

Democracy

When a demos ceases to believe that the rights necessary to democracy are desirable, their democracy will soon become an oligarchy or a tyranny.

There is however, a more insidious route from democracy to oligarchy.

Even if most members of the demos continue to *believe* in the desirability of these fundamental rights, they may fail to undertake the *political actions* that would be necessary to protect and preserve those those rights from infringement imposed by political leaders who possess greater resources for gaining their own political ends.

Robert A. Dahl, *On Political Equality*