

# The Future of Democracy



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# Is this the End of the **Peace Dividend**?

**\*The economic boost a country or region will get from a peace that follows a war, allowing governments to reduce defense spending and reallocate the money to domestic policy priorities**





# First, some context



# DEMOCRACY



# **NEW REPORT: Authoritarian Rule Is Challenging Democracy as Dominant Global Model**

**“Autocracy is making gains against democracy and encouraging more leaders to abandon the democratic path to security and prosperity, with countries that suffered democratic declines over the past year outnumbering those that improved by more than two to one”**



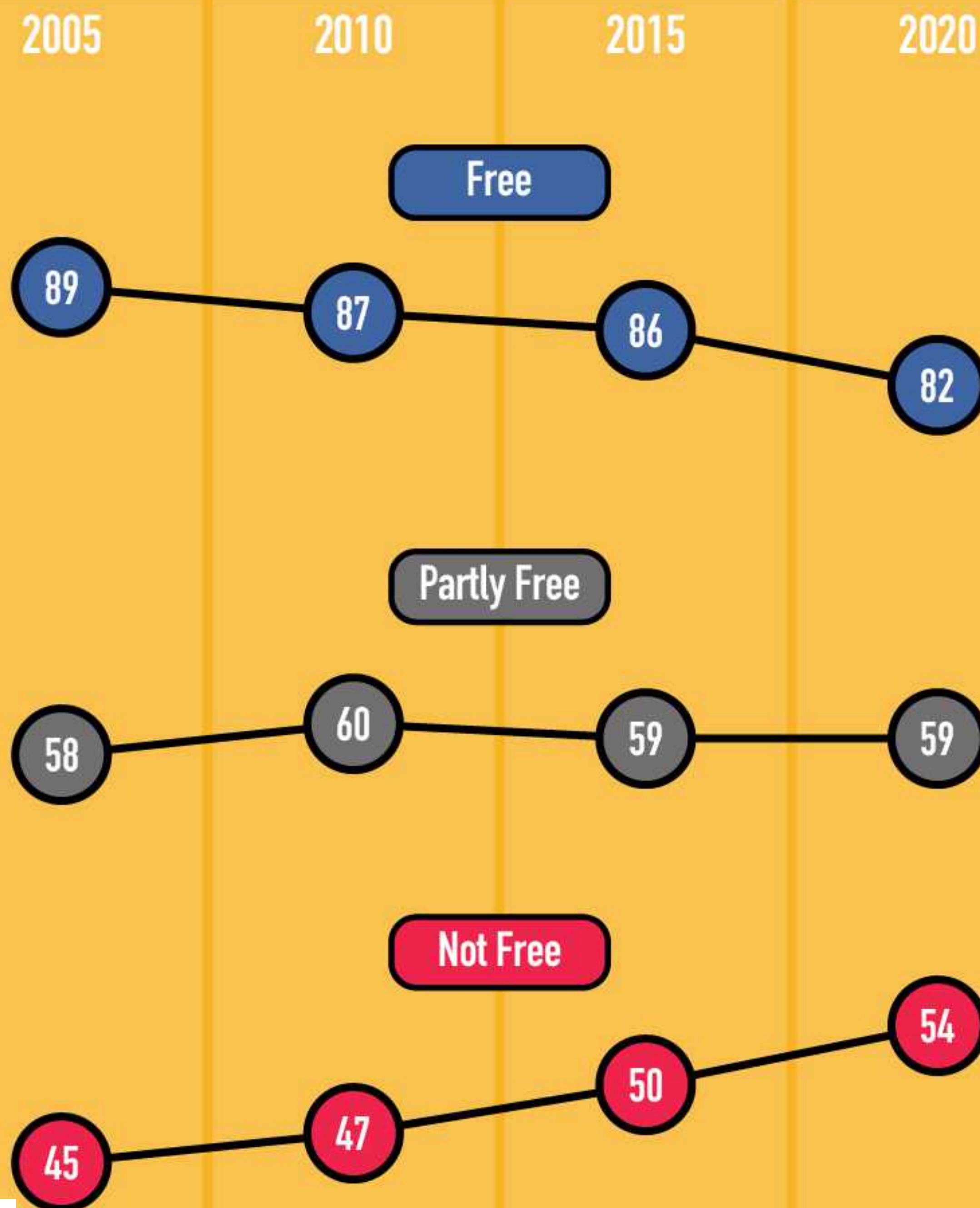
**DEMOCRACY**



# A SHIFTING INTERNATIONAL BALANCE

In 2020, the number of Free countries in the world reached its lowest level since the beginning of a 15-year period of global democratic decline, while the number of Not Free countries reached its highest level.

