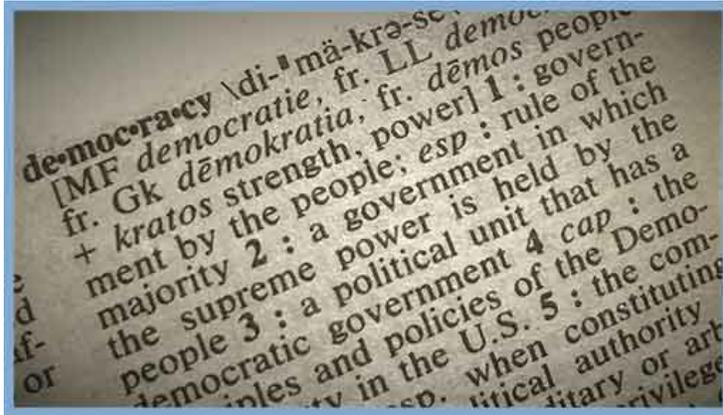


Greetings!

Democracy and Dignity



Insights into Democracy

Frances Moore Lappé, long a champion of democracy, gives us this deep, broad and insightful look at human nature and how it relates to creating democracy and dignity for all.

First of all she looks at our essential human needs beyond the basics of survival: agency (our power to make a difference), meaning / purpose, and connection. Next, she goes on to describe what she considers the foundations of democracy: inclusive, distributed power; transparency; a culture of mutual accountability.

She says, "For me, these three—a sense of personal power, meaning, and connection—enable us to experience dignity. *Dignatus* is the Latin root of this beautiful concept, connoting a sense of worthiness." She points out, and we know this all too well, terrorism can fulfill these same needs. She continues that dispersions of power, transparency, and mutual accountability define democracy and "have proven to keep the worst within us in check while bringing forth the best." [Read the article here.](#)



**Stories, insights
and action for a
world that works
for all of us**

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love
looks like in public.*

Cornel West

~ ~ ~

Favorite Resources

[Yes! magazine](#)
[The Optimist Daily](#)

[350.org](#)
[Climate Reality
Project](#)
[The Small Planet
Institute](#)
[Local Futures
Network of Spiritual
Progressives](#)
[Project Heaven on
Earth](#)

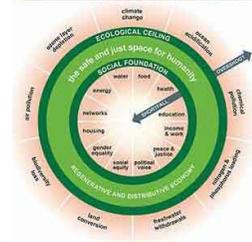
[Desert Rose Press](#)
[VirginiaMudd.com](#)

Highlights for this Month

Questioning the Capitalist System **Amsterdam Embraces Doughnut Economics**

Kate Raworth, the economist who first presented the idea of Donut Economics, asserts that 20th century economic thinking is not equipped to deal with the 21st century reality

of a planet teetering on the edge of climate breakdown and an unsustainable social structure.



Instead of equating a growing GDP with a successful society, our goal should be to fit all of human life into what Raworth calls the “sweet spot” between the “social foundation,” where everyone has what they need to live a good life, and the “environmental ceiling.” Raworth says that economic growth needs to be viewed as a means to reach social goals within ecological limits, and not as an indicator of success in itself, or a goal for rich countries. In a doughnut world, the economy would sometimes be growing and sometimes shrinking.

The city of Amsterdam is putting theory into practice, starting with asking questions like; Is this (capitalist) system actually making us healthy and happy? Is it just about economic growth? Amsterdam’s ambition is to bring all 872,000 residents inside the doughnut, ensuring everyone has access to a good quality of life, but without putting more pressure on the planet than is sustainable. [Read the article here](#), and another [related piece here with a larger graphic](#).



Redesigning Cities to Fight Future Pandemics Throughout history, disease outbreaks have forced new innovations in urban design. As the new coronavirus lays bare the need for broader changes across our economy, such as widespread paid sick leave, it might also influence how cities and buildings are built.

One part of that might mean creating buildings that can quickly switch to a different use in the case of an epidemic or another type of disaster. Better design could also help reduce crowds where viruses can easily spread. At airports, for example, security screening could be done differently so that passengers aren’t forced to wait together in crowded lines.

More holistic approaches to making cities and buildings healthy (such as parks and open spaces) can also impact future epidemics by making it less likely that people get sick, and more likely that they avoid the most serious consequences. [Read More Here](#).

Uplifting Stories & Innovations



CIVILIAN CLIMATE CORPS

A new executive order has created a Civilian Climate Corps. It is modeled

after the original Civilian Conservation Corps which came into being in 1933 as part of a string of New Deal programs designed to help lift America out of the Great Depression. The newly formed CCC is intended to help America climb out of a situation of mass-unemployment while addressing the issue of climate change in America. [Read more here](#).



"While we have been distracted by the noise of those resistant to change, change has been happening anyway."

Did you know that in more than 20 countries around the world women hold the positions of Chancellor, Prime Minister or President? In this video you will see these leaders as well as women leaders in movements for climate change, democracy, human



Ending the UK's Climate Emissions is "Ambitious, Realistic and Affordable."

The world’s first detailed route map to ending a nation’s use of

fossil fuels is both “ambitious and affordable,” according to the UK government’s official advisers. According to the Chair of the Climate Change Committee, “The price is manifestly reasonable. It will be the private sector that will do much of the investment but it will be the government that sets the tone.” [Read more here.](#)

rights, economic justice and more. You will see women of all ages, nationalities and colors who are champions of the common good for all and the planet. [Watch this two minute video here.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



We need each other. Each of us is responsible for what happens on this earth. We are each absolutely essential, each totally irreplaceable. Each of us is the swing vote in the bitter election battle now being waged between our best and our worst possibilities.
--Leonard Peltier

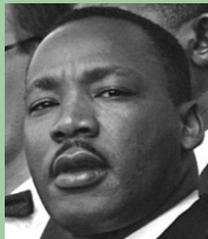


*We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be:
A country that is bruised but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free.
We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation.*
--Amanda Gorman



There is no social change fairy. There is only change made by the hands of individuals.

What we need is economics that make sense. What we need is economics that look toward future generations.
--Winona LaDuke



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
"Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial justice to the solid rock of human dignity."



My Column

is about the state of our government. **Do we want a plutocracy, an autocracy or a democracy?** Do we want truth or lies? Do we want leaders who work only for the desires of the wealthy, or the needs of the

Twenty of the most beautiful libraries in the world



Sainte-Genevieve Library, France



New York Public Library



Joanina Library, Portugal



Tianjin Binhai Library, China

From Germany, China, South Korea, Australia, the U.S. and beyond, here are extraordinary places in the world where we can revel in the splendors of the written word, even if just in these images. In Portugal bats are kept as natural pest controls for book-eating insects.

[See them all here.](#)

Wishing you an insightful,
exuberant and healthy Spring
Virginia / Gibi

common good.? Let's ask some hard questions and do a little soul-searching as we move forward to address the multiple crises we all face.

[Read on.](#)

