

Democracy is a flawed system for African Americans (Evans, 2006)

To social critic Mari Evans, democracy is a flawed system. It is based on a tenet where an identifiable minority, clearly distinguishable from the majority population, is not supposed to be in control of itself.

As an African American, Evans writes about skin color being a visible and ever present referent which is not supposed to be able to overturn or impede the controls applied to it. She frames democracy (majority rule) as a concept of systemic powerlessness and a paradigm for colonization—which she defines as suppression and exploitation designed to keep a people “powerless, mystified, dependent and subordinate.”

The question for Evans is: How does an identifiable minority population survive a political system based on a commitment to the controls/processes it has in place to ensure its own survival? Mari Evans suggests:

- Envision a peaceful world of acknowledged, cherished differences.
- Demand governments be flexible, balanced, and creative in ways for diverse groups to share controls.
- Realize the inability to affect power is a lack of cohesiveness, consensus, focus, and direction.
- Leverage to achieve goals through courage, intellectual freedom, energy, and focus.
 - Blacks also organize, monitor elections, deliver the vote, and form coalitions with other minorities

Reference

Evans, M. (2006). *Clarity as Concept: A Poet's Perspective*. Trenton, NJ: Third World Press.

From: A history of democratic education in American public schools <https://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/A-history-of-democratic-education-in-American-public-schools.pdf> See Appendix C, pp. 112-113.

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