# DEMOCRACY

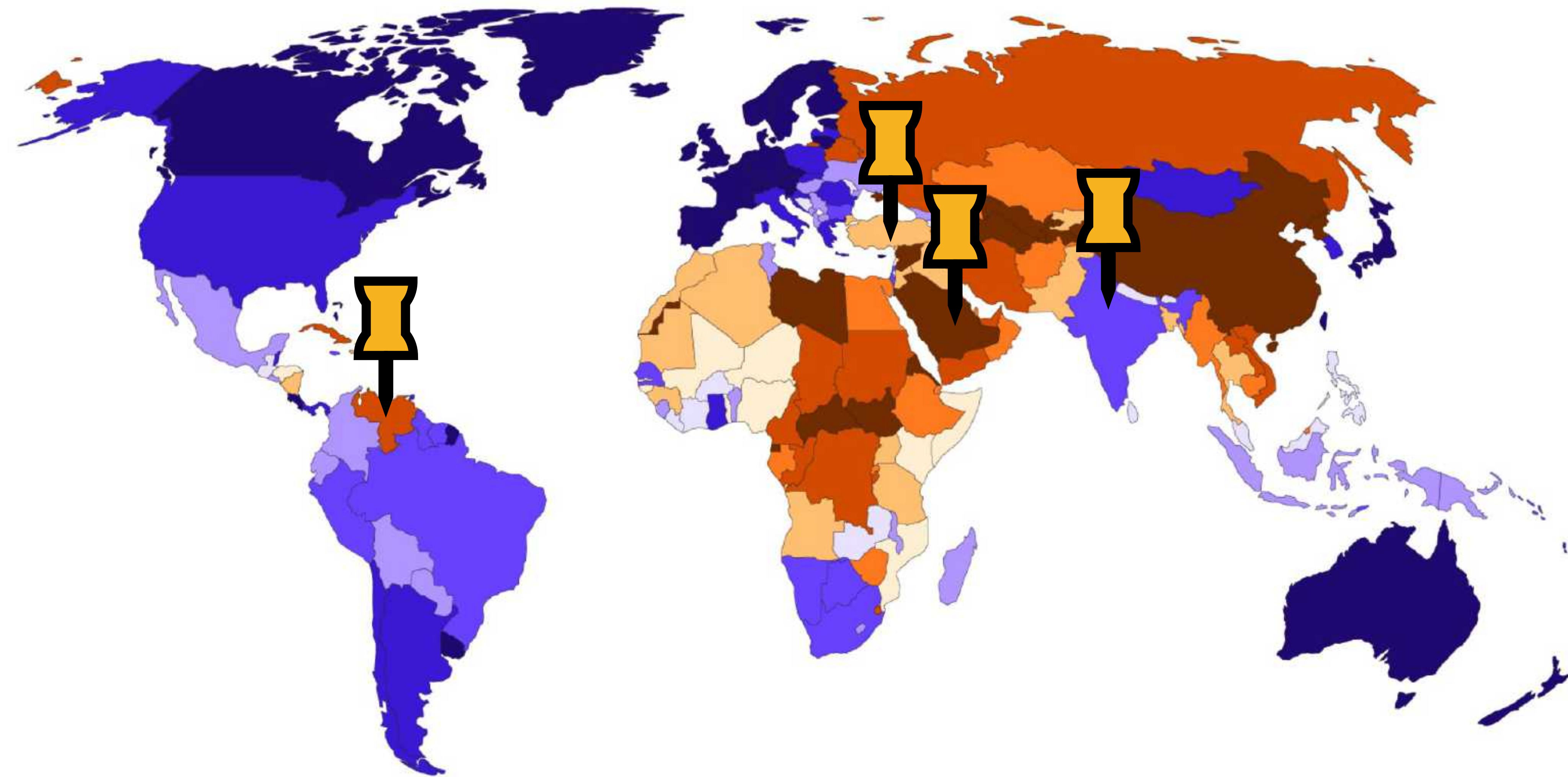


Source: Freedom House



# Freedom in the World index, 2020

Least free 0 50 100 Most free



Reproduced from [Freedom House](#); Map: Axios Visuals

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# DECLINES ACROSS THE BOARD

THE 15 YEARS OF DECLINE HAVE AFFECTED ALL REGIONS AND FREEDOM IN THE WORLD SUBCATEGORIES

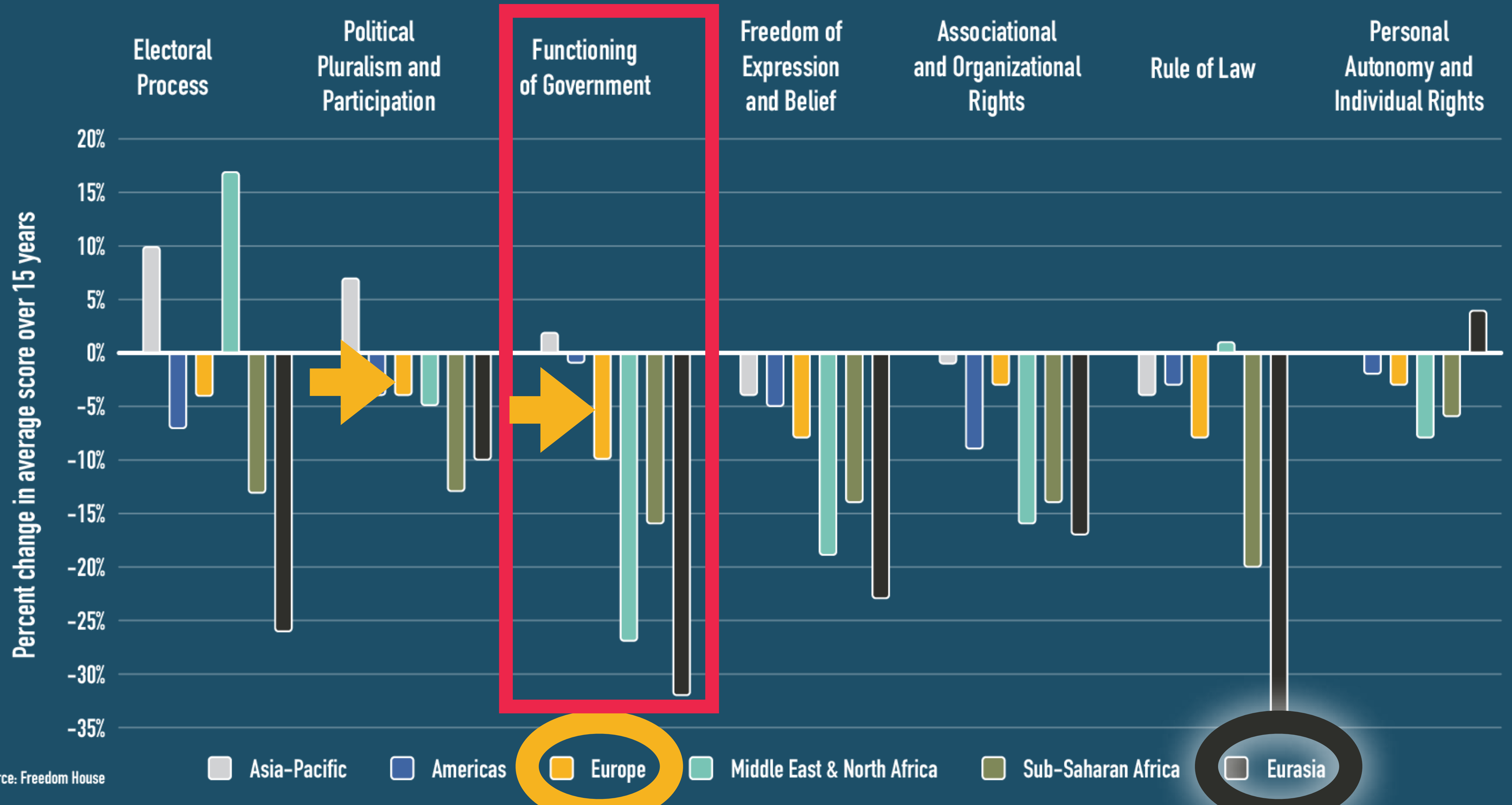




Illustration by Oliver Munday\*



DEMOCRACY

*The Atlantic*

IDEAS

## THE BAD GUYS ARE WINNING

If the 20th century was the story of slow, uneven progress toward the victory of liberal democracy over other ideologies—communism, fascism, virulent nationalism—the 21st century is, so far, a story of the reverse.

By Anne Applebaum



## *Putin vs. Democracy*

Democracy is on the decline worldwide, and Vladimir Putin is a big factor.



