This Update was issued on 3 September 2018. It is based on new publications and suggestions from users of the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC).

Bibliography updates will be issued on the first Monday of each month. They should be read in conjunction with the main bibliography on DEM-DEC (finalised on 24 June 2018).

www.democratic-decay.org
About DEM-DEC

Created by Dr Tom Gerald Daly (Melbourne Law School) and supported by a range of leading public law and policy organisations, the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) focuses on the global challenge of the incremental deterioration of democratic rule and is primarily pitched at public lawyers, i.e. those working on constitutional, international and transnational law.

The resource is aimed at providing key information in one place, to frame the research area, to address conceptual confusion, and to bring scholars together in a collaborative project to drive the field forward, in a context where a lot of scholars are talking in silos, or past one another, where the literature is rapidly expanding, and research events and projects are proliferating across the world.

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His current book project concerns the role of public law in countering ‘democratic decay’ worldwide. He has written on democratic decay as a columnist for the I-CONnect blog and tweets @DemocracyTalk.

Partners

The DEM-DEC Resource enjoys the support of a range of partners, which are leading organisations in public law and policy:

Constitution Transformation Network (Melbourne Law School)
Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies (CCCS)
Constitutionally Speaking (blog – South Africa)
Democracy Reporting International (DRI)
Democratic Erosion: A Cross-University Collaboration
Edinburgh Centre for Constitutional Law
ICON-S-Israel
International Association of Constitutional Law (IACL) Blog
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
International Journal of Constitutional Law (I-CONnect) Blog
School of Transnational Governance (European University Institute)
Verfassungsblog
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   *Democratic Theory Journal:* Vol. 5, Issue 1 (June 2018)
   – a range of articles on truth, democratic participation, propaganda in liberal democracies, and the Cold War origins of the “crisis of democracy”
   *Journal of Human Rights Practice:* Vol. 10, Issue 1 (February 2018)
   – article on why corruption matters in human rights
   *Democratization:* Volume 25 No. 7 (Winter 2017-Spring 2018)
   – articles include Hungary as an “externally constrained hybrid regime”, radicalization of the AKP in Turkey, and the “stalled” transition in South Africa

6. Forthcoming Research
Have Your Say!

Send suggestions and information on new publications for the October monthly update by filling out the form at www.democratic-decay.org or e-mailing democraticdecay@gmail.com

and don’t forget to subscribe to the Mailing List for updates

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Introduction

The DEM-DEC Bibliography

The DEM-DEC Bibliography is provided on the Democratic Decay Resource (DEM-DEC) at www.democratic-decay.org, which was launched on 25 June 2018 and which aims to provide useful information to academics and policymakers concerned with the creeping deterioration of democratic rule worldwide.

The main Bibliography (finalised on 24 June 2018) presents a global range of research on democratic decay. It has a strong focus on research by public lawyers – spanning constitutional, international and transnational law – but also includes key research from political science, as well as policy texts.

Second monthly update since DEM-DEC was launched

Updates to the Bibliography will be issued on the first Monday of each month. This is the second monthly update provided and was issued on 3 September 2018, based on new publications and suggestions from users of DEM-DEC. All updates should be read in conjunction with the main bibliography on DEM-DEC.

Comprehensiveness

It is impossible to be comprehensive given the broad scope of the subject. However, the updates here have been collated from suggestions by scholars worldwide, a broad search of academic journals worldwide, as well as information collated on leading public law blogs, including the weekly round-up ‘What’s New in Public Law’ on the I-CONNnect Blog (blog of the International Journal of Constitutional Law), which is a DEM-DEC Partner. Blog posts, media articles and policy documents are not covered.

Period covered by this update

As this is a monthly update, the main items here are from August 2018. Items suggested by DEM-DEC users are broadly from earlier in 2018 and late 2017. In addition, a number of items from recent months, which were not covered in the August Update, have been included in this update.

Global Coverage

The Bibliography updates aim for global coverage. However, it should be borne in mind that the Bibliography, at present, collates information exclusively in the English language.

