

Is American democracy in danger? (220 words, + or – 10%)

As one of the first modern democracies, the United States has long been considered a **beacon of** democracy. Yet, since Trump came to power, there has been a growing sense of **disaffection** – American democracy has never been so fragile. Is it in peril?

The United States remains a democracy with a system of **checks and balances** that ensures a **distribution** of power. The electoral process still works, and the 2024 elections have shown that democratic mechanisms continue to function. Counter-powers remain active: district judges have challenged Trump's executive orders, and journalists continue to **hold him accountable**.

And yet, Trump's **opponents** are being attacked with unprecedented fury. He is targeting all forms of **dissent**: universities have had to sign agreements with his administration to maintain federal funding, thereby limiting academic freedom. He has ended federal spending for several **media outlets**, such as NPR, and he has repeatedly attacked journalists who dare to question his policies ("Quiet, piggy," he said recently to a reporter).

What's more, the rise of misinformation **undermines** the foundations of democracy. The spread of social media has contributed to **distrust** in the press, in political institutions, and to **growing polarisation**. When Donald Trump contested the results of the 2020 election, he weakened the trust citizens must have in the electoral system.

To conclude, American democracy has rarely seemed so fragile, and John Adams's words **ring ominously true** today: "Remember, democracy never lasts long." 235 words

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