



The people in this country like to remind themselves that they are free. Perhaps they are in some existential sense, but our government certainly isn't any different than any other. What is the purpose of government? Many answers have been proposed quite reasonably. The traditional rhetoric says that governments are to protect the citizens from some common enemy; internal or external. This is not entirely without validity. We claim that our government is better than many others because the officials are elected by the people: why would the people elect someone who didn't have their best interests in mind? Obvious answers are that the candidates may be deceptive in their motives, but that doesn't universally argue against the democratic system. Obviously anything composed of people is going to have flaws. Another argument is that most people don't actually vote, so the officials don't actually represent the majority. While this is probably true, most of the people in practice have the choice to vote. Certainly many people have been socially prohibited from voting even when they have the right legally (for example Blacks in the south). This doesn't account for a majority at this point in time. The real flaw with the democratic process is secret ballot. ~~~ representative is elected to represent his constituents, however, he/she has no way of knowing who the constituents are) If I have some law imposed upon me against my will, it seems reasonable to at least know who it is imposing this upon me. Under a democracy I am not even allowed to know who it is that controls me. It is some majority, but where is this majority? Am I being governed by my neighbor; I really don't know. Representatives are faced with this situation to an even greater extreme'. Even if they are acting in best faith to make the laws that their constituents would want made, they don't know who these constituents are. They may be representing me or they may be opposing me, but how can they possibly

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knmv 'i."hih In making a low they cannot say 'I am acting in the name of my constituents'; they do not know who their constituents are. A representative can only say that she/he is acting in her own name. The inevitable conclusion is that we are ruled by a very small group of people, perhaps a few thousand people are the officials who control the entire country. These people may not represent me and may not represent my neighbor. This is no different from a dictatorship where the people are governed by a small group of people who may not represent the opinions of the people. In a democracy some people agree with certain laws and others disagree. In a dictatorship some people agree with certain laws and others disagree. The advantage seems to be for a dictatorship, in that the rulers can not deny credit for their actions, at least.