



ACADEMIA ENGELBERG

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### **Democracy in Decline?**

Crisis diagnosis of democracy is as old as democracy itself. It runs through philosophical and political thinking of the West like an unbreakable thread. It accompanied the beginning of the local democracy of Athens; it inspired the way of thinking of liberals and socialists during the creation of representative democracies of nation states in the 19th century and provides democracy with melancholic background melodies in times of globalization. “Post-democracy” as our future?

What is the point of crisis diagnosis? Is it primarily an invention of political theorists and can it hardly pass empirical examination? And if there was a crisis, would democracy have been in better shape in the past than it is now? Was democracy better off in Switzerland, in the United States and in Germany 50, 40 or 30 years ago than today?

These and further questions will be explored by the presentation and shall contribute to a differentiated dialogue on the condition of our democracies.