Hyperlinks

For full collections of articles, the hyperlink to the collection is provided rather than individual hyperlinks for each article. Where a small number of articles from a particular journal are provided, a specific hyperlink is generally provided for each item.

Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks to all who have suggested additions and sent me key information for this update.
Key Themes from this Update

Identifying Themes

Each monthly bibliography update will include a section identifying themes from the update. The aim is simply to provide ‘added value’ by helping users to navigate the update, and to provide some limited commentary, especially on very recent research. Although it is impossible to capture every dimension of the issues covered in this Update, six key themes emerge from this update.

1 Global Takes on Democratic Decay

‘Constitutional Democracy in Crisis?’, a new edited collection produced by Mark Graber, Sandy Levinson and Mark Tushnet (published 23 August 2018 and discussed by Graber in a recent Verfassungsblog post), examines whether liberal democracy is under threat, and the nature of the threats it faces. With almost 40 chapters, the collection has a broad thematic and geographic range. The introduction and Part I present broad theoretical, conceptual, and historical analysis. Part II addresses specific countries and regions, ranging from long-established democracies (e.g. USA, France), to younger democracies (e.g. Hungary, South Africa), to entire world regions (e.g. Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa). Parts III and IV focus on selected themes, including religion, populism, the climate crisis, and the crumbling of European democracy. It is a highly useful collection, which also sets the scene for potential future collections (for instance, states such as Japan and Brazil, sub-regions such as Scandinavia, and themes such as religion deserve additional attention). ‘Democracy Under Threat’ – an edited collection from 2017 produced by Surendra Munshi, and suggested for addition to this Update by a DEM-DEC user – provides a similarly expansive take on global threats to democracy from the perspective of sociologists, political scientists, and policymakers. The two collections can be read as companion pieces, and in their considered, evidence-based approach, present useful correctives to the more sensationalist takes on the subject (see e.g. a recent book on the ‘suicide of the West’ (April 2018) by Jonah Goldberg.

2 What ‘Counts’ as Democratic Decay?

The above collections raise a key question: whether what is under discussion relates to one broad phenomenon, or various related phenomena. Looking to the collection on ‘Constitutional Democracy in Crisis?’ above, for instance, can the constitutional crisis in the UK occasioned by Brexit be set beside the sophisticated dismantling of democratic rule in Hungary, or the shift to strongman rule in Turkey? Can the diffuse threats to democratic rule in the USA – of which President Trump is but one symptom – be analogised to the executive-led assault on democracy in Poland? It is also useful to consider where the bounds of ‘democratic decay’ lie: should it be restricted solely to countries that have reached, and maintained, an appreciable and measurable level of democratic progress for a significant period of time, or should we take the more capacious approach of including any rollback of democratic freedoms in a given state? Is it always easy to draw a dividing line between a failed (or faltering) democratisation process and a decay of a functioning democracy? The DEM-DEC Bibliography tends toward a focus on states that have been considered ‘consolidated’ democracies, but also seeks to be
inclusive. For instance, among the additions suggested by DEM–DEC users include a conference paper by Abdurrahman Satrio on ‘constitutional retrogression’ in Indonesia, and a special issue of the *Comparative Politics* journal (April 2018) on the nature of governance in contemporary Russia and how democracy in Russia was eroded in that state. These additions raise a central question, as to

3 Understanding Democratic Resilience

Two central preoccupations in the emerging ‘democratic decay’ research field are, first, the attempt to identify and anatomise threats to democratic governance and, second, the fact that key sentinels designed to operate as bulwarks against such threats (e.g. courts) have either provided little safeguard, or have even been co-opted as part of the project to dismantle democracy. Somewhat less attention has been paid to how, precisely, a democratic system can effectively protect itself. A number of items in this Update address this question squarely. In their chapter on Canada in the collection ‘Constitutional Democracy in Crisis?’, Richard Albert and Michael Pal examine this question under the rubric ‘democratic resilience’. More specifically, Mihaela Şerban in the forthcoming issue of *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (September 2018) focuses on legal mobilisation and ‘adversarial legalism’ to push back against illiberalism in Central and Eastern Europe; while in a recent issue of *Comparative Politics* (July 2018), Laura Gamboa addresses strategies against democratic erosion in Venezuela and Colombia, highlighting how the opposition in each state took different approaches to threats from problematic presidents. Finally, Cass Sunstein’s 2017 citizen’s guide to impeachment, suggested for addition by a DEM–DEC user, underlines the need to marry expert knowledge and citizen education and engagement in the pushback against threats to democratic rule.

