

Dictatorship not only tends to stereotype opinion and prevent intellectual and technical progress; it also tends to generate dishonesty in experts. The medical officer at Dachau was ordered to invent something as good as penicillin, and presently professed to have done so. He poisoned prisoners and proved that those whom he injected with his new substance survived while the others died. But it turned out that those whom he wished to survive had been only very lightly poisoned, so the Nazis executed him. Under a reign of terror, this sort of thing is sure to be common.

I should not wish, however, to base the argument for freedom and democracy upon success in war; I would base it rather on general considerations of human welfare. Free discussion tends to promote a tolerant spirit, and a tolerant spirit tends to prevent war? Where grievances can be publicly stated, they are more likely to be remedied, and less likely to generate implacable hatreds. Wherever a rigid system of government exists, it encourages ruthlessness and cruelty in those who believe their power to be secure. In the end, the forces of resistance become over-whelming, and, maddened by the long endurance of intolerable suffering, they burst their bonds in savage reprisals. Such violent upheavals are unavoidable wherever minorities cling to despotic power, but, however necessary, revolutions inspired by hate are not the best means of creating a better world, since those who hate their oppressors are apt, when they can, to imitate the crimes against which they have rebelled. It is only in a regime of democracy and free discussion that evils can be remedied without an extreme of violence that is apt to generate new evils as great as those that it sweeps away. Democracy embodies justice, free discussion embodies rationality, and it is only through justice and rationality that an issue can be found from the dangers with which modern war is threatening the human race.

Democratic principles: Solutions to modern problems

Along with stifling intellectual and economic capabilities, ~~dictatorships~~ also produce disingenuous individuals. In Nazi Germany, an office instituted to produce a penicillin-like drug, ended up with poison, which killed several. Whereas free speech leads to an open and accepting society where was is desired, not celebrated. By allowing people to freely air their thoughts, it avoids internal grievances. In contrast, authoritarian governments, by suppressing all basic freedoms, give birth to violent revolutions. These movements are fuelled by hate and only create more totalitarian outliers. Such issues can only be resolved in a democratic setup which promotes ~~free~~ dialogue. Democracy promotes rationality and justice, principles which are necessary to deal with modern threats.

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