3 January 2019

A LA UNE

British parliamentarians and international lawyers call for access to detained female human rights activists in Saudi Arabia

Democrat Elizabeth Warren announces her candidacy for 2020 United States presidential elections and becomes Donald Trump's first major opponent.

Re-elected Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rejects opposition concern about vote-rigging allegations.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Ai Weiwei looks at the concept of human rights, its development throughout history and the role of individuals in upholding human values.

Bartłomiej Krzysztan analyses the elections in Armenia and their consequences that will determine the future of the country.

Max Walden dispels the rumour that Islam is incompatible with democracy, exploring the case of Malaysia and Indonesia.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Democracy for young people

David Runciman discusses how divisions between young and old are threatening representative democracy and proposes some ideas about how to save it.

EVENT

Why are some democracies so violent, and can they be made safe?

On 17 January, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law will host a conference to explore the factors behind violent democracies and how to make them safer.

10 January 2019

A LA UNE

During a third week of persistent protests, **Sudan's President al-Bashir rejected calls for his resignation** against the background of escalating violence and civil unrest.

More than **2,000 ethnic Kazakhs** have been allowed to abandon their Chinese citizenship and leave the Xinjiang region

Following a decision to expel a UN-backed anti-corruption commission, Jimmy Morales,**Guatemala's president, faces international condemnation.**

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Renata Avila analyses **data-driven electoral campaigns**, private vendors and digital marketing in order to identify ways to preserve free and fair elections.

Joshua Benton presents a compilation of journalistic predictions around the theme of **fake news in 2019**, questioning whether the quality of information will improve or not.

The Economist Intelligence Unit releases the latest edition of their **Democracy Index,** which assesses the global state of democracy in 2018 and includes findings and regional trends.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Democracy in crisis: what to watch in 2019

The Council on Foreign Relations' James M. Lindsay and Robert McMahon are joined by Brooking's Constanze Stelzenmuller to reflect on democratic backsliding and rising nationalism.

EVENT

Resilient democracy - a strong and diversecivil society

On 2 February, the European Economic and Social Committee will host a public hearing on the role of civil society organisations as stabilisers of democracy.

17 January 2019

A LA UNE

Thousands of people have gathered across Poland to mourn the death of **Paweł Adamowicz,** mayor of Gdansk since 1998. Adamowicz was a friend of the EPD Community and a strong defender of migrants and LGBT rights.

Authorities in **Montenegro have sentenced investigative journalist Jovo Martinovic** on charges of drug trafficking and criminal association that press freedom activists have described as false.

The outcome of the disputed presidential **elections in Congo** suggests fraudulent activity by Congolese institutions.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

New Eastern Europe honours Paweł Adamowicz by republishing an interview that was done with him in 2016 where he shared his **reflections on local governance** in Poland and Eastern Europe.

Ronald J. Deibert explores the **problems surrounding social media and political authorities** and how social media have been battered in recent years by growing concerns about disinformation, privacy breaches and the spread of harmful speech.

An article by Inés Pousadela in Open Democracy examines the **role of referenda** and analyses whether they improve democracy or not.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Deliberative democracy

David Runciman talks to Matthew Taylor about whether more deliberation could remedy some of the defects in contemporary democracy. What can deliberative democracy add to traditional forms of political representation and how might it actually work in practice?

EVENT

Europe for her

On 21 January 2019, the European Committee of the Regions will bring together a number of locally elected representatives, local leaders and experts, in order to discuss how women can be empowered at local level in both politics and society.

24 January 2019

A LA UNE

The government of Zimbabwe has continued to harass citizens despite the fact that the internet is now back on in certain parts of the country.

Protesters have filled the streets of Bangkok to demand quick elections to end military rule.

Hong Kong has moved to adopt a **controversial law on the Chinese national anthem** in the latest blow to freedom of speech.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Angelos Chryssolegos explores **North Macedonia's dispute with Greece** over its name-change and how it could lead to problematic aspects that might undermine democracy.

A number of academics discuss **democratic renaissance** and the need to engage in a continent-wide democratic debate on the deep crisis facing the European Union.

Marc Plattner analyses the intricacies of the **concept of illiberal democracy** and the dramatic change in the political-party landscape in Europe.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

What is democracy? A conversation with Astra Taylor

Astra Taylor, director of the documentary "*What is Democracy*?" discusses the principles of democracy and the challenges of democracy building against the background of profound political and social crisis.

