**Why is populism not consistent with liberal democracy?**

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…But there is another piece to the populist story, which is less formal but no less important, and it goes to the heart of the practical meaning of popular sovereignty, the rule of the people…When we say, "We, the people," what do we mean?

We didn't always mean, "We, all the people," did we? We, the white people; we, the male people; at some point early in our history, we, the property-owning people, etc. The democratization of the United States has taken the form of the steady expansion of the perimeter of "the people," and so it comes closer and closer to corresponding to "the people" as a totality.

As you look at populist movements everywhere, what you see is that when they say "the people should rule," they don't mean all of the people. They always mean some of the people: the people who look like us, the people who speak the same language as their first language, people of the same ethnicity, people of the same religion, people who have been in the country for a long time as opposed to these newcomers. The idea of "the people" in the hands of the populists is always partial and exclusionary. Another way of putting this is that populism tends toward one single popular will of one homogeneous people. Populism is a threat to [liberal democracy](https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/liberal-democracy) because populism is opposed to pluralism, and modern liberal democracy is inherently pluralistic. That's the case I want to make in one sentence.

1. Based upon your knowledge of political science, what is the definition of liberal democracy?
2. According to the author, why is populism a threat to pluralism? Do you agree or disagree with the author on his assessment?
3. Explain an example of populism as a threat to liberal democracy.