

Populism

A final and I believe valid ethical objection to the theory of populist democracy is that it postulates only two goals to be maximized — political equality and popular sovereignty. Yet no one, except perhaps a fanatic, wishes to maximize two goals at the expense of all others. ...

Political equality and popular sovereignty are not absolute goals; we must ask ourselves how much leisure, privacy, consensus, stability, income, security, progress, status and probably many other goals we are prepared to forego for an additional increment of political equality.

Robert A. Dahl,
A Preface to Democratic Theory