## The Future for Autocrats is Darker Than It Seems

But Democratic Leaders Need to Do Better to Meet Global Challenges

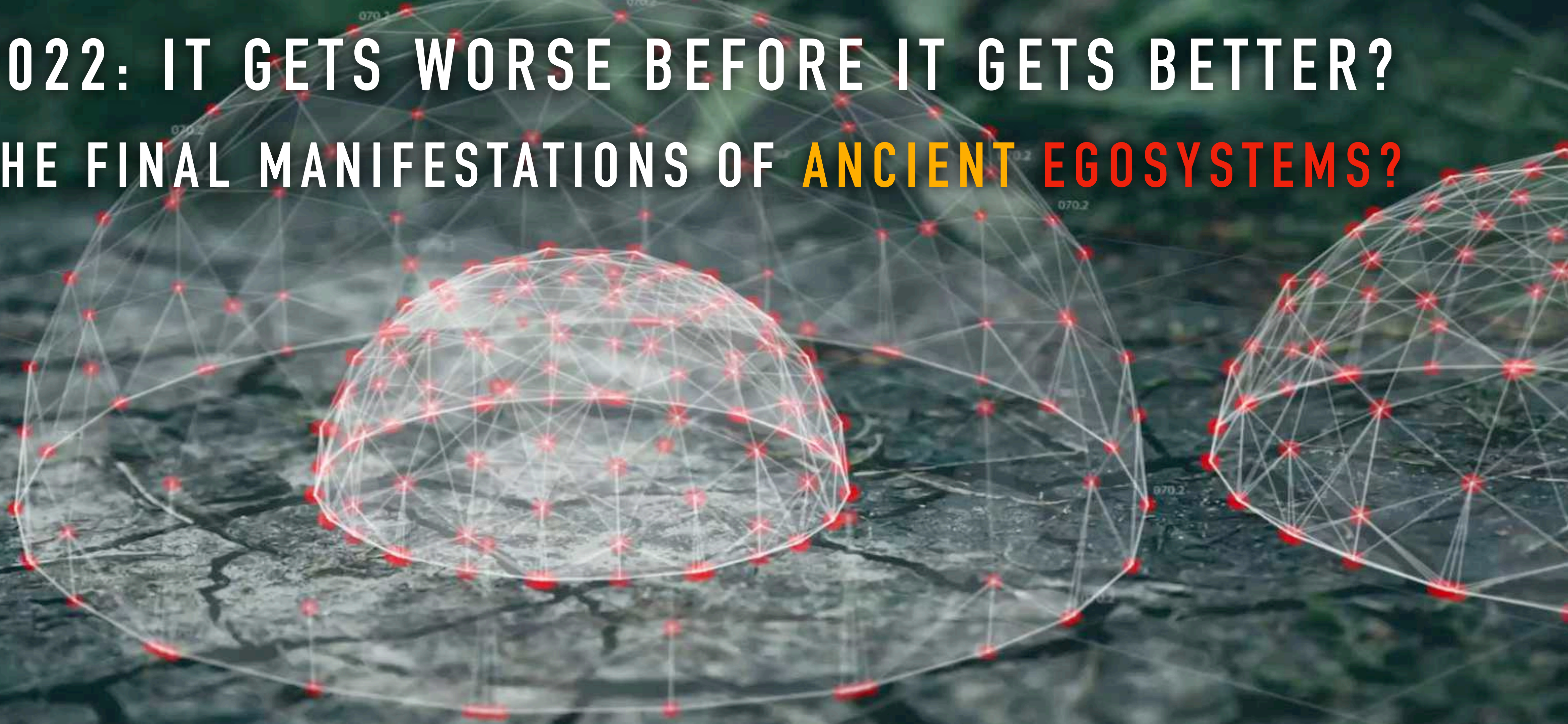
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH



DÉMO  
CRACY



2022: IT GETS WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER?  
THE FINAL MANIFESTATIONS OF **ANCIENT** **EGOSYSTEMS?**







A Pew Research Center survey of 17 advanced economies in 2021 shows disaffection with the lack of individual freedom in authoritarian states at an all-time high. Additionally, according to the survey, a median of **74% of people in these countries had no confidence in their autocratic leaders.**





# The deepest challenge for democracy seems to be in the U.S.

Opinion **US politics & policy**

## The strange death of American democracy

A constitutional crisis looms as Trump tightens his grip on the Republicans ahead of 2024

MARTIN WOLF

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## Americans have become profoundly sceptical about their democracy

% of respondents

*Which best describes your view of democracy in the US today?*





# The deepest challenge for democracy seems to be in the U.S.



*How confident are you that elections in America today reflect the will of the people?*







## A country divided and despondent

% of respondents who think the country is heading ...

... on the wrong track | ... in the right direction





# Is the **spirit of democracy** under siege in the U.S.?

More Americans even now doubt the power of their democratic ideas.

Poll showed that 64% of Americans believe their democracy is "in crisis and at risk of failing"

**72% of Americans say the US used to be a good model of democracy for other countries to follow but has not been in recent years.**

(CNN Feb 2022)



# ? Democracies are 'deeply under-performing' ?



SQUAWK  
BOX

EDELMAN: NO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT  
TRUSTED BY ITS POPULATION





# The Coming Democratic Revival

America's Opportunity to Lead the Fight Against Authoritarianism by Madeleine Albright Dec 2021

“Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the momentum is not with the enemies of democracy. It’s true that in recent years, some authoritarians have grown stronger. **But in many cases, they are now failing to deliver, including in countries where people increasingly expect accountable leadership even in the absence of democratic rule.** This is a key point that few observers have yet grasped.

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A DYING CAUSE;  
IN FACT, IT IS POISED FOR A  
COMEBACK”**





# The 10 most democratic nations in the world (2020, world population review)

Norway (9.87)  
Iceland (9.58)  
Sweden (9.39)  
New Zealand (9.26)  
Finland (9.25)  
Ireland (9.24)  
Canada (9.22)  
Denmark (9.22)  
Australia (9.09)  
Switzerland (9.03)

So what are the Nordics,  
NZ / AUS, Ireland, Canada  
and SWITZERLAND  
doing right?





“Democracy is both fragile and resilient” (Madeleine Albright)

# Government at a Glance 2021 Country Fact Sheet



## Switzerland

Norway (9.87)  
Iceland (9.58)  
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Ireland (9.24)  
Canada (9.22)  
Denmark (9.22)  
Australia (9.09)  
**SWITZERLAND (9.03)**

**Switzerland's public finances remain solid, despite the impact of COVID.** Public debt in 2019, pre-COVID, was 41% of GDP, the sixth lowest among OECD countries (Figure 2.8). The primary structural balance is estimated at -0.8% of potential GDP in 2020, substantially above the average of -3.1% of potential GDP (Figure 2.6).

Chapter 2 – Public finance and economics

**Confidence in the national government in Switzerland is the highest among OECD countries.** In 2020, 85% of respondents reported trust in government in Switzerland, in comparison to an average of 51% among OECD countries. This is an increase from 2007, when the share was of 63% (Figure 13.1).

Chapter 13 – Core government results

**Switzerland is performing well in citizen satisfaction with healthcare, education and justice.** In 2020, a larger share of citizens in Switzerland than the OECD average reported being satisfied with healthcare (91% vs. 71% OECD average, Figure 14.1), education (83% vs. 68% OECD average, Figure 14.2) and having confidence in the judiciary (83% vs. 57% OECD average, Figure 14.3).