4 Taking Greater Care in Using Populism as a Concept

In a highly important article in *Comparative Political Studies* (published on 26 July 2018), Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser address the fact that scholars are increasingly employing the concept of populism to explain recent events such as the election of President Trump and the UK’s vote to leave the EU. They identify two shortcomings in the contemporary use of populism as a concept: first, that new populism scholars often fail to draw on, and build on existing populism scholarship; and second, that established comparative populism scholars tend to stay within the confines of their research field and do not attempt to link their work to other academic fields. The article is a must read for any scholar working on democratic decay, given the prevalence of the concept, and the laxity in how it is employed. As the authors state:

> it is crucial that scholars work with clear definitions of populism and delimit the boundaries of the phenomenon. Instead of developing ad hoc concepts, which treat the specificities of national or regional manifestations of populism as generalizable, they should incorporate some of the lessons that the existing scholarship offers us.

(Note: For more discussion of concepts, see the Concept Index on DEM–DEC).

5 Populism and Feminism

Rob Kroes in a recent issue of *Society* (February 2018) – suggested for addition by a DEM–DEC user – focuses on the links between populism and feminism, with particular reference to the US context and the defeat of Hilary Clinton by Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. For Kroes, it is not
helpful to see populism and feminism as mutually exclusive categories, highlighting the historical experience of what might be termed ‘good populism’ in the USA (‘good populism’ is discussed in the DEM-DEC Concept Index, ‘Populism’ entry). Kroes’ piece also serves as a useful focal piece for considering the link between feminism and ‘negative’ (or authoritarian) populism; as evidenced in, for instance, attempts to roll back reproductive rights in Poland, or the recent all-male raft of 21 judicial appointments in Italy (see a recent IACL-AIDC Blog post on the subject).

6 The Public Preference for Democracy

A number of items in this Update address public faith in democratic rule—one of the central concerns in the growing literature on democratic decay. For instance, Frank Furedi’s 2017 book on ‘Populism and the European Culture Wars’—suggested for addition by a DEM-DEC user—captures a strong strain of thought in arguing that “the current outburst of anti-populist anxiety is symptomatic of a loss of faith in democracy and in the ability of the demos to assume the role of responsible citizens.” Other items present differing additional perspectives: Natalia Wenzell Letsa and Martha Wilfahrt in Comparative Politics (January 2018), on the basis of public opinion data from tens of thousands of respondents in authoritarian regimes worldwide make the case that all categories of respondent—rich and poor alike—tend to prefer democracy to autocratic rule. A separate article by Yichen Guan in Democratization (March 2018) analyses how popular demands for democracy exist under a ‘resilient authoritarian’ system such as China that produces economic development. However, Tom Ulbricht in Comparative Political Studies (May 2018) argues that the ambiguity of the term ‘democracy’ complicates assessment of public support for democracy and that popular support for representative democracy has tended to be overstated.
Additions Suggested by DEM-DEC Users

Note 1: Hyperlinks are not available for a small number of items below

Note 2: A number of book chapters suggested for addition to this Update have not been included as the edited collections in which they appear are already contained in the main DEM-DEC Bibliography


Books

CHEESEMAN N & KLASS B, How to Rig an Election (Yale University Press, 2018).


FLOWERAKER J & TREVIZO D (eds), Democracy and Its Discontents in Latin America (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2016).