EVENT

European decentralised cooperation in the spotlight at CoR

On 5 February, on the occasion of the Forum of Cities & Regions for Development Cooperation, Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Secretary General will present her new book on decentralised cooperation in Europe today and in the future.

31 January 2019

A LA UNE

South Korean governor KIm Kyoung-soo was found guilty of colluding with a blogger to artificially generate millions of likes and dislikes ahead of the 2017 presidential election.

In Honduras, **protesters rally against President** Juan Orlando Hernández to demand his resignation over controversial last elections.

Mahmoud Abbas accepts PM's resignation and excludes his political rivals Hamas and Islamic Jihad from the new government.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Richard Heydarian analyses how **populist leaders in Asia** might cement their grip on power regardless of upcoming elections on the continent.

The International Crisis Groups' **Watch List 2019** features a global overview of the countries and regions at risk of conflict or escalation of violence.

Ivan Krastev explores how the confrontation in the Balkans between the **European dream and the Russian influence** has evolved in the light of recent developments in the region.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Decentralisation

Government and democracy specialist Eguiar Lizundia discusses decentralisation and its effects on countries with John Tomaszewski.

EVENT

Using AI to fight disinformation in European Elections

On February 20, The Center for Data Innovation will host a conversation about how artificial intelligence combats fake news without silencing freedom of speech.

7 January 2019

A LA UNE

After 8 months of political crisis, rival parties have formed a **new government in Lebanon.**

Senegal's former president calls for the **cancellation of this month's presidential elections**, accusing current president Macky Sall of destabilising Senegalese democracy.

Political outsider Nayib Bukele has been elected as **El Salvador's new president** with anti-corruption slogans that have upended the country's traditional political landscape.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Freedom in the World 2019 features findings on the decline of global freedoms, particularly on political rights and civil liberties.

8 years after the Jasmine revolution, Tunisia's politics face a deadlock as oligarchic powers, corruption and economic hardship impede the country's reforms.

Larry Diamond explores how **big data and social media** might undermine democratic stability and promote authoritarianism.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Democracy and the illiberal temptation: a conversation with Marc Plattner
Marc Plattner discusses how populist leaders and authoritarians converge to exploit public trust in political parties and encourage alternative ways of governance.

EVENT

Truth of the matter: civil society perspective on democracy in Serbia

On February 19, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs will host a fact-based debate on the equality of democracy in Serbia, as a result of researches conducted by experts, academics and civil society representatives.

14 February 2019

A LA UNE

After **3 months of demonstrations**, Serbian citizens continue to express their dissatisfaction with the current government.

The appointment of Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as the **new head of the African Union** raises concern over the future impact on human rights and civil society engagement in the region.

A statue of independence hero General Aung San in Myanmar has led to **large protests and escalation of violent clashes** with police.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

As Nigerian voters will cast their ballot this week, Paul Okolo shares his reflections on the **state of play of democracy in Nigeria** and explores how to ensure fair elections.

The World Solidarity Forum analyses the **multifaceted aspects of social media** against the background of contemporary conflicts, wars and revolutions.

Scott Mainwaring offers a comprehensive analysis of **third wave democracies**, exploring the outcomes of democratic transitions and changing levels of democracy within consolidated democracies.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

China's cognitive warfare, with Rachael Burton

Rachael Burton discusses the Indo-Pacific region and more particularly China's geopolitical stance, its policy trajectories and its impact on neighbouring democracies.

EVENT

Spotlight on Georgia/ Five Years Later, Has the Association Agreement an Impact on Georgia's Democracy and Georgian Citizens?

On February 21, The European Endowment for Democracy will host a debate on the state of democracy in Georgia five years after signing the Association Agreement, as well as on the challenges and opportunities for EU support to civil society in Georgia.

21 February 2019

A LA UNE

Albanian opposition supporters are **protesting against PM Edi Rama** over allegations of corruption and the main opposition party have called for snap elections and further protests.

Israeli opposition leaders have announced the formation of a **centrist alliance to defeat PM Benjamin Netanyahu** in the upcoming elections.

After the initial **postponement of Nigeria's presidential elections**, the electoral commission warns about the importance of maintaining public trust in democratic elections against the background of vote-rigging narratives

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

In these two recent essays, Jean-Luc Nancy shares his reflections on **democracy, populism and neofascism.**

Julia Ebner analyses the role of **online conspiracy theorists in Europe** and how disinformation interferes with state elections, political parties, and social movements.