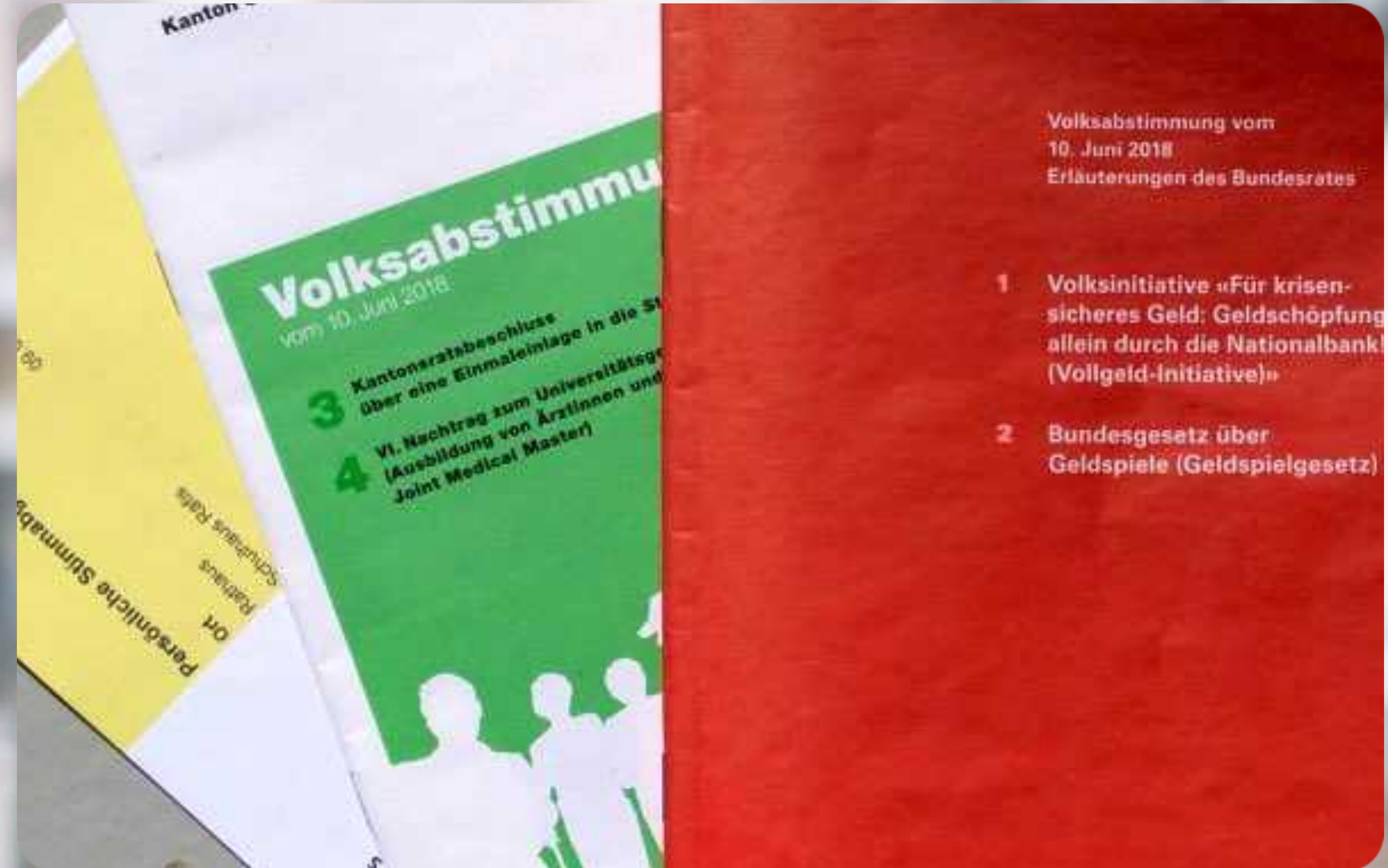






# “Democracy isn’t an institution. It’s a practice and it becomes stronger through use”

(Jeff Sparrow)





“Democracies face a new adversary: technology. Technology was once seen as a force for good, which could bridge the gap between the state and restless streets. Today, owned and controlled by large enterprises and extra-territorial governments, **that very technology sometimes undermines the foundations of democracy, where it functions as a public sphere and a vibrant information exchange**”

Samir Saran (ORF)



