

Heather O'Connell
East Asian International Relations
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UK Referendum: Just When Should the Majority Rule?
The Collapse of Western Democracy
Response

The first article this week was about whether or not a simple majority rule is an appropriate method for making major decisions for a country, specifically in the aftermath of Brexit. There are a number of factors that are causing people to rethink whether simple majority is actually an accurate representation of the people's opinion, such as regional distribution, turnout percentage, successive votes, and the size of the gap between the winning and losing vote. Although some people believe that the vote should have more guidelines—such as sixty percent turnout to ensure people's voice, two successive votes to ensure the opinion sticks, and a supermajority win to ensure “most” of the voters agree not just the “majority”—this could also make change more difficult and frustrate people to the level of taking other drastic action.

The second article was about how democracy no longer exists in Western governments. Instead, the author says that other private interest groups have more control over the direction of the government than the people. Apparently the established view in the West is that the people do not have the proper qualifications to make political decisions. As a result, many Western governments are acting more for the benefit of the private interests than their own people. The author says that evidence of this is seen in an unwillingness to accept democratic outcomes and failing to be concerned about the good of the people.

In my opinion, I think that a bare majority win is extremely difficult to accept because barely winning means that about half the population is in opposition to the idea and will likely resist. Even if it is difficult to achieve a supermajority vote, I think that the outcome would be more stable and therefore create less resistance (but there will always be those who are unhappy with the outcome). As for the second article, I believe that a government is an establishment for the people and acting on behalf of the self-interests of private groups is not the purpose of a government at all. I think that private interest groups are a part of society so there is some necessity for them to have a voice as well, but that voice should be weighted no differently than the voice of the people.