

RESOURCE LIST ON DEMOCRACY

Highly recommended selections are printed in red.

BOOKS (Available at the Doylestown Bookshop)

Richardson, Heather Cox. **Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America;** (304 pages)

Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/heather-cox-richardson/democracy-awakening/>

From historian and author of the popular daily newsletter LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN, a vital narrative that explains how America, once a beacon of democracy, now teeters on the brink of autocracy -- and how we can turn back.

(https://www.harvard.com/book/democracy_awakening/)

- Also see her [Letters from an American](#) below

Cheney, Liz. **Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning;** (384 pages)

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/134156069> :

A gripping first-hand account from inside the halls of Congress as Donald Trump and his enablers betrayed the American people and the Constitution--leading to the violent attack on our Capitol on January 6th, 2021—by the House Republican leader who dared to stand up to it.

- Interview on Fresh Air: see below

Snyder, Timothy. **On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century;** (128 SMALL pages)

The Founding Fathers tried to protect us from the threat they knew, the tyranny that overcame ancient democracy. On Tyranny is a call to arms and a guide to resistance, with invaluable ideas for how we can preserve our freedoms in the uncertain years to come.

- Summary: <https://snyder.substack.com/p/on-tyranny>
- Video: see TED talk below

ARTICLES

NY Magazine: [2024 Could Be a Very Rough Year for Democracy](#), by Jonah Shepp, Jan 1, 2024

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2024/01/2024-could-be-a-very-rough-year-for-democracy.html>

The Hill: [Democrats, Republicans agree democracy could be at risk in 2024: Survey](#)

<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/4361946-trump-biden-democracy-at-risk-in-2024-survey/>

Foreign Policy: The Specter of Nationalism <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/03/nationalism-elections-2024-democracy-liberalism/> Contains a link to listen to the interview. “Identity politics has always influenced elections. In 2024, it will pose a serious threat to liberalism—and to democracy itself.”

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NY Times: [The Looming Contest Between Two Presidents and Two Americas](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/us/politics/biden-trump-presidential-election.html) by Peter Baker, Jan 25, 2024: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/25/us/politics/biden-trump-presidential-election.html>

NY Times: [MAGA's Violent Threats Are Warping Life in America](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/18/opinion/magas-violent-threats-are-warping-life-in-america.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare), by David French, Feb. 18, 2024: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/18/opinion/magas-violent-threats-are-warping-life-in-america.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Heather Cox Richardson: [Letters from an American](https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/archive), daily articles <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/archive> (examples below)

- 2/4/2024 on the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments: <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/february-4-2024>
- **1/27/2024 re Lincoln on "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions."** <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/january-27-2024>

PODCASTS / RECORDINGS

NPR Fresh Air Weekend: Liz Cheney (44 min)

<https://www.npr.org/2023/12/05/1217282237/liz-cheney-oath-and-honor-memoir>

Cheney, the former representative, says a second Trump presidency would be an "existential threat" to democracy

Lincoln Project: Democracy Awakening with Heather Cox Richardson (1 hr)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-lincoln-project/id1551582052?i=1000639728430>

Host Reed Galen is joined by Author, Historian, and Boston College History Professor, Heather Cox Richardson. They discuss the road the Republican party took to reach its current status, why Donald Trump (and those in his image) offer a dangerous/autocratic future, and why democracy (while imperfect) is the best path to achieve the America we want.

MSNBC: Defending Democracy Amid Division, with [former US Representative] Adam Kinzinger & Chris Hayes (50 min.) <https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc-podcast/why-is-this-happening/defending-democracy-division-adam-kinzinger-podcast-transcript-rcna124688>

<https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc-podcast/why-is-this-happening/defending-democracy-division-adam-kinzinger-podcast-transcript-rcna124688>

Discussion about working across political lines, leaving office and defending democracy.

TED Talk: Timothy Snyder: Is Democracy Doomed? Oct.2022 (33 min.)

https://www.ted.com/talks/timothy_snyder_is_democracy_doomed_the_global_fight_for_our_future?language=en

If you think democracy is some kind of inevitable, default setting for the world, then you aren't going to have it for very long, says historian and author Timothy Snyder. Snyder dives into the structures that uplift and tear down political systems, offering a historical perspective on the current state of democracy around the world as well as the patterns of thought that lead to tyranny. Learn more about a new approach to democracy that could help create and protect a future of freedom.

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NPR-Penn State: Democracy Works podcast

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/785061367/democracy-works>. Democracy Works is produced by the McCourtney Institute for Democracy at Penn State and WPSU Penn State, central Pennsylvania's NPR station.

Selected episodes from the link above:

- **Jan 22, 2024: Tim Alberta on evangelicals and Republicans** (33 min.)
How the evangelical movement and the Republican party have been corrupted. They also discuss the role that religion should play in politics.
- **Jan 1, 2024: Finding hope in 2024** (30 min)
Rep. Derek Kilmer of Washington state joins us for a discussion on the Building Civic Bridges Act, a bipartisan bill that would provide funding for service projects aimed at bridging divides and reducing political polarization. We also discuss his work on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, which invited experts like Danielle Allen and Lee Drutman to discuss reforms including multi-member districts and increasing the size of the House of Representatives.
It's hard to listen to Kilmer without feeling at least a little hopeful about where politics might go in the coming year. We hope this episode will help you start 2024 on a good note.
- **June 12, 2023: Democracy-ish: Can America's democracy be saved?** (40 min.)
Political Historian, author and editor Eli Merritt joins #democracyish to provide some historical grounding for the place we find ourselves in America's story. America is at a tipping point; the question is what direction does it fall?!?
- **June 26, 2023: Can Curiosity Save Us?** (46 min)
Rebroadcast from the Village SquareCast is a conversation between Manu Meel, executive director of Bridge USA and Mónica Guzmán, a senior fellow for public practice at Braver Angels and author of *I Never Thought of it That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times*.
- **Apr 17, 2023: Between democracy and autocracy** (46 min)
Interview with Barbara F. Walter, author of "How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them," has spent decades studying civil wars around the world and working with other political scientists to quantify how strong democracy is in a given country.

WHAT THE LEAGUE IS DOING

- **Women Power Democracy:** <https://www.lwv.org/women-power-democracy>
- **Democracy Truth Project:** <https://www.lwv.org/blog/fighting-mis-disinformation-democracy-truth-project>