Nic Cheeseman provides a comprehensive analysis of the **state of democracy in Africa** and explores the implications for the future of the continent.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Democracy Is Troublingly Fragile

Ian Bassin, Executive Director of Protect Democracy, discusses the challenges in defending democracy against rising authoritarianism and democratic backsliding.

EVENT

25 years of Spitzenkandidaten: what does the future hold?

On March 5, The Martens Centre will host a public debate on the future of the Spitzenkandidaten system and EU democracy more broadly.

28 February 2019

A LA UNE

International election observers report **allegations of vote buying** during the parliamentary elections held in Moldova last Sunday.

Thousands of **demonstrators poured out in cities across Sudan** to demand the resignation of Omar al-Bashir, current president of the country.

Cubans ratified a **new constitution** on Sunday which reaffirms the role of socialism, while instituting modest economic and social change.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

International IDEA explores the contribution of the Global State of Democracy Indices to the review of **progress on the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The International Crisis Group's report on **the state of democracy** in Ethiopia offers an in-depth analysis of the country's internal opportunities and challenges in its unsettled transition.

Richard Youngs compares **Western and non-Western external democracy supports** and demonstrates how democracy dynamics are shifting.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

The Intersection of Globalisation and Polarisation

The Moisés Naím explores how authoritarian regimes and illiberal political actors have influenced the complex globalised information environment to benefit from societies that are grappling with increasing political polarisation.

EVENT

Populism as a Constitutional Project

On March 5, Prof. Paul Blokker will hold a webinar to discuss populism as a competing political force in the definition of constitutional democracy.

7 March 2019

A LA UNE

Tens of thousands of **protesters filled Algeria**'s streets for a second week over President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's decision to run for a fifth term in the upcoming presidential elections.

Facebook has banned foreign-funded ads ahead of **Ukraine's presidential elections** to avoid foreign interference in the ballot.

In response to a number of lawsuits filled against them, **Croatian journalists protested in Zagreb** last Sunday, urging PM Andrej Plenkovic to take concrete action to ensure freedom of press in the country.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Xiao Qiang explores **digital unfreedom** and digital totalitarianism in China, as well as internet censorship, high-tech surveillance and the social-credit system.

The Eastern Partnership Index 2017 provides an overview of the progress made by six Eastern Partnership countries towards sustainable democratic development and European integration.

Professor Yasmina Chouakri analyses the phenomenon of **violence against women in politics** and offers recommendations to improve women's participation in political life.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

The Nightmare of Surveillance Capitalism

Shoshana Zuboff and John Naughton share their reflections on technology and capitalism, exploring the phenomenon of surveillance power, as a threat to democracy and freedom.

EVENT

How to tackle rule of law backsliding in the EU?

On March 20, RECONNECT will host an expert panel to discuss how to strengthen the rule of law in the EU and prevent rule of law backsliding ahead of European Parliament elections.

14 March 2019

A LA UNE

A month before India's elections, **opposition leader Rahul Gandhi** has promised that government jobs and seats would be reserved for women if his party wins.

Prominent Venezuelan journalist **Luis Carlos Díaz has been released by intelligence services** after having been detained for reporting the country's escalating political crisis.

Thousands of Russians took to the streets of Moscow to **protest against a cyber-security bill** that would increase censorship and isolate Russia.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Valeriya Mechkova and Josefine Pernes explore the development of key aspects of **accountability in Southeast Asia and Southeast Africa**, namely the non-electoral aspects of citizen empowerment, civil society development and media freedom.

Sami Attalah and Sami Zoughaib analyse **Lebanon's Parliamentary elections of 2018** and explore recent trends such as women participation, the new electoral system, and party candidates.

The West Africa Insight provides an overview of the concepts of **statelessness, identity, and citizenship** in West Africa and offers some reflections on efforts to implement the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Aidan Eyakuze (Twaweza) on the crackdownon civic space in East Africa

Experienced civil society leader in East Africa, Aidan Eyakuze discusses the crackdown of civic space in Tanzania and highlights the challenges and the consequences for the country's civil society.

EVENT

Democracy Alive: The European Democracy Festival

From April 11-13, European Movement International, in partnership with the European Parliament, will bring together decision-makers, civil society representatives, trade unions, activists and citizens to celebrate European democracy ahead of European elections.

