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### Key Attributes of Democracy:

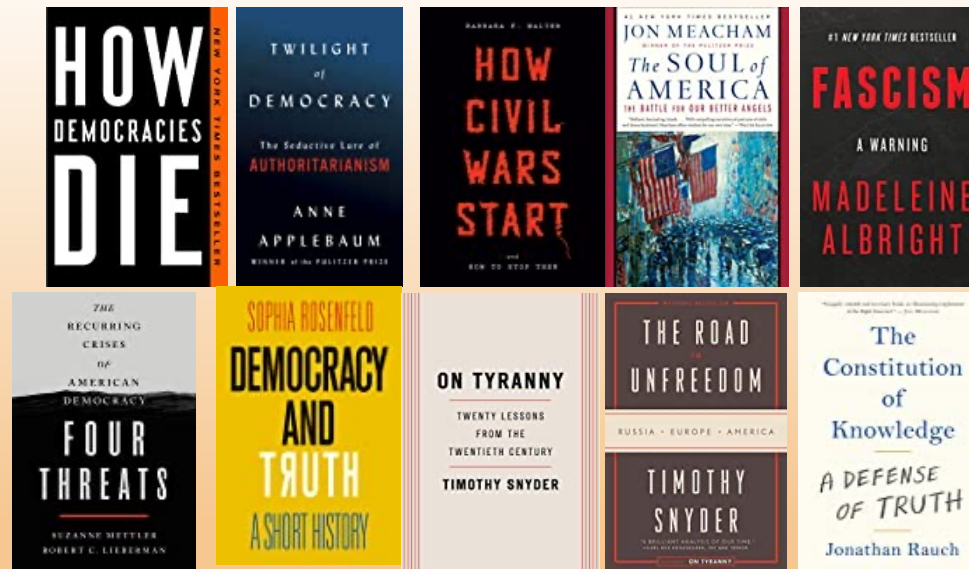
1. Regular free and fair elections that provide accountability and enable the peaceful transfer of power between competing factions;
2. The rule of law – the idea that societal and governmental decisions are made according to well-established rules that apply to everyone, regardless of their status or position, and administered impartially by the courts;
3. The protection of core individual rights such as the freedom of speech and association, the right to vote, and freedom of the press, which enable full participation in society and advance other democratic ideals.

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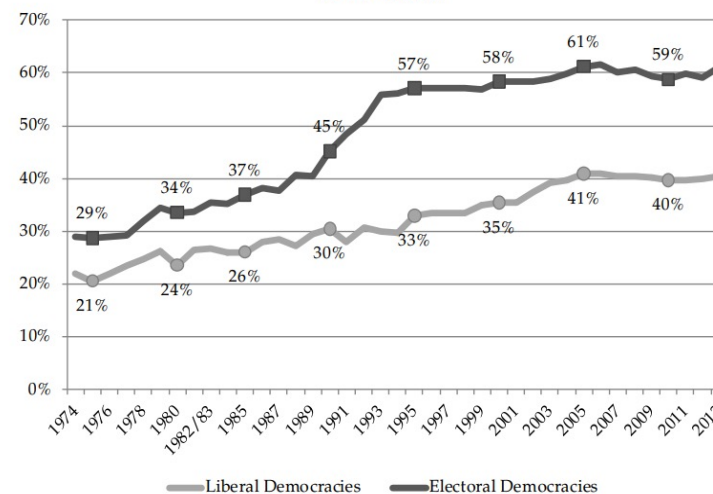
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**FIGURE 1—THE GROWTH OF DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD, 1974–2013**



Diamond, Larry. Facing Up to the Democratic Recession, *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 26, Number 1, 141 Jan. 2015

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