Facebook's products harm children, division and weaken our

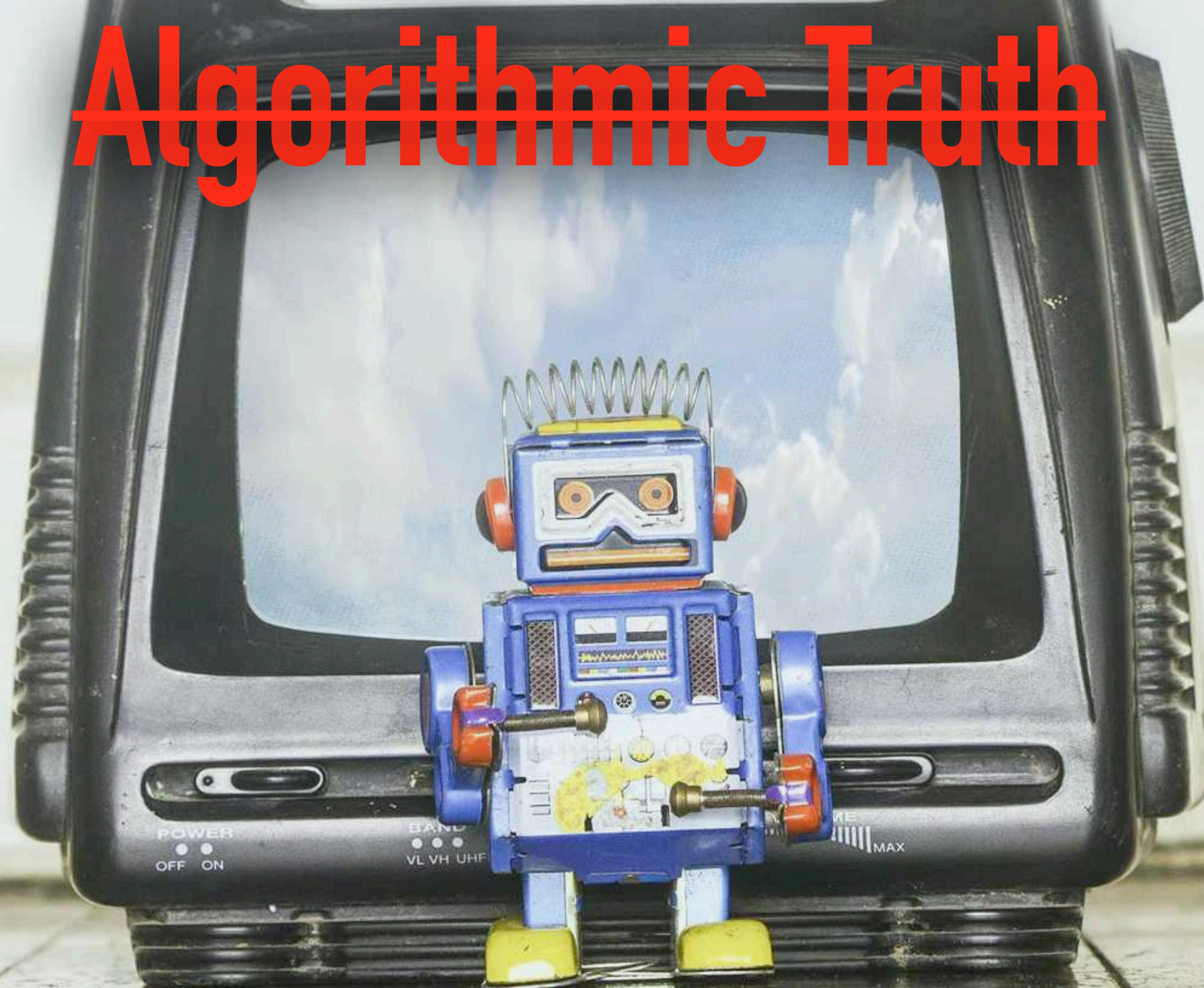


# A great recipe for the demise of democracy





# ~~Algorithmic Truth~~

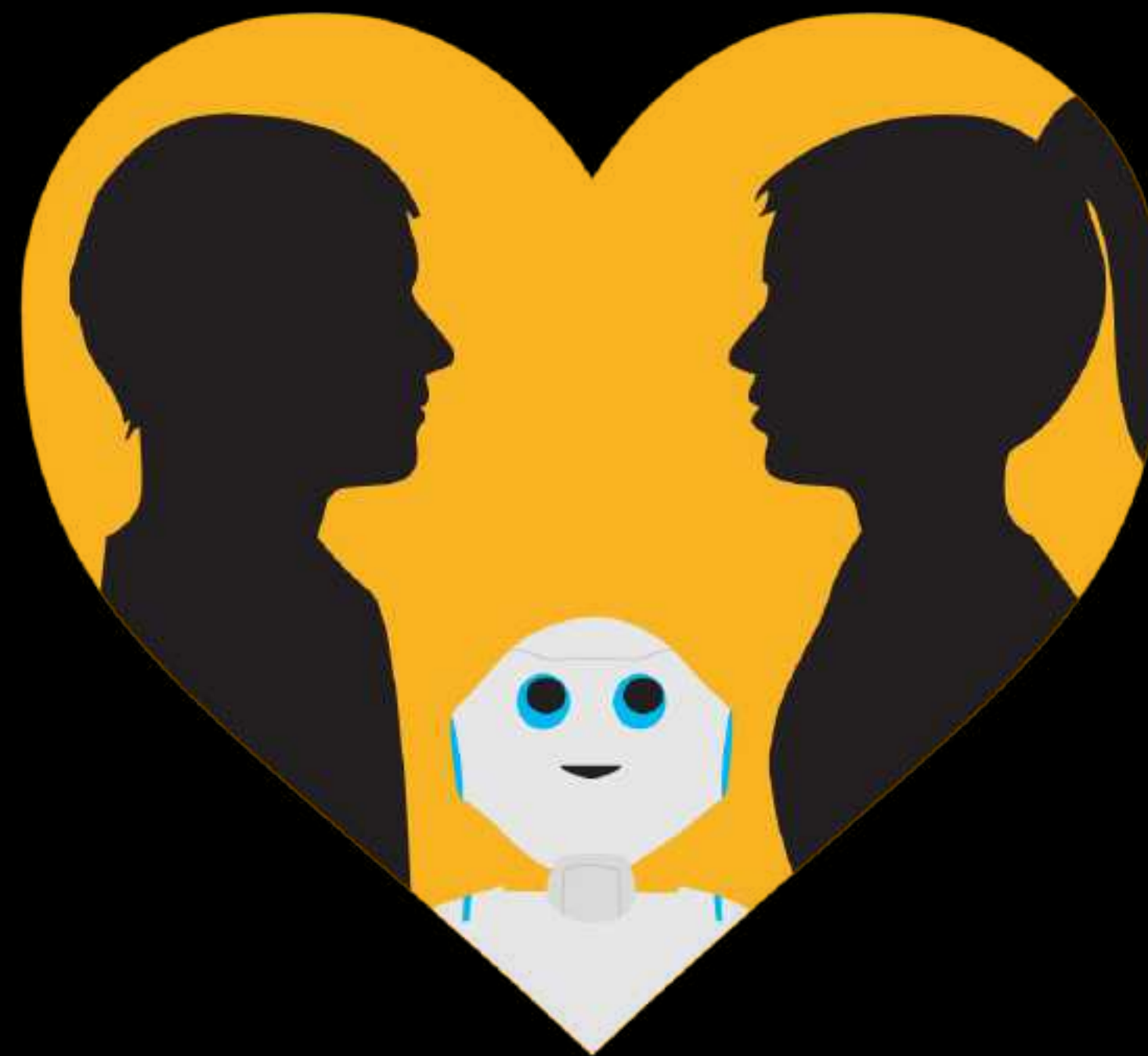




# The rise of the 'Machine World' is eroding our societies and endangering democracy

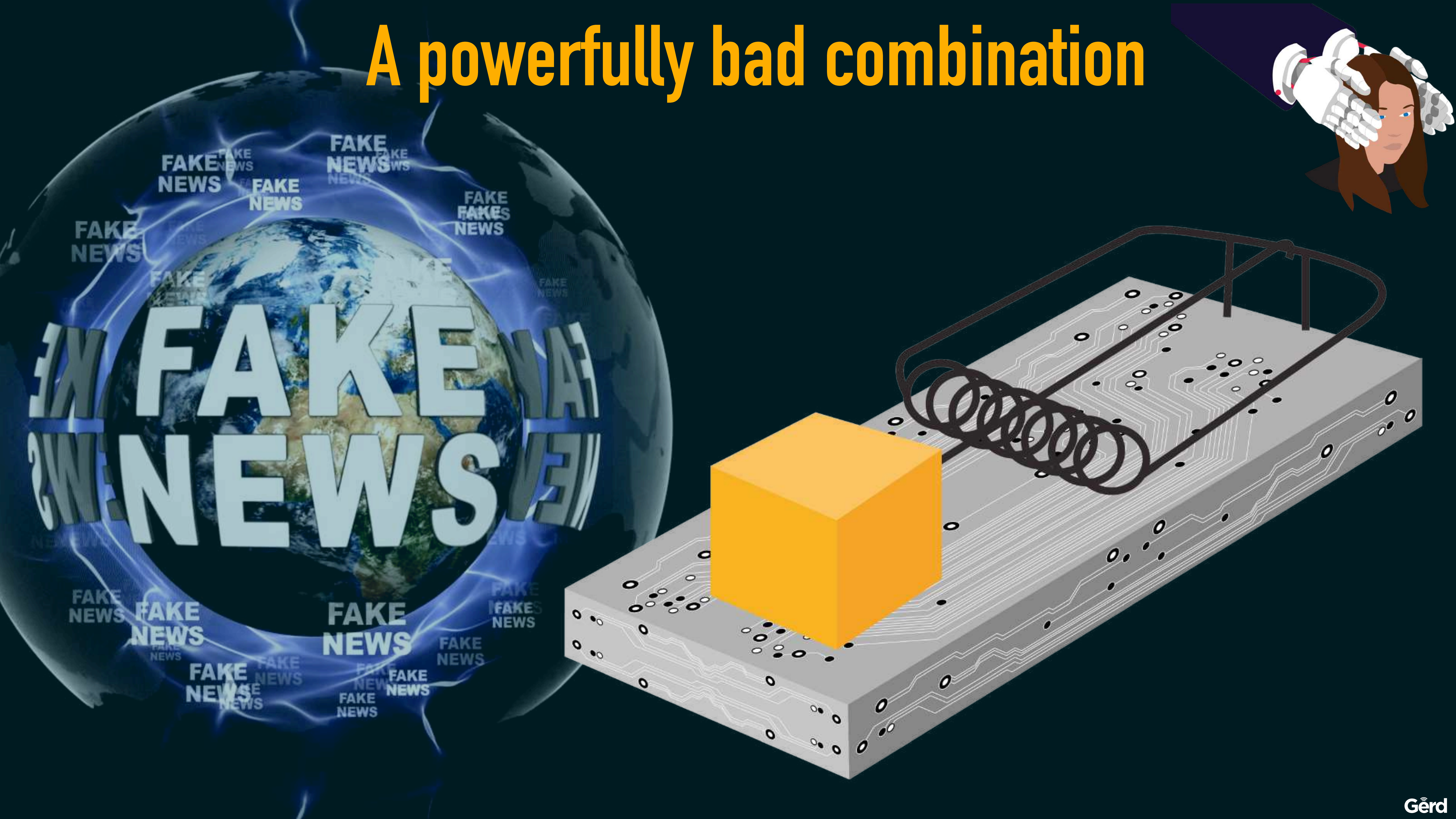








# A powerfully bad combination





# POLARISATION, STUPEFACTION and DEHUMANISATION

**Machines are binary**  
**Humans are multinary**

DATA\_TRANSFER\_01