21 March 2019

A LA UNE

Thailand's first elections since 2014's military coup will mark the future of the country which has been undermined by political divisions for two decades.

Fake news and **online disinformation in Indonesia** are increasing ahead of upcoming presidential elections.

During a third month of persistent protests, **thousands of citizens in Serbia** continue to demand President Aleksandar Vucic's resignation and commitment to ensure press freedom and civil liberties in the country.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

The European Partnership for Democracy has published a new analysis of the state of democracy support in policy and funding of different European states. This contribution is part of a series of research papers **reviewing European democracy support** at a time of increasing challenges to democracy worldwide.

The policy brief by International IDEA and Open Government Partnership discusses the importance of **transparency in political finance** and campaign spending, providing further recommendations based on the authors' experience.

Rui Tavares takes his readers to the **2049 European elections** and to a future EU where democracy and human rights are fundamental values in citizens' everyday life.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Silent Revolution: The Transatlantic Policy Debate Over AI

Karen Kornbluh, director of GMF's Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative and Michel Servoz, special adviser to European Commission President Juncker for robotics share their reflections on artificial intelligence and society, investigating the life-changing effects of new technologies.

EVENT

The European Media Literacy Week

From March 18-22, a number of events will take place in Europe to promote the importance of media literacy. The European Media Literacy Week will offer a unique opportunity to attend high-level conferences and workshops around the topic of media literacy.

28 March 2019

A LA UNE

Under a **new Russian law,** an 18 year-old-man has been the first person punished for encouraging minors to participate in an unauthorised demonstration.

In Saudi Arabia, **11 women activists are undertrial** for sharing information on women's rights and for their campaign against male guardianship in the country.

Thousands of Belarusian citizens marched in the streets of Minsk to celebrate the unofficial "Freedom Day", some of which have been detained because of accuses against President Lukashenko.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

The 2018 Annual Report of EuropeanEndowment for Democracy provides an overview of the different political environments in which EED operates and a number of initiatives supported by EED to strengthen democracy worldwide.

In Republika Srpska, the Serb entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Darius Khalan takes evidence from **local journalists living in fear** because of the region's polarised political climate.

The World Press Freedom Index warns about an unprecedented trend towards hatred of the media and journalists that plagues not only authoritarian regimes but also an increasing number of democracies.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Computational propaganda

Nick Monaco reviews the history of online disinformation, providing contemporary examples of state-led disinformation in different regions of the world.

EVENT

Democracy Drinks - ACTIVE MEASURES – will Putin "elect" in Europe?

On April 10, Defenders of Democracy, a community of civil society professionals, organises the European premiere of Jack Bryan's documentary movie "Active Measures" exposing Russian operations to disrupt international politics.

4 April 2019

A LA UNE

Civil society groups warn about the deterioration of democratic rights in Tanzania, namely freedom of assembly and association.

The Republican People's Party scored a historic victory in Turkish local elections against Erdogan's ruling party which faced the first political setback after 16 years of uninterrupted power.

Romania's special agency for the investigation of magistrates announced further criminal charges against Laura Codruta Kovesi, Romania's former anti-corruption prosecutor and a favourite to become the European Union's first fraud prosecutor.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Assem Dandashly and Gergana Noutcheva explore the unintended consequences and impact of EU democracy support in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Mark Scott and Laurens Cerulus reveal how political discussions over the upcoming European elections are dominated by far-right groups who use social media to amplify their anti-establishment views.

As the last few years have seen a surge in disinformation and election meddling in Europe, Liisa Past and Keith Brown argue how Estonia stands out as the country that is winning the cyber-war against disinformation.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Digital Authoritarianism

Alina Polyakova explores how authoritarian states have exploited social media and technology to consolidate power at home and disrupt democracy in their neighbourhood.

EVENT

2019 European Elections: The Case For and Against the EU

On 10 April, Politico will hold a groundbreaking event on the upcoming European elections at which experts, journalists and polling leaders will have a chance to express their opinion on the future of the European Union.

11 April 2019

A LA UNE

Abdelkader Bensalah has been confirmed as Algeria's new interim president by the state authorities after the resignation of Abdelaziz Bouteflika amid heated protests for political change.

Pro-democracy activists have been condemned by Hong Kong's court for their participation in the 2014 Occupy Hong Kong protests, prompting international condemnation and concern over further prosecution of peaceful activists in the autonomous region.

