

EPAS - Europe Day Assembly



Europe Day

A circular arrangement of twelve yellow five-pointed stars on a blue background, reminiscent of the European Union flag. The stars are positioned around the text, with some overlapping the letters.

9th May

Celebrating Democracy



Europe
Europe
Europe



The image features a stylized representation of the European Union flag. It consists of a solid blue rectangular background. Centered on this background is the word "Europe" in a large, bold, yellow sans-serif font. Above and below the blue rectangle, there are yellow stars. Specifically, there is one large star at the top center and one large star at the bottom center. On either side of these central stars, there are smaller, partially visible stars, suggesting a larger circular arrangement of stars as seen in the official EU flag. The overall composition is simple and graphic.

Europe





unity through
diversity

freedom of
thought

citizenship

Equality

Democracy

Justice

Human rights

Voting

freedom of
speech

A section of 100 pupils and their views on democracy



As you can see, there are some diverse thoughts represented here which shows the seriousness or contempt some people think about democracy. By the end of the assembly we hope to have engaged a few more of you.



EUROPE

DAY

9 MAY



Council of Europe



European Court of Human Rights



European Parliament



MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES

MEANING

The term 'may you live in interesting times' may sound like a polite phrase but it is actually quite the opposite. The term is used to wish someone chaos and disruption in their life.

ORIGIN

The phrase '**may you live in interesting times**' is believed to have its origins in an ancient Chinese curse. The idiom was also used in a speech made by Robert F Kennedy in the 1960s.

May you live in interesting times





demos

Greek

common people; district

kratos

Greek

rule, strength

demokratia

Greek

popular government



- **Idiōtēs**—a private person; a person not concerned about others



In ancient Greece the word "idiot" referred to people who were concerned only about their private affairs, were selfish and had not interest in public concerns at all

factECards.com

Democracy in Europe 1970-2020



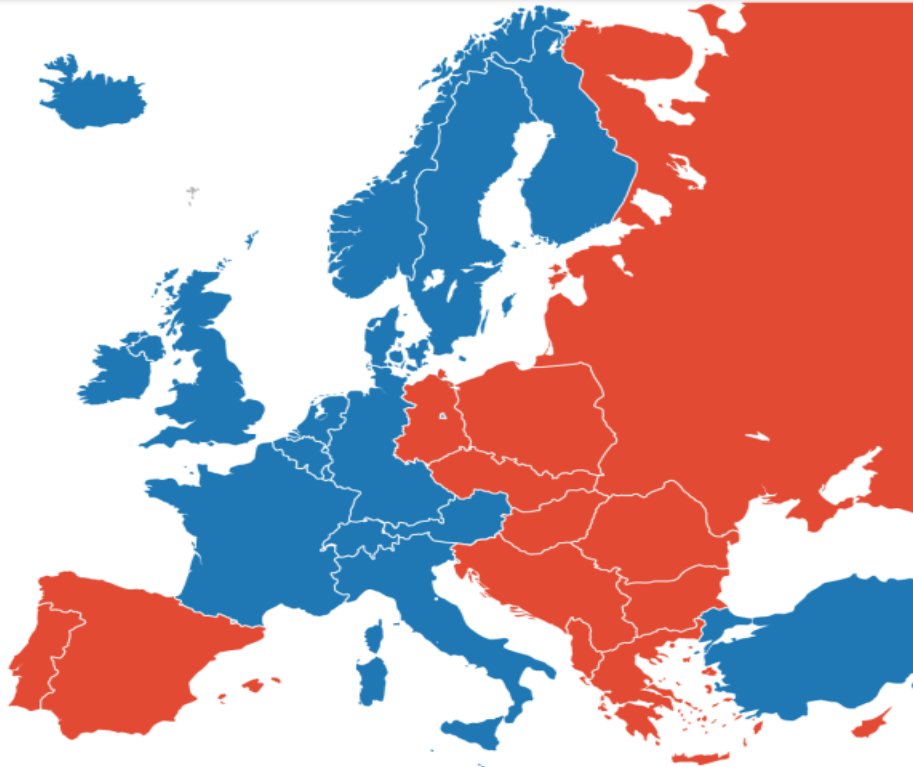
Landgeist.com



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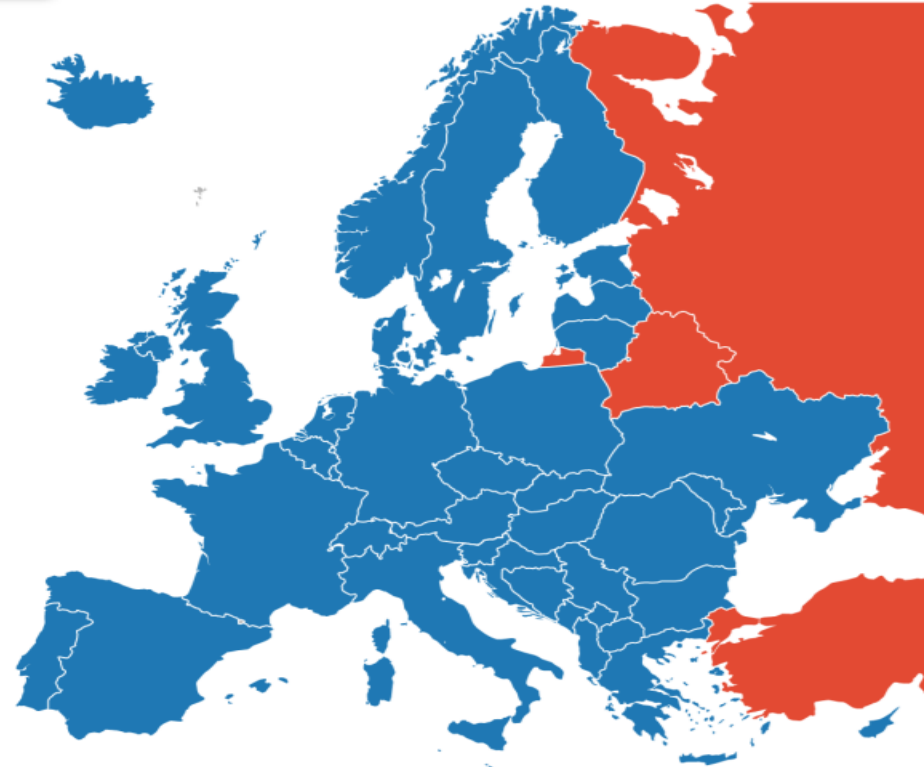
@Landgeist