FUREDI F, Populism and the European Culture Wars: The Conflict of Values between Hungary and the EU (Routledge, 2017).


Book Chapters


Journal Special Issues

COMPARATIVE POLITICS, Volume 50, Number 3 (April 2018): Special Issue: Wither Russia? Twenty-Five Years After the Collapse of Communism – containing 10 articles on the nature of governance in contemporary Russia and how democracy in Russia was eroded in that state.


Articles


Book Reviews


Working Papers


EPPERLY B, WITKO C, STRICKLER R & WHITE P, Rule by Violence, Rule by Law: The Evolution of Voter Suppression and Lynching in the U.S. South (March 1, 2016). (under review; available on SSRN)
Conference Papers


Policy Reports & Guidelines

BRANDEIS INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUDGES, Oslo Recommendations for Enhancing the Legitimacy of International Courts (2018)


Additional Materials

Comparative Politics Newsletter

The Comparative Politics Newsletter is produced by the American Political Science Association’s (APSA) Comparative Politics Section. The Newsletter publishes symposia on various substantive and methodological issues, highlights new data sets of broad appeal, and generally informs the community about field-specific developments

See e.g. Volume 26, Issue 2 (Fall 2016), which includes:

I. Symposium: Populism in a Comparative Perspective
II. Special Topic: Populism in the United States
III. Special Topic: Populism and Brexit

Bibliographies on the Extreme Right in Western Europe

Kai Arzheimer, a Professor of Political Science at the University of Mainz, has produced a number of useful bibliographies on the extreme right In Western Europe. They can all be accessed through the above link.
August 2018: New Publications

Note: Some items listed below have not yet been published formally, but have been included here as the texts have been made available during August


**Communist and Post-Communist Studies: Special Issue on Courts and the Rule of Law in Central and Eastern Europe**

The following are listed on the Communist and Post-Communist Studies website as articles in press that are accepted, peer reviewed articles but not yet assigned to volumes/issues. However, they will feature in the September issue of Communist and Post-Communist Studies, which will be a special issue on courts and the rule of law in Central and Eastern Europe. They are included here, rather than in the ‘Fortcoming Research’ section, because they were made available online in August and late July.


BUCHOLC M, ‘Commemorative Lawmaking: Memory Frames of the Democratic Backsliding in Poland After 2015’


The essays in this book explore whether constitutional democracies around the world are in crisis or whether the apparent weakening of many constitutional democracies is simply part of the normal ebb and flow that has been ongoing since the post-war rise of constitutional democracy. Part I is devoted to background material on the nature of constitutional crises; Part II focuses on the state of constitutional democracy in specific regimes or regions; Part III examines the influence on constitutional democracy of such global forces as climate change, religious fundamentalism, terrorism, economic inequality, globalization, immigration, populism, and racism/ethnocentrism; Part IV offers the editors’ thoughts on the contemporary state of constitutional democracy. The essays diagnose the causes of the present afflictions of constitutional democracies in particular regimes, regions, and across the globe, believing at this stage diagnosis is of central importance—as Abraham Lincoln said in his “House Divided Speech,” “If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”

Available now from Oxford University Press

$39.95 / £25.99
Selected Earlier Publications

Note: The following are additional items that were not included in the August Update but which are of clear relevance to democratic decay

**Journal of Comparative Politics: Vol. 50, Issue 4 (July 2018)**

**Comparative Political Studies: May and July 2018**

**Democratic Theory Journal: Vol. 5, Issue 1 (June 2018)**

**Journal of Human Rights Practice: Vol. 10, Issue 1 (February 2018)**
Articles


BARTMAN JM, ‘Murder in Mexico: are journalists victims of general violence or targeted political violence?’ (2018) 25(7) Democratization 1093.


Book reviews


Forthcoming Research

Books

GINSBURG T & HUQ A, How to Save a Constitutional Democracy (University of Chicago Press, 2018; due for publication on 18 October 2018).


Book Chapters


Journal Special Issues


Articles


DEM-DEC
Bringing Democracy Defenders Together