



DEMOCRACY?

By Brandon M.

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Prof. Remi Alapo

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What is a Democracy ?

- The term derives from the Greek term *Demos kratein*, meaning the people rule.
- A Democratic government is a system which the people and the government are connected, where people have direct or indirect influence in which policies are implemented.
- According to Ellen Ginsby's "analyzing politics", a democracy consists of five components which include; participation, pluralism, protection, performance, and developmentalism.
- For a true democracy to be realized its people have to participate in free elections, have diverse ideas, as well as opinions, the chance for humans to develop to their highest potential, protection from intrusive government, and lastly, the government should be performing in such a manner that it provides the people the best quality of life possible.

Non-Democratic Gov't

- Some examples of a non-democracy would be the governments of Nazi Germany, Russia during Stalin's rule, Mussolini, Fidel Castro, and Trujillo. These regimes instilled fear and projected bigotry onto their countries, moreover, restricted freedom of the press, free speech, and resulted in the rewriting of history books.
- Non-democratic governments lack free elections, term limits, and pluralism, so only one party is allowed.
- In Non-Democratic nations political regimes are changed by assassinations, the overthrowing of leaders, and by intimidation.

Is The United States Democratic ?

- The United States has three branches of government on both State, and on the Federal level which provides for the necessary checks and balances for the country.
- These balances have done a great job of protecting American citizens from oppressing dictatorships as seen in other nations in world history.
- I believe our country is a democracy because although we are born from different backgrounds, as well as economic situations, we all have access to free education, have equal access to vote, in addition all can run for office.
- I believe that we can go as far as our talent, energy, health, knowledge, and determination will elevate us to.

Interview Findings

Sergio Villaverde (Family Lawyer, Coast Guard Lt. B.A. Political Science,

- States that the U.S is not fully democratic, but nonetheless a democracy, other nations may be democratic but not as inclusive as the United States with benefits such as birthright citizenship. Although a democracy is important, having the rule of law is much more important to sustain a democracy.

Fernando Diaz (B.A. Economics, B.S Computer Science)

- Believes the United States is highly democratic, and to determine when something is “good” it has to be compared, and when we compare our democracy to others, ours is in fact good.

Reasons for this topic

- Although anyone can see that our democracy has always been, and will continue to have flaws, there are many individuals who have taken for granted certain liberties we are fortunate enough to experience considering the millions of people around the world who don't enjoy similar luxuries.
- Democracy fosters free thought and encourages human progress, it is the token to freedom.
- Therefore one can comprehend the many families seeking refuge in America, whether it be for economic purposes, to flee ceaseless violence, or to practice their faith peacefully and respectfully.
- People from all over the globe, believe in our democratic system, who like most of us, desire to integrate themselves with distinctive cultures.
- "Another way of indicating the importance of immigration to America is to point out that every American who ever lived, with the exception of one group, was either an immigrant himself or a descendant of immigrants." - JFK



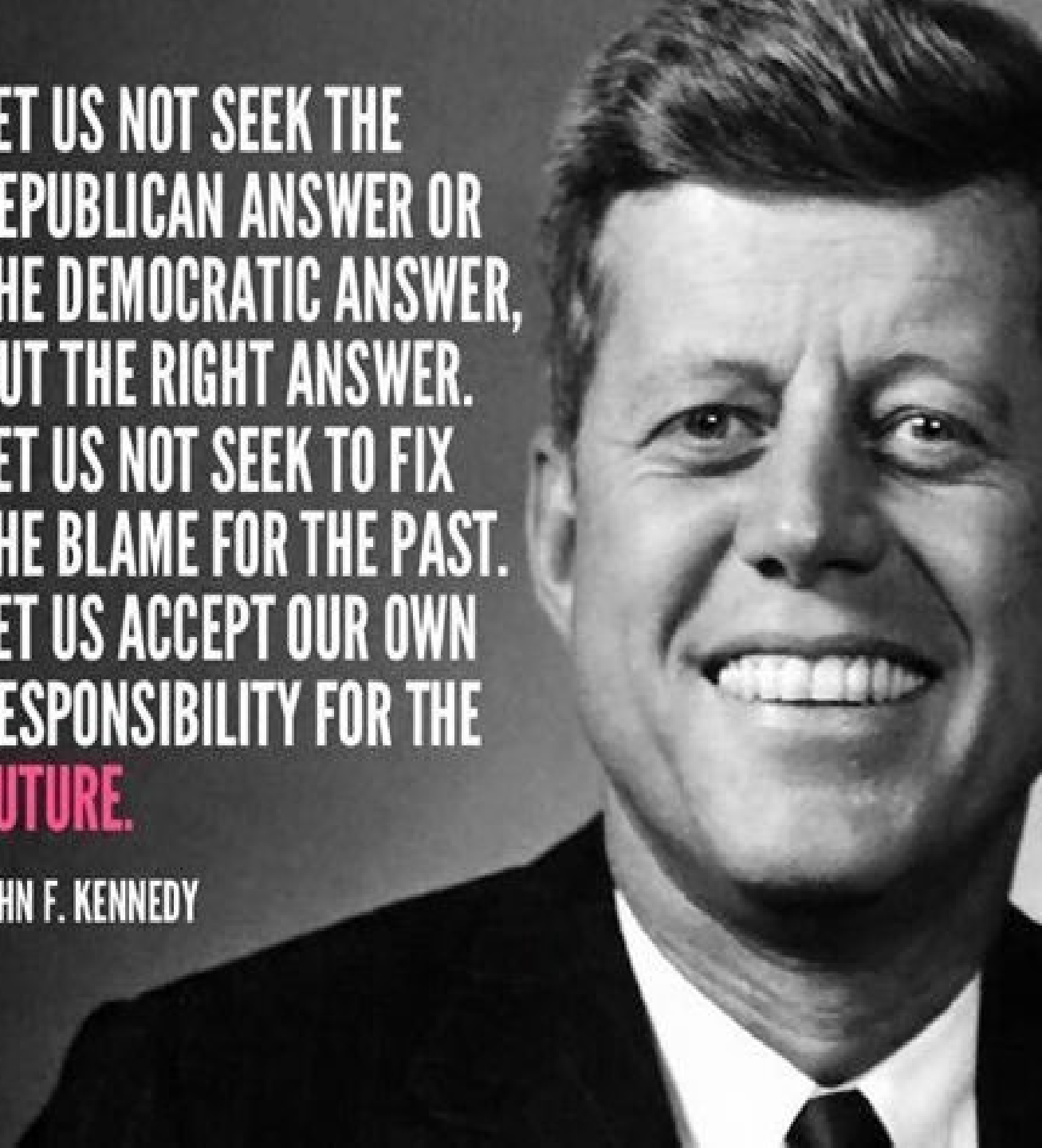
"LET US NEVER FORGET THAT GOVERNMENT
IS OURSELVES AND NOT AN ALIEN POWER OVER
US. THE ULTIMATE RULERS OF OUR DEMOCRACY
ARE NOT A PRESIDENT AND SENATORS AND
CONGRESSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
BUT THE VOTERS OF THIS COUNTRY."

• FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,
32ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



LET US NOT SEEK THE
REPUBLICAN ANSWER OR
THE DEMOCRATIC ANSWER,
BUT THE RIGHT ANSWER.
LET US NOT SEEK TO FIX
THE BLAME FOR THE PAST.
LET US ACCEPT OUR OWN
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
FUTURE.

JOHN F. KENNEDY



Work Cited

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