US



# SIMULATION | ADDICTION | FAKE WORLDING

Too much of a good thing  
can be a very bad thing





# DISINFORMATION

how disinformation **poisons** our  
politics—and how to cure it

cheap  
speech

richard l. hasen





**Vox** “It’s hard to be a moral person. Technology is making it harder”





**Disinformation or Democratisation?**

**Polarisation or Collectivism?**

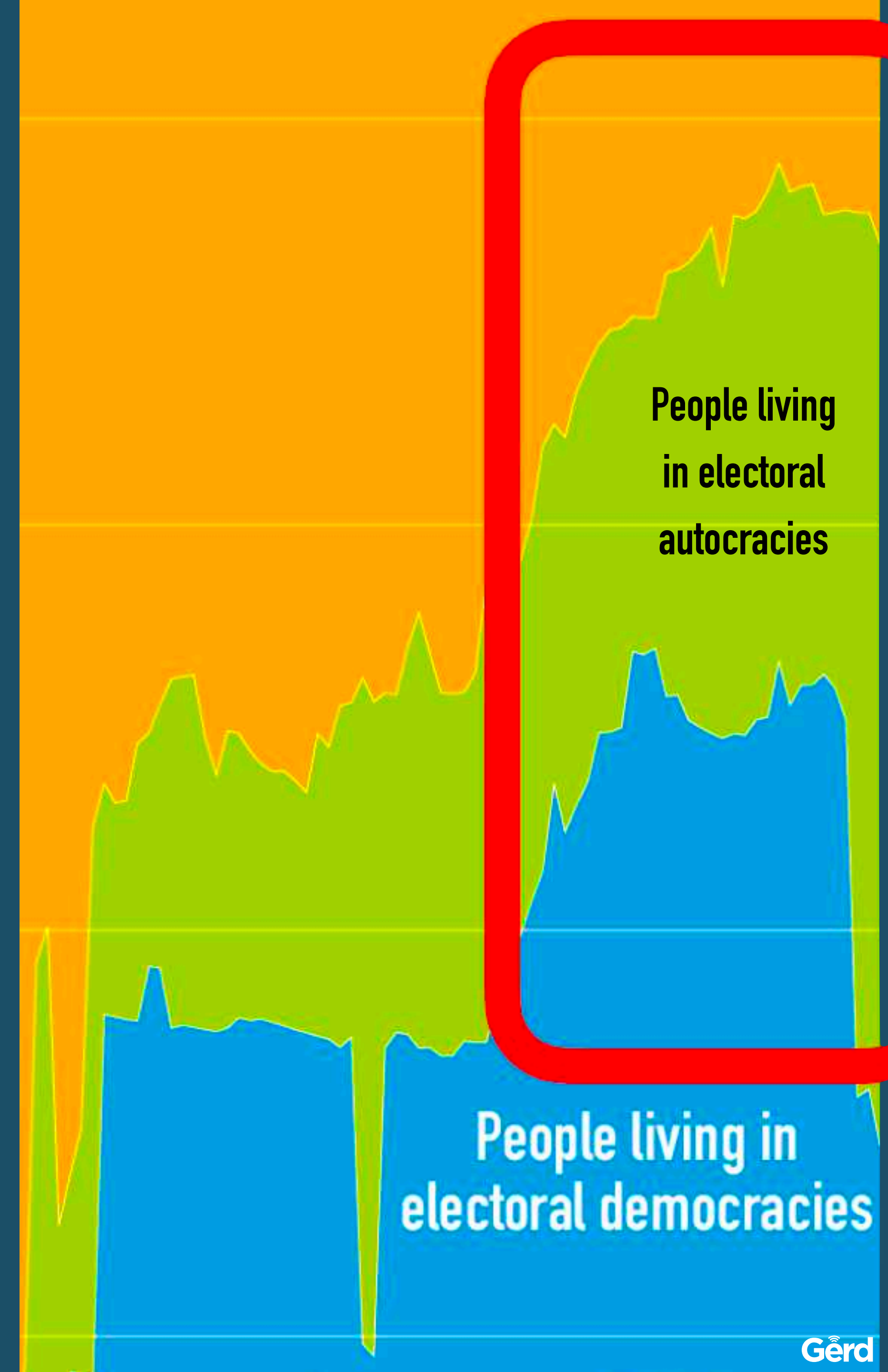
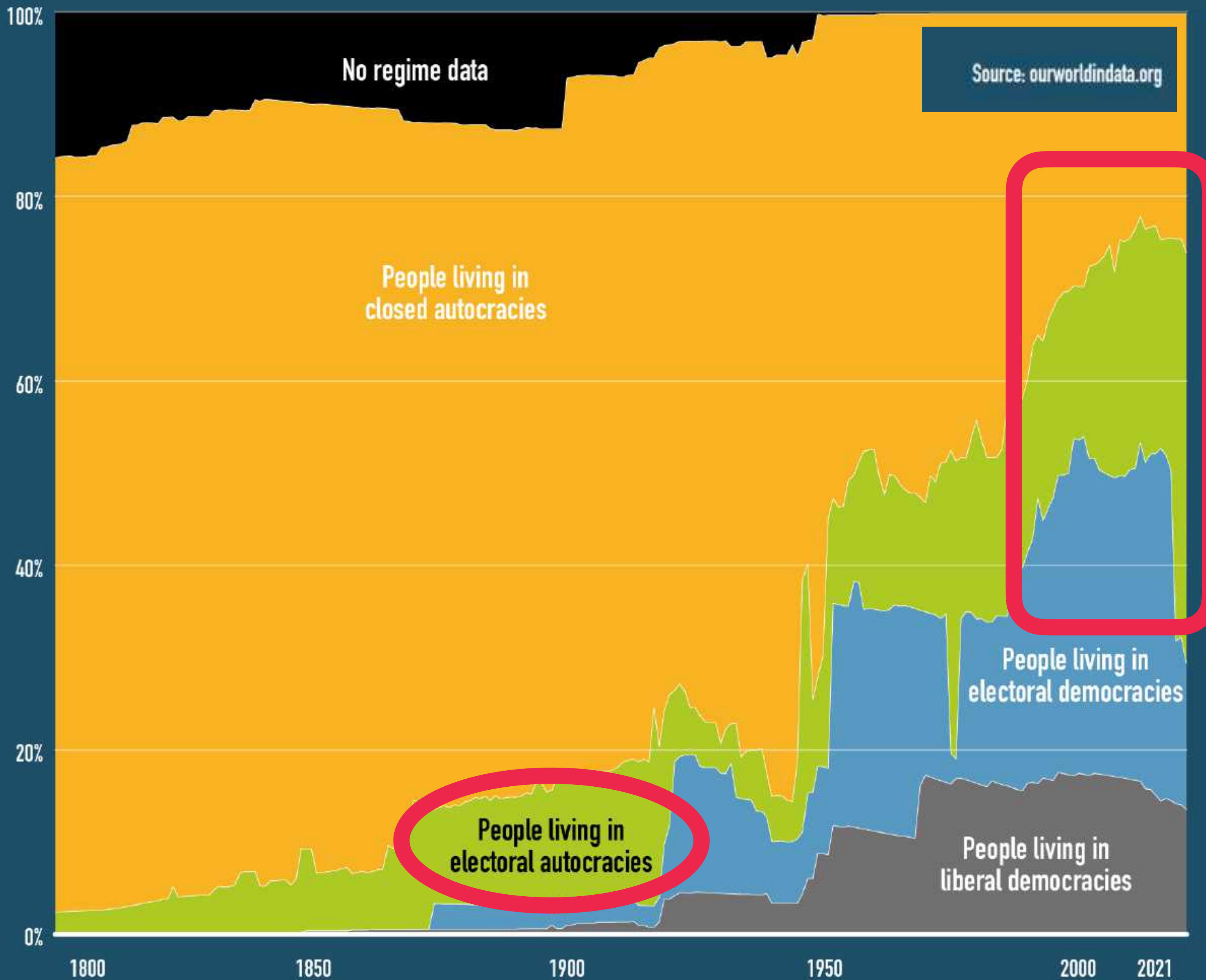
**Monetisation or Conversation?**

