

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP, AND PUNISHMENT

Terms and concepts to know:

Democracy and liberalism	Direct / indirect democracy
'Cosmopolitan' democracy	'Tyranny thesis'
'Mirror' theory of representation	Democracy and 'political correctness'
Greek concept of 'citizenship'	Marshall's argument on citizenship
The New Right	Global citizenship
Retributivist punishment	Consequentialist punishment
Communicative theory of punishment	Restorative justice
Capital punishment	

Study and discussion questions:

1. How democratic are 'liberal democracies'? Is a society more democratic if more people participate in decision-making?
2. Can a system be called democratic if it is illiberal in character? Does democracy lead to the 'tyranny of the majority'?
3. Why is democracy such a confusing concept? Do you find it confusing? Why / why not?
4. Is the notion of global citizenship simply a dream? Should we extend citizenship to children and/or animals?
5. 'The logic of consequentialism is the identification of potential criminals and, if necessary, their incarceration'. Do you agree? Is capital punishment justified?
6. Bellah and his coauthors contend that the ideology of individualism—the foundation of our political beliefs—may well have grown "cancerous." Explain this disease in our belief system. Do you agree that this may be a serious problem today?
7. Throughout his address Nader speaks of a "democracy gap" in the United States. What does Nader mean by this term? How is the democracy gap related to the political power of corporate business?
8. What are thoughts on Carroll's article on the U.S. Constitution? Where and what do you agree or disagree with?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapters 5, 6, and 7 and WEB.

Video:

The Lottery of Birth.