

## June Debate of the Month

### Thought Talk: What is the greatest threat to American democracy?

**Background:** The United States of America is a young country, beginning its informal establishment in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence. Since then, America's democracy has been constantly evolving with the demands of the world and its people. However, as America has expanded its influence on the global stage, as well as faced substantial internal growth, more threats to the function of its democracy have surfaced. The question, however, is what is the greatest threat?

### Moderator Points:

1. How would you characterize America's democracy?
2. Do you think the greatest threat is domestic or foreign?
3. If the threat is internal, what would it be?
4. If the threat is foreign, is it a particular country or our own involvement?
5. Does the current state of electoral politics expand or restrict our democracy? How?
6. What role does the Constitution play, if any, in the preservation of our democracy?
7. Is it possible that the Constitution may pose an indirect threat? If so, what?
8. Do the people pose a threat? If so, how?
9. There are many issues that could be considered "obstacles" to a functioning democracy. What would differentiate a particular issue as being an obstacle from an actual threat?
10. What are some general threats to democracy? Are any of these found in America? Are these threats exclusive to America?

### Links for further research on different perspectives:

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/03/05/why-is-american-democracy-danger/>
- <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/07/12/whats-biggest-threat-american-democracy>
- <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2018/06/01/what-greatest-threat-democracy-us>