can be good, and if it also be bad</td>
<td>slow and cautious</td>
<td>against, unless it’s change back to an earlier time</td>
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<td>View of Society:</td>
<td>varies: anarchy, collectivism, totalitarianism</td>
<td>mutualism, cooperation, socialism</td>
<td>competition and cooperation</td>
<td>self-reliance, competition, individualism</td>
<td>varies: Social Darwinism, authoritarianism</td>
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<tr>
<td>View of Government:</td>
<td>the tool of the power elite; to be replaced by the people/anarchy</td>
<td>leading role in social and economic programs</td>
<td>active role in defense/domestic policies, but wary of doing too much</td>
<td>limited role to defense, safety, and public morals</td>
<td>an evil conspiracy to end freedom; solutions vary: anarchy, fascism</td>
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<td>View of Economics:</td>
<td>communism</td>
<td>mixed economy, socialism</td>
<td>mixed economy (neo-Keynesian macroeconomics)</td>
<td>free market system (monetarism, supply-side)</td>
<td>laissez-faire mercantilism corporatism</td>
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<td>View of Right To Life:</td>
<td>varies: absolute, or existential (meaningless)</td>
<td>“precious,” but abortion/suicide are rights, too</td>
<td>a “precious right,” it may be limited for just reasons</td>
<td>a “natural right” subject to law/order, Christian morality</td>
<td>a “survival instinct”; it belongs to the fittest</td>
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<td>View of Right To Liberty:</td>
<td>varies from an absolute right to socialist limits</td>
<td>a right limited by humanism &amp; social needs</td>
<td>a right limited by law, public needs, and morality</td>
<td>a “natural right” subject to law/order, traditional ethics</td>
<td>said to be “for all,” in practice, it is for the few</td>
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<td>View of Right To Equality:</td>
<td>literal political, social, economic equality of result</td>
<td>political, social; pro-affirmative action</td>
<td>political, social; for equal opportunity; affirmative action</td>
<td>political; for “equal opportunity” but no affirmative action</td>
<td>impossible (but if it were possible, undesirable)</td>
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<td>View of Right To Property:</td>
<td>not a “right,” it’s the source of greed &amp; conflict</td>
<td>a right limited by law &amp; the needs of the community</td>
<td>a right limited by the law and just compensation</td>
<td>a “natural right” (but with some legal &amp; moral restrictions)</td>
<td>an “absolute right” with no restrictions</td>
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