

Chapter 1 : Liberal Democrats - Wikipedia

*The Liberal Democrats want to give you the final say on the Brexit deal. You should be able to choose whether the deal is the right deal for Britain's future. If it's not, then you should be able to reject it and remain in the European Union.*

Democratically elected governments were routinely flouting liberal principles, openly violating the rule of law, and depriving their citizens of basic rights and liberties. Today, many believe that we stand on the precipice of an existential crisis. In a bracing new book, the former secretary of state Madeleine Albright even warns of a revival of fascism. There is a growing consensus that American democracy itself is at risk. There is a danger within: Americans are becoming complacent about democracy, losing interest in their traditional ideals. Liberalism has failed, writes Patrick Deneen. A spate of books, articles and opinion pieces talk about its demise, but their authors speak past each other or around in circles, because they are using different definitions of the term. How can we have a proper discussion about liberal democracy when we are not speaking about the same thing? The problem concerns more than semantics. The confusion of terms leads to confused thinking. Their opponents easily exploit the verbal ambiguities. For this we need to understand its history. One common mistake is to conflate liberalism with democracy. The two concepts are not synonyms. For most of their history, they have not even been compatible. Some have interpreted this to mean direct political participation by all male citizens. Others have taken it to mean a representative system based on the suffrage of all male citizens. Either way, however, well into the 19th century, the majority of liberals were hostile to the very idea of democracy, which they associated with chaos and mob rule. Indeed, it would not be wrong to say that liberalism was originally invented to contain democracy. Certainly, the founders of liberalism were no democrats. Benjamin Constant stood for strict property qualifications for both voting and officeholding. The French revolution proved to liberals like him that the public was utterly unprepared for political rights. People were ignorant, irrational and prone to violence. The most democratic phase of the revolution had also been the most bloody. New words were invented to name his pseudo-democratic regime. They form alliances with religious authorities to prop up their regimes. They take their countries into useless wars to distract people from their treachery, while they enhance their own power, line their own pockets and enrich their friends. Worst of all, they corrupt their people by tricking them into participating in their lies. Alexis de Tocqueville also had deep misgivings about democracy. Two additional French revolutions, one in and the other in , followed by another Napoleon, depressed him greatly. It proved once again that the masses were easy prey for demagogues and would-be dictators catering to their lowest instincts. Early liberals like Constant and Tocqueville spent much time thinking about how to counter the perils of democracy. Limits had to be placed on the sovereignty of the people, the rule of law and individual rights guaranteed. But good laws would never be enough, since a popular strongman could easily pervert or simply ignore them. The survival of liberal democracies required a politically educated citizenry. Constant travelled around France instructing French citizens about the principles of their constitution, their rights and their duties. He published articles and delivered speeches for the same purpose. He fought valiantly for the freedom of the press. Across the world, democracy is in crisis. It required public spiritedness and a sense of community. Constant agonized over the political complacency, moral apathy, and selfishness that he saw all around him. Only dictators profited from such vices. How to counter the moral degradation? They thought about this as well. The commitment of public-spirited elites was essential. They must redouble their efforts to counter the cynicism that was turning people away from the public good. It is a sad sign of the times that such statements sound so naive or ring hollow today. The truth is that we still have much to learn from the founding fathers of liberalism, who lived through an existential crisis of their own. They knew about the tendency that democracies have to become illiberal. Let us heed their lessons. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *The Lost History of Liberalism*:

**Chapter 2 : Liberal Democrats (UK) - Wikipedia**

*Letters: Clegg's move to Facebook is mistimed, says Michael Meadowcroft, and Mark Doel doubts he'll improve Facebook's record on theinnatdunvilla.com Daniels will miss his sincerity, while David.*

