

A Chip Off The Old Block

In the world of governance, things are not as transparent as some claim. In non-democratic jurisdictions, the absolute monarch doesn't care about appearances. He or she has the final say, and backs it up with their armed forces. In democratic countries, the voters are supposed to have the final say. But do they? People who live in constitutional, not parliamentary democracies, find themselves blocked by the court system. So who really is controlling the country?

And there is another factor in the equation. Money. There are more and richer people now, than at any other time in history. There are many more and poorer people now, than at any other time in history. The middle class is growing in some emerging economies. But it is shrinking in many developed economies. So, if there are many more poorer voters, why can't do any better? It seems that after the election, the newly elected popular politicians run up against the bureaucrats, and progress stalls. Then the status quo returns to business as usual, before the election. How did this happen?

BBC had an interesting article. US is an oligarchy, not a democracy.
April 14/2014.

The US is dominated by a rich and powerful elite.

So concludes a [recent study](#) by Princeton University Prof Martin Gilens and Northwestern University Prof Benjamin I Page.

This is not news, you say.

Perhaps, but the two professors have conducted exhaustive research to try to present data-driven support for this conclusion. Here's how they explain it:

Multivariate analysis indicates that economic elites and organised groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on US government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence.

In English: the wealthy few move policy, while the average American has little power.

The two professors came to this conclusion after reviewing answers to 1,779 survey questions asked between 1981 and 2002 on public policy issues. They broke the responses down by income level, and then determined how often certain income levels and organised interest groups saw their policy preferences enacted.

"A proposed policy change with low support among economically elite Americans (one-out-of-five in favour) is adopted only about 18% of the time," they write, "while a proposed change with high support (four-out-of-five in favour) is adopted about 45% of the time."

On the other hand:

When a majority of citizens disagrees with economic elites and/or with organised interests, they generally lose. Moreover, because of the strong status quo bias built into the US political system, even when fairly large majorities of Americans favour policy change, they generally do not get it.

They conclude:

Americans do enjoy many features central to democratic governance, such as regular elections, freedom of speech and association and a widespread (if still contested) franchise. But we believe that if policymaking is dominated by powerful business organisations and a small number of affluent Americans, then America's claims to being a democratic society are seriously threatened.

Eric Zuess, [writing](#) in Counterpunch, isn't surprised by the survey's results.

"American democracy is a sham, no matter how much it's pumped by the oligarchs who run the country (and who control the nation's "news" media)," he writes. "The US, in other words, is basically similar to Russia or most other dubious 'electoral' 'democratic' countries. We weren't formerly, but we clearly are now."

This is the "Duh Report", [says](#) Death and Taxes magazine's Robyn Pennacchia. Maybe, she writes, Americans should just accept their fate.

"Perhaps we ought to suck it up, admit we have a classist society and do like England where we have a House of Lords and a House of Commons," she writes, "instead of pretending as though we all have some kind of equal opportunity here."

Every country has their oligarches. Holding the nation's purse strings is not enough for many of them. They want to complete their power hold, by running for public office. Sometimes they succeed. Sometimes they don't. Nelson Rockefeller tried in the USA. He could only get to the Vice-President's Office. Here in Canada, we have the Trudeaus.

No matter what happens; God is still in control. He sent His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ down here to Shed His Blood, and pay the penalty for our sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ has advice for everyone. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (John 3:7)

He still wants you to spend Eternity with Him, and His Heavenly Father. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. (Acts 16:30-31)

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Pastor T John Franklin

Church of Salvation, Healing and Deliverance

cos-had.org