After a month of political uncertainty caused by the sudden resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's interim president **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev promises free and fair elections** will be held in June.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

International IDEA reports on **cryptocurrencies and political finance**, discussing some of the ways digital money flows could be abused for financing political campaigns for elections.

Rob Cameron comments on a recent **interview with Slovakia's newly elected president Zuzana Caputova** and analyses the controversies and successes surrounding her struggle against populism in the country.

Alissa de Carbonnel and Katie Paul discuss **Facebook's measures to ensure transparency in political advertising** ahead of upcoming European elections against the background of EU authorities' instigation of foreign interferences on social media.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Index on Censorship Magazine: is there a global crisis for local newspapers

Lewis Jennings discusses the importance of local news reporting in holding the executive power accountable with 5 special guests sharing their reflections on China's social credit system, community news in India and Zimbabwe, local editor's fears for the future and a new and successful local paper.

EVENT

EU Democracy Support in Africa in an Era of Uncertainty: What do African citizens expect and what can we learn from it?

On April 30, The European Think Tank Group organises a discussion on the effectiveness of European democracy support in Africa, taking stock of African citizen's expectations and perceptions of external democracy support and concluding with further discussions on ways to develop EU-Africa cooperation on democracy and human rights.

18 April 2019

A LA UNE

 Sudan's military-led transitional council concedes to protesters' demands to dismiss top officials, arguing for an 'inclusive dialogue' while protesters expressed their determination to remain in the streets until the military hands over power to a civilian government.

The Nicaraguan government **has released 636 prisoners detained during last year's protests** against the background of mass mobilisation for peace and freedom of assembly in the country.

The EU grants high-level protection to whistleblowers, providing safeguards for their reporting actions while acknowledging their key role in informing citizens and preventing breaches of the rule of law.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

A new research paper by the European Partnership for Democracy analyses the relevance, complementarity, consistency, and impact of **European Democracy Support in Zimbabwe**. This study is part of a wider assessment of European democracy support conducted by EPD and its members.

The International Crisis Group complements its annual **Watch List** with updates on identified conflict situations concerning tensions between Israel and Palestine, Mexico and the Korean peninsula while offering recommendations for the EU.

Elizabeth Economy analyses state-society relations in China **30 years after Tiananmen**, sharing her reflections on the current climate of political repression while reviewing the efforts undertaken by Chinese civil society to push for a fair and transparent Chinese political system.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Global Ethics Weekly: Finance for Social Change & #MeToo

Criterion's Institute Christina Madden discusses her work on global financial systems, looking at how the power in those systems can be used to create transformative social change.

EVENT

Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS): How to Run a Digital Parliamentary Election Campaign

On April 25, Center for European Policy Studies organises a training session on digital parliamentary election campaigns, with Google's EU Civics Outreach Fellow David Tims offering tips on how to leverage digital tools while ensuring that political campaigns are managed safely.

25 April 2019

A LA UNE

Opposition politicians and international observers question the credibility of this week's **referendum on amendments to the constitution proposed by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** that will now grant him with extended powers and the possibility to run again for a six-year term.

In Myanmar, the court's decision to reject the final appeal of **two Reuters journalists imprisoned for their reporting of the Rohingya crisis** triggers concerns over the state of democracy in the country.

Ugandan popstar-turned-politician Bobi Wine reaffirmed his intention to run for the next Presidential elections and declared that he will lead peaceful protests in the country after his shows were abruptly cancelled, sparking protests that were reportedly repressed by the state authorities**.**

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

The Center for International Media Assistance reports on **the crisis of independent media and the role for international assistance,**reviewing some obstacles faced by donors and providing recommendations on how to make media development support more effective.

Loes Debuysere comments on recent **protests for social justice in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood** and analyses what lessons the EU can draw from Algeria's removal of President Bouteflika, stressing the need for the EU to engage with local civil society rather than elites.

Konstantin Skorkin analyses **Volodymyr Zelenski's victory in Ukraine's presidential elections** and the challenges he will face in dealing with the country's internal and external struggles.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

The Copernican Principle

David Runciman talks about the future of democracy and looks at how a principle from cosmology can help us understand where we are in the evolution of democracy.

EVENT

The Maastricht debate 2019

On 29 April, The Maastricht debate invites lead candidates of the European political parties for the role of European Commission President to debate their plans to tackle some of the concerns of EU voters.