**Algorithms or Androrithms?**



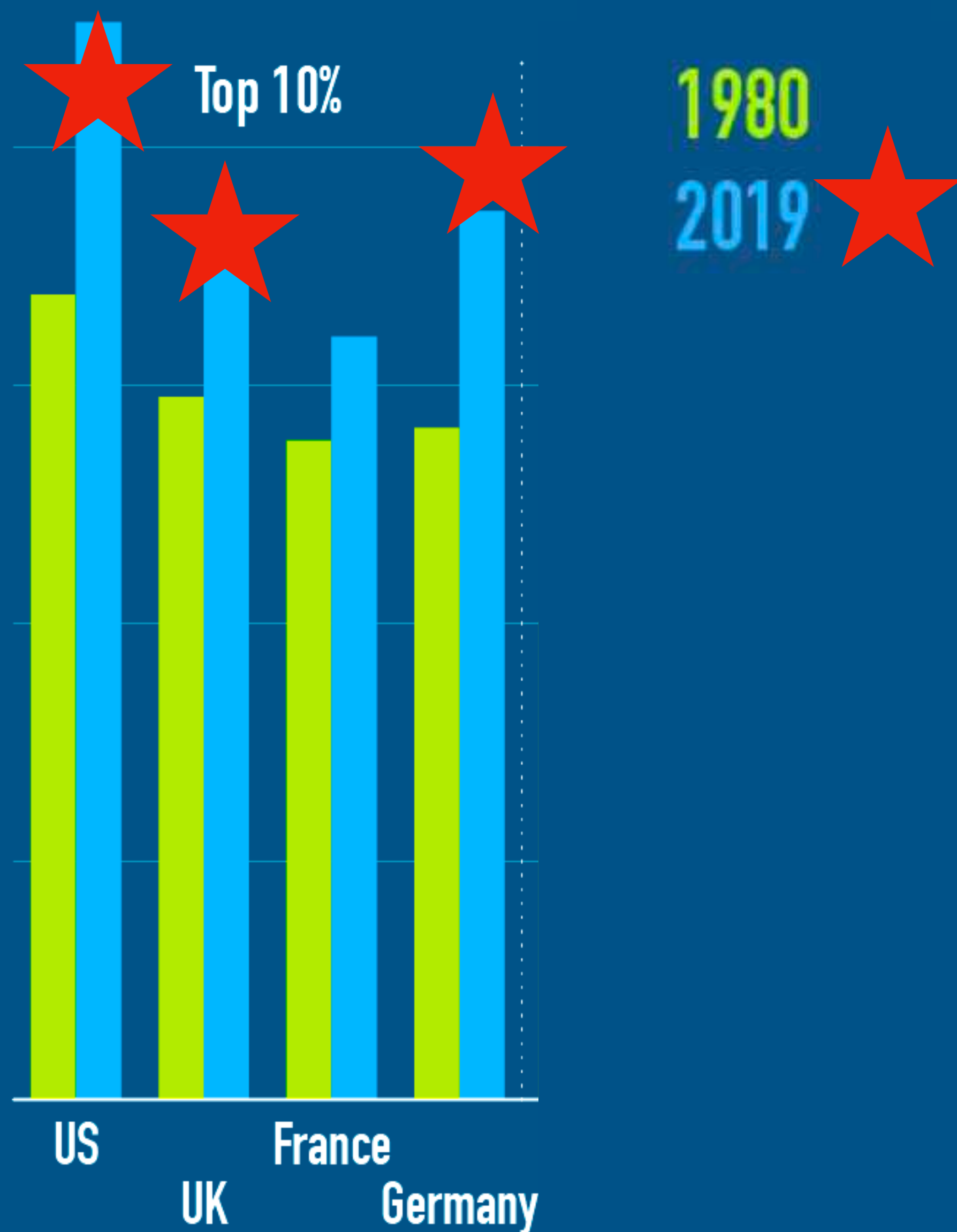


# WORLD CITIZENS LIVING UNDER DIFFERENT POLITICAL REGIMES



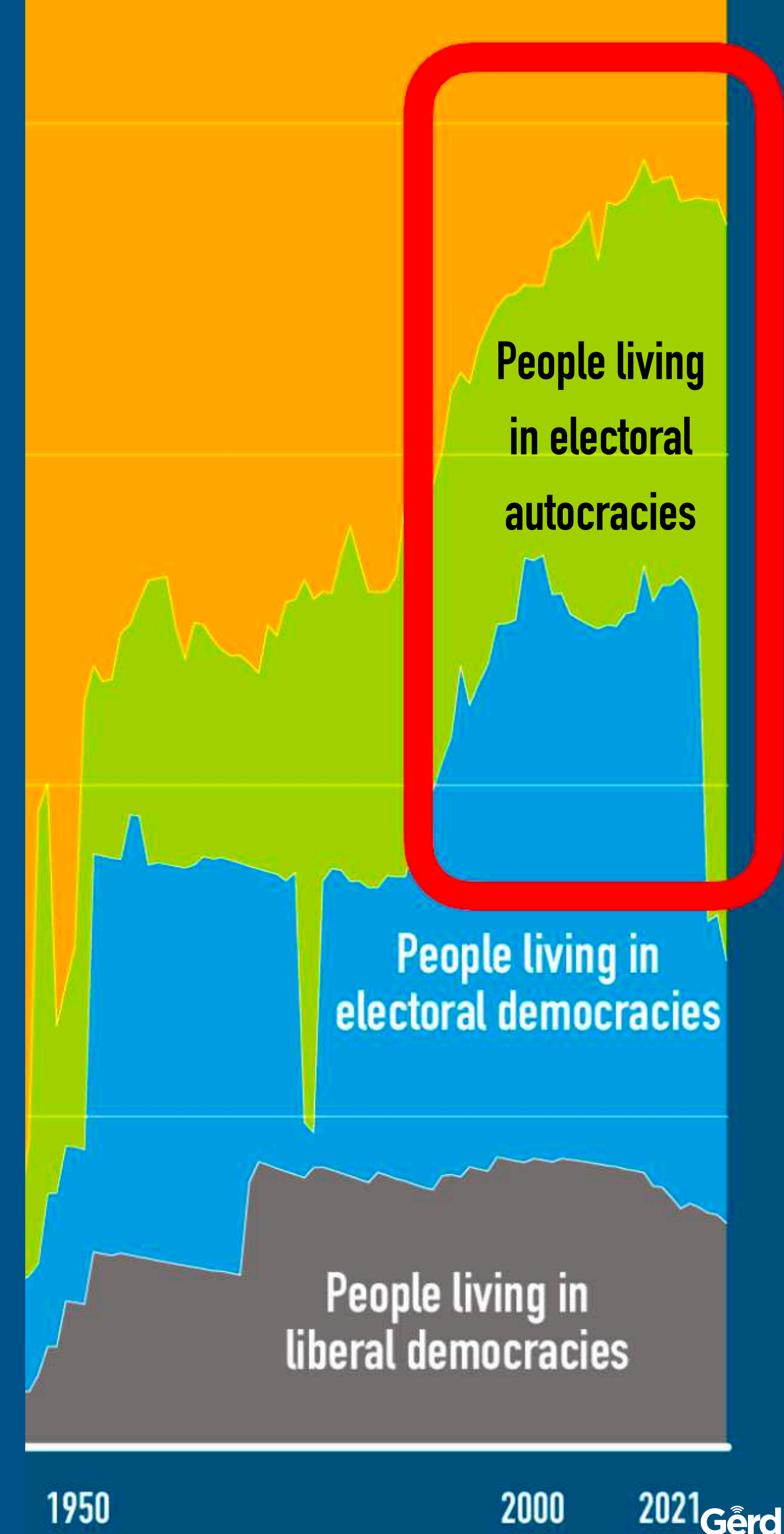


## SHARE OF INCOME (%) BY GROUPS AT TOP AND BOTTOM OF THE DISTRIBUTION



Source: World Inequality Database

Are you seeing a connection here, too?



Gerd



In 2020, during the pandemic, billionaires gained \$1 trillion, which went largely to Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk. Their gains were **greater than the GDPs of 139 countries.**

“If normal pay increase rates had remained unchanged during the past few decades, average American workers would be receiving \$100,000 per year instead of the \$50,000 they get today.

**In total, business moved roughly \$50 trillion from the working class to the top one percent of society.**





The image features a dark teal background with a subtle gradient. In the center, the text "Too much FRAMING by clueless algorithms" is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is framed by two stylized robotic hands, one above and one below. The hands are dark purple with red outlines and joints. Each hand has two fingers with yellow circular joints and a red rectangular sensor or light on the back of the hand. The hands are positioned as if they are holding or presenting the text.

