

Attacks on Democracy

It is comforting to believe that we will always have democracy in the US and other long-established free nations, even when we see the harmful effects of corruption, and know that one of the parties does not even favor our democratic system, though it is quite willing to use it with cynical, devious tactics to further its agenda.

We still have the power to overwhelmingly reject the Republicans' increasingly blatant use of voter suppression, gerrymandering, anti-union policies, attempts to violate religious freedom, fostering of divisive racial and ethnic prejudice, attempts to weaken and destroy social safety nets, use of fear to allow abuse of our rights by police and courts, and more.

We need to realize our need to use that power, and not to assume that Republicans are just another political party, just a little more conservative. It has gone far beyond that. We may think of Trump as an anomaly, but he represents a culmination of the direction his party has been heading for some time.

We accept capitalism as an economic system, and tend to think of it as freedom to engage in small business, consistent with our other freedoms that the Constitution protects and that our democratic republic enables us to defend and expand. We have put many protections in place to reduce abuse of capitalism by the powerful, though clearly not as effective as they should be.

The massive corporate part of capitalism contains immense power. It can nearly destroy a national economy, yet survive while masses of people suffer. It has the power and the motive to initiate wars, while elected leaders struggle to stop them, limit their scope, just try to make the best of them, or in some cases enthusiastically exacerbate them. And if we are not aware and vigilant, they can crush democracy if they find it gets too much in their way.

Consider Chile.

40 Years Ago, This Chilean Exile Warned Us About the Shock Doctrine. Then He Was Assassinated.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/40-years-ago-this-chilean-exile-warned-us-about-the-shock-doctrine-then-he-was-assassinated/>

This is what he wrote:

The 'Chicago Boys' in Chile: Economic Freedom's Awful Toll

Repression for the majorities and "economic freedom" for small privileged groups are two sides of the same coin.

By [Orlando Letelier](#)

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-chicago-boys-in-chile-economic-freedoms-awful-toll/>

You say it can't happen here? I say, don't give it a chance. Don't play games with useless third parties, or think there is no difference between Democrats and Republicans. There is more difference than ever, and it is increasing every day.

You don't have to "like" the woman who can save us from Republicanism, and Trumpism. You don't have to think she's perfect. Who is? But read the warning, and please vote sanely.

--cosmic rat Sept. 21 2016