

What are the real dangers to democracy and what can be done?

Is democracy in danger from ordinary citizens as claimed by radical commentators, or is it actually most in danger from our own government?

July 26th, 2021



You do not have to be a follower of wild-eyed conspiracy theories to be concerned about the health of a democracy. It is up to citizens of this, as with any country, to remain ever-vigilant and ensure their democracy is strong.

The book [Road to Serfdom](#), written during the war against the Nazis shows how they came to power almost unnoticed in a country that was thought to be a functioning democracy.

Chretien was a known control freak, Harper concentrated power in the PMO even more and the current Prime Minister shows a clear disdain for

democracy. It is not a 'conspiracy' or scare mongering to make these assertions and while no Prime Minister sets out to end democracy, the cumulative effect of expanding governance is a gradual slide into autocracy.

The current government has:

- In March 2020, Trudeau tried to pass bill C-13 granting the finance minister the right to spend money, tax Canadians, and purchase or hold a company's shares without the approval of Parliament until the first day of 2022 — a span of 21 months.
- Cancelled parliament and all its functions during the pandemic, the Prime Minister instead ruling from his 'Tent of Commons' outside his front door
- Spent hundreds of billions of dollars without approval of democratically elected members
- Failed to bring down a budget for a year
- Left the Constitutionally critical office of the Governor General vacant for months
- Refused a binding order from the Speaker to turn over documents related to two Chinese scientists who shipped pathogenic viruses from our National Lab to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Trudeau has launched a lawsuit to overturn the Speaker's authority. The Speaker says "This constitutionally entrenched power is fundamental to our system of parliamentary democracy".
- Brought forth a series of measures to restrict freedom of speech including Bill C-10 that allows censorship of private citizen's social media posts, Bill C-36 which gives unlimited powers to extra-legal boards and tribunals to ban and fine deemed hate speech based on vague and unlimited powers, and government funding of newspapers and other media in return for restrictions on what they print.
- And, most alarmingly, Cabinet initially ignored Bill C-208 after it was passed into Law. They simply blithely declared they had no intention of following the Law. This was accurately described as a bureaucratic coup d'etat.

Each of the above individually, never mind the cumulation, has been described as "unprecedented breaks with democratic laws and tradition" and the pattern is concerning coming from a PM who expresses his admiration

of China's dictatorship. Now, he is not necessarily going to declare himself dictator next week or next year, but the precedents set by each government lay the groundwork for the eventual end of our democracy.

The precedent in ignoring Bill C-208 could just as easily be used for ANY law on the books. Let's say Clause 56.1 of the Canada Elections Act that sets out the date of general elections. It is only a single line in one Act that requires an election be held at all. An election does not just happen, the government must buy the ballot boxes, rent the churches and hire the Returning Officers. What if they just didn't do that? Just simply not act as they did in ignoring Bill C-208.

What pretext could serve to cancel an election? Well, during the pandemic, there was repeated discussion on if it would be possible to hold an election. What if the "17th wave of the Omega variant" coincided with the next general election date? Would the government decide to "postpone" the election until it was 'safe'? All parties passed Motion M-118 in the House vowing to not hold any election until the pandemic was over. Over as defined by whom? Politicians and bureaucrats have shown themselves all too willing during this pandemic to use it as an excuse for sweeping powers to restrict our freedoms. After all, stopping the election would just be 'temporary'. Now, this scenario is certainly very unlikely, but even if we retain elections, the curtailing of our freedoms will make our democracy less legitimate.

What would the citizens do? Write letters to the editor, demonstrate, protest or worse? Or would we just slip into compliance, the thing having happened so gradually we hardly noticed?

The People's Party of Canada was founded on the very principles of Freedom, reducing the power of the Government, strictly acting within the Constitution and returning power to the People of this country.