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IN RECENT DECADES, THE ALLURE OF DEMOCRACY AS THE ULTIMATE FORM OF GOVERNANCE HAS PERSISTED GLOBALLY. CELEBRATED AS THE PINNACLE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY PROMISES LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND THE COLLECTIVE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, BENEATH ITS SHINING VENEER LIES A COMPLEX REALITY THAT CHALLENGES ITS EFFICACY AND SUSTAINABILITY. THE PHRASE “DEMOCRACY THE GOD THAT FAILED” ENCAPSULATES THE GROWING SKEPTICISM ABOUT WHETHER DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS CAN TRULY DELIVER THE STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND JUSTICE THEY VOW TO UPHOLD. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTHS AND INHERENT WEAKNESSES OF DEMOCRACY, EXAMINING WHY MANY ARGUE THAT IT HAS, IN SOME CASES, BECOME AN INEFFECTIVE OR EVEN DETRIMENTAL FORM OF GOVERNANCE.

UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY: ORIGINS AND PRINCIPLES

THE ROOTS OF DEMOCRACY

DEMOCRACY, DERIVED FROM THE GREEK WORDS “DEMOS” (PEOPLE) AND “KRATOS” (POWER), TRACES ITS ORIGINS BACK TO ANCIENT ATHENS AROUND THE 5TH CENTURY BCE. WHILE EARLY VERSIONS FOCUSED ON DIRECT PARTICIPATION, MODERN DEMOCRACY EMPHASIZES REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEMS THAT ALLOW CITIZENS TO ELECT LEADERS AND INFLUENCE POLICY THROUGH VOTING.