

La crisi della democrazia e la regressione oligarchica

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Crisis of Democracy and Oligarchic Regression

Abstract: The hypothesis of this paper is that contemporary democracy is going through a oligarchic regression. Several aspects of this regression can easily be noticed: on the whole, the places where political decisions are taken have grown less and less penetrable to the demands coming from the citizens; they are undergoing a process of verticalization that empties out the traditional, institutional forums of discussion (parliaments and political parties) in the favour of the executive branch and of political leaders; the most relevant decisions are removed from the national political arenas, to be reclaimed by supra-national institutions characterized by a weak or non-existent democratic accountability. These processes of “sterilisation” of democracy have unavoidable repercussions: they generate in the population forms of resentment, antipolitical thrusts, and a variety of irrational drives. It makes no sense, however, to denounce “populism” if one does not first reflect on the reasons that have fostered their success.

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