**Too much FRAMING by  
clueless algorithms**



# Bring the humans back!





# New regulations to limit political “microtargeting”

Using intrusive data collected by social media companies to send political ads





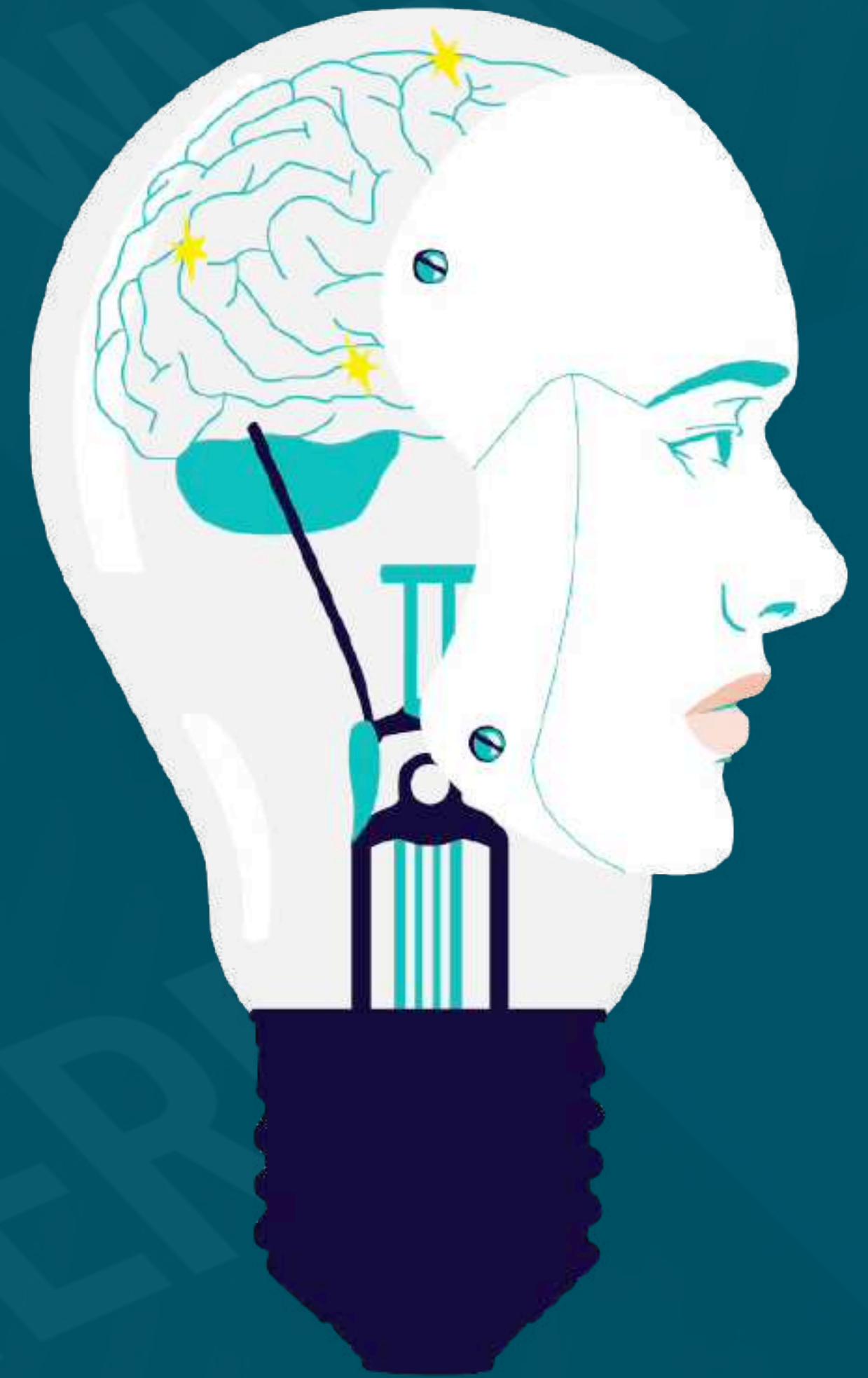
# Transparency and control of the algorithms

## RE-HUMANIZATION

Why do I see what I see?

Can I change what I will see?

Can I opt out of the feed algorithm altogether ?





**“We just cannot leave  
decisions which have a huge  
impact on our democracies  
to computer programs  
without any human  
supervision or to the board  
rooms in Silicon Valley”**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at  
the Munich Security Conference (via WSJ)

**and services that are safe and that respects  
European fundamental rights and values.**



# DEMO

# CRACY

PROFIT

GROWTH

PEOPLE

PLANET

PURPOSE

PROSPERITY



PROFIT

GROWTH

PEOPLE

PLANET

PURPOSE

PROSPERITY



**DEMOCRACY**

PEOPLE PLAN PR

PR



PEOPLE  
PLANET

DEMOCRACY

city

PRO



# “The wolf you feed is the wolf that wins”



**DEMOCRACY**