1970



Democracy



2020



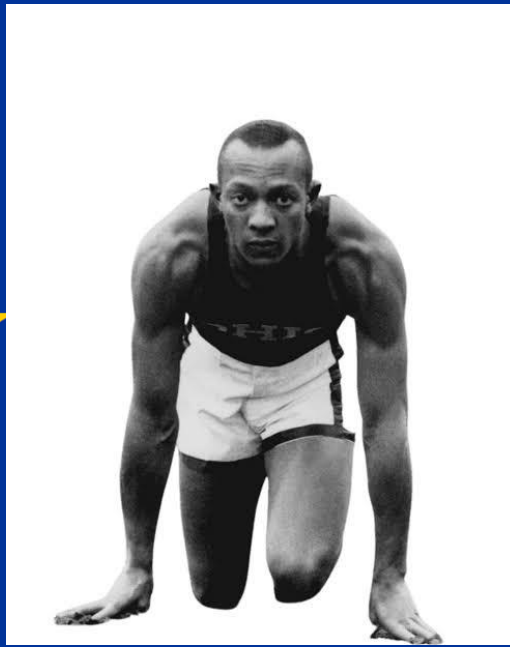
Non-democracy



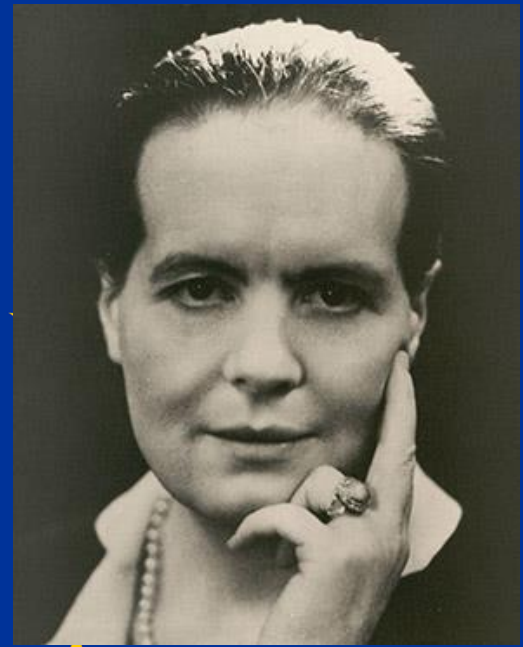
The Fall of the Berlin Wall signified a huge step
in the progress of democracy in Europe



Willem Arondéus



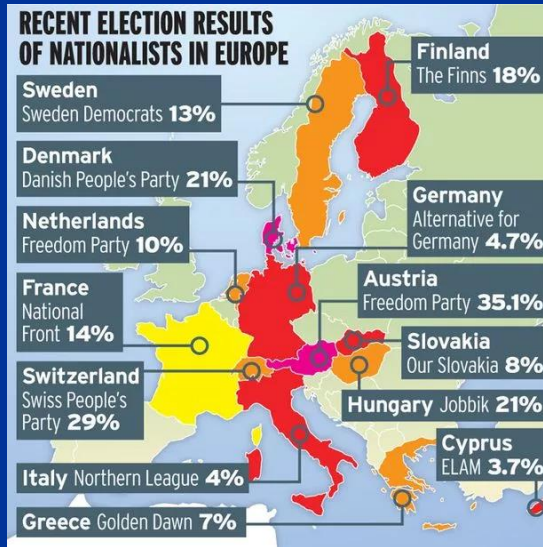
Jesse Owens



Louise Weiss

Look these people up and how they opposed authoritarian regimes and helped make democracy what it is today

The Rise of Authoritarianism and the Rise of Far-Right Movements



Where Europe's Far-Right Has Gained Ground

Share of seats held by the main far-right party in the national parliament of selected EU countries*



As of Nov. 23, 2023. Figure for the Netherlands is preliminary.

* Ideologically, these parties share a stance on nationalism, social conservatism and anti-immigration. Some parties may be part of a broader coalition.

Sources: Respective parliaments, YouTrend, Statista research



statista

The influence of money and corruption



Erosion of Democratic Norms

- Democratic norms like fair elections and rule of law are under pressure in parts of Europe
- Loss of trust leads to apathy and low voter turnout
- This creates space for extremist voices to gain influence
- Democracy depends on participation: vote, stay informed, speak up

Definitions:

- Rule of law – The idea that everyone, including leaders, must follow the law; laws are applied fairly and equally.
- Voter turnout – The percentage of eligible citizens who actually vote in an election.

The Role of Activism in Preserving Democracy

- Has a vital role in preserving and strengthening democracy
- Youth-led movements demonstrate that young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but also the catalysts for change today
- Youth activists are able to challenge the status quo and demand action from their governments



Youth led movements





Defending Democracy in Ukraine



Euromaidan



Mezhyhirya Residence



Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine



European Parliament Ambassador Schools Club



EPAS











**Democracy lives
through you.**

**Live up to the ideal
and choose your
future**