02 May 2019

A LA UNE

Benin's democracy is under attack according to civil rights groups after parliamentary elections were held without opposition candidates and without internet.

Last Sunday's protests in Hong Kong were the largest in years according to pro-democracy groups as tens of thousands of people marched against a law that could allow the extradition of political dissidents to China.

Venezuelan opposition supporters demonstrated in large numbers in the country a day after Juan Guaidó's call for military support has been answered by violent clashes with government forces.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Barbara Von Ow-Freytag takes a look at **Russia's new social awakening**, arguing that Russian's attitudes towards the government are shifting as a wave of discontent rises in the country.

Chien-peng Chung discusses **democratisation in South-Korea and inter-Korean relations**, studying South Korea's democratic transition and the sources of change in inter-Korean relations.

Mario Arulthas analyses **ethnic and religious grievances in Sri Lanka**, exploring past and new tensions between the country's religious communities.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Political Party Fatigue

Francesca Gortzounian speaks with International Republican Institute's Europe Program Director based in Slovakia, Thibault Muzerges, who draws on extensive experience with political parties across Europe to explain why citizens are turning away from the traditional political party system.

EVENT

Ceci n'est pas un Sibiu

On 6 May, Carnegie Europe and The Open Society European Policy Institute organise a discussion ahead of the Sibiu Summit in Brussels to refocus the debate about the future of Europe on topics linked to environmental, demographic and technological transformations.

9 May 2019

A LA UNE

Singapore's fake news law sparks outrage among the country's opposition party and rights groups who express concern over the possibility that the government's extended powers might infringe freedom of speech.

The Guardian and local media have exposed documents that link one of Vladimir Putin's close allies to a **Russian strategy to influence South Africa's general elections**, which took place on Wednesday.

Turkey's electoral authorities have ordered a rerun of the mayoral race of Istanbul won by the opposition party last month, representing a major setback for the rule of law and a weakening of the already fragile democratic institutions in the country.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

Kurt Bassuener reports on **foreign authoritarian influence in the Western Balkans**, assessing the impact of authoritarian regimes' foreign investment on the region's political development.

The International Crisis Group analyses **Cameroon's anglophone crisis**, identifying ways in which the Cameroonian government, international organisations, and citizens can support a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

In a Foreign Policy article, Arjun Bisen argues that **disinformation is drowning democracy**, exploring the issue of micro-targeting and political advertising in India, Indonesia, and Brazil.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Talking Politics: A Mockery of Democracy?

David Runciman invites Catherine Barnard, Chris Bickerton and Helen Thompson to discuss what European elections mean for Brexit and what the UK vote means for democracy.

EVENT

The role of the European Parliament in Human Rights

On 15 May, The World Solidarity Forum organises a panel discussion on the role of the European Parliament in Human Rights, exploring the achievements of the EP as a sponsor of people's fundamental rights and democracy during the 2014-2019 legislative term, as well as some of the challenges for the next five years.

16 May 2019

A LA UNE

Venezuelan members of parliament have been accused of treason and conspiracy over their support for Juan Guaidó, days after the military closed off the National Assembly and issued similar accusations against other lawmakers.

Liberian politicians have called for a demonstration in June so as to present their demands to President George Weah, sparking fears of violent escalation among the international community.

Thailand's anti-junta parties are pushing for political change after the appointment of pro-military senators by the ruling junta a month after the elections.

DEMOCRACY LIBRARY

John Harris studies how **online political campaigning in India's election** not only enabled voters but has also paved the way for the spread of lies, fakes, and hate speech by political activists.

The Center for International Media Assistance studies how **social media taxes in Uganda**have impacted the circulation and production of independent news and the ability of journalists to report on news in the country.

Sergio Grassi analyses why Indonesia's elections have been labeled as the '**world's most complex polls**' and assesses the role of identity politics, religion and populism in the electoral campaign.

DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Al Jazeera Inside Story: Is a smooth transition possible in Sudan?

Imran Kahn discusses Sudan's transition deal and the recent cases of reported violence against demonstrators who have been protesting for weeks demanding the ruling military to hand over power to a transitional council.

EVENT

To feel politically represented: what does it mean, what does it take? The democratic challenge of social inequalities facing political participation.

On 21 May, the Institute of European Studies organises a seminar to discuss political representation and the feeling of unfairness in political representation, reviewing how methods and projects can help to tackle this issue.