

# Are we witnessing a global coup d'état against democracy?

**On either side of the Atlantic there is an air of despondency amongst those who support true democracy and the pillars it stands on: *equality, freedom of speech, rule by majority, minority rights ... and so forth.***

The political centre and left-of-centre cannot comprehend the mess they have got themselves into and the gloom stretches as far as Australia. Democracy is *on the back foot*: a cricketing term inferring the intrepid fast bowlers (from the right) have the dogged (centre-left) batsmen pinned down, in danger of losing the contest. In tennis parlance we would say: ***game, set and match!***

The latest edition of *The Democracy Index*, released by *The Economist*, shows a continuing deterioration in the state of democracy around the globe. Using a detailed analysis of country by country governance, the report shows that since its 2006 inception, the Democracy Index, across 150 countries, has declined in 2019 to an all-time low. Unsurprisingly, the US has slipped from *full*, to *flawed* democracy.

For those of us who have been confounded by the Trumpian era of twitter, or the Johnsonese approach to rebuilding Britain in the guise of its former empire, this news from *The Economist* comes as no real surprise, but simply confirmation that unless we move speedily to rectify the situation - and turn momentum in the opposite direction - democracy as a form of nation governance, could be consigned to our history books.

---