However some have said that he is weak and deferential in the role, and think it unlikely that they will pass many motions at Party Conference. He is tipped by many for a future ministerial career, much to the annoyance of some of his colleagues who view his fast rise up the greasy pole with suspicion. It was announced this year that him and his MP wife Jo Swinson are expecting their first child. She annoyed many Lib Dems with her stance on equal marriage, but after Nick Clegg and Charles Kennedy she is probably their most recognised face on TV. His robust stance and experience on fighting elections as the leader of a minority party in government makes him uniquely useful. More recently, has provided valuable support behind the scenes to Michael Moore on the delicate negotiations over the Scottish referendum. His quiet, low-key appearance belies a willingness to confront difficult decisions and his time at party HQ has been winning plaudits for careful management of scarce resources. This year he oversaw the move and restructuring of Lib Dem HQ which was widely hailed as a success. A Research Associate at CentreForum, Tall is usually more at home with the politics of David Laws than of Simon Hughes, but rarely picks factional fights, being a critical friend of the party who prefers to talk up its achievements rather than knock them down. Despite leaving the Liberal Democrat Voice blog as Co-Editor, he remains a regular contributor to the site. His daily email bulletin is a must read for senior Lib Dems and politicians alike. He left his job at Lib Dem HQ to take up a position with a communications consultancy, but is still a figure of influence behind the scenes. He returns this year because of his post as Vice Chair of the key election manifesto group. How right we were. In September of this year she joined her boss on the red benches. He tried very hard to oust Clegg, and get him replaced by Cable but failed miserably. Although his outspoken nature appeals to certain sections of his party, most are now fed up with his constant criticism. One commentator recently described him in one word: Foster has flourished in government as one of the Lib Dem spokesmen on the Olympics. Last year he joined the Department for Communities and Local Government, with special responsibilities for building regulations. His current pet project is to try and halt the spread of betting shops on the high street. She keeps Nick Clegg in check and has an important role as his gatekeeper. Jo is a crucial link between the leader and the parliamentary party and works closely with Jonny Oates on strategy and negotiating within the coalition. His role as Senior Political Adviser puts him in contact with the grassroots of the party, day in day out, and ensures that Nick Clegg keeps in touch with the party at all levels. Matthew advises the Leader and his office on party feeling and is crucial in ensuring the leadership stays connected with the party. He attends all the important meetings with Clegg and senior party figures, but his judgment is often called into question. He has achieved power and influence at a very young age. McGrory got into a bit of hot water this year for using his civil service email address for party political reasons during the Eastleigh by-election. He was the first President of the merged party, presiding over both its calamitous early years and the beginnings of revival. A serial rebel, he has built himself a reputation in Parliament as the enemy of the whips. Recent causes include anti-intervention in Syria, calling for an EU referendum, and more strangely contributing to a book titled Liberal Democrats Do God. In it he was described as "one of the most respected politicians of his generation". An experienced media performer, he is mostly seen commenting on the foreign policy issues of the day. Since being made a peer in he has been invited by the Home Secretary to oversee the government review of counter terrorism and security powers. Popular with colleagues of all parties, he is a staunch defender of civil liberties on the red benches. Saunders has worked for the Lib Dems for over a decade, and has been one of their leading voices on banking reform. A former barrister, Verjee also established The Rumi Foundation in , which supports a range of humanitarian initiatives, including working with The Clinton Foundation to provide new schools for 3, children in Uganda. In Gilbert was appointed as the PPS to the Energy and Climate Change Secretary, despite helping to lead the pasty tax rebellion after the post-budget fallout. She is renowned for knowing her own mind, with a thick skin in contrast to her stylish looks. Clegg definitely seeks her advice and pillow talk in this

household is likely to be highly political. She is credited with a huge improvement in the effectiveness and relevance of party communications. He was imprisoned in Egypt for four years for being a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir, which was banned in the country. The Top 25 most influential Liberal Democrats

*Liberal Democrats are a significant part of the Democratic party in the USA. They tend to be Social liberals. Liberals comprise 25% of the overall electorate, and 86% of American liberals favour candidates of the Democratic Party.*

Nick Clegg History The Liberals became a recognizable political party in the mid-19th century. Dedicated to the extension of civil rights and social welfare, they were the principal opposition to the Conservative Party until the rise of Labour in the early 20th century. Almost from the very founding of the SDP, the Liberals and Social Democrats were allied with each other, presenting themselves as the alternative to a polarizing choice between radical Labourites and Conservatives. The Alliance gained 23 percent of the vote in but still suffered from the electoral system and widespread criticism that it lacked a coherent identity and program and an effective leadership. On March 3, 1988, the two parties formally merged as the Social and Liberal Democratic Party, and in the party adopted the present name. Paddy Ashdown, a former Liberal and a member of Parliament for Yeovil Somerset, was elected the first leader of the new party in July. He sought to ensure that the new party fully supported free-market economics and was not encumbered by predilections for controversial policies, such as wage and price controls, to reduce unemployment. At the same time, he laid out a program that had a radical and reformist edge. The initial portents for such an approach were far from promising. The Liberal Democrats won only 6 percent of the popular vote in elections to the European Parliament in June and trailed badly in national opinion polls. Although they won only 17 percent of the national vote, they more than doubled their parliamentary representation to 46 seats. In 1992, however, Kennedy resigned after admitting he was an alcoholic, and Sir Menzies Campbell was elected party leader. Amid growing concerns that Campbell was too old to lead, he stepped down in 1993 and was succeeded by Nick Clegg. In the event, however, the Liberal Democrats finished a disappointing third, winning 57 seats, 5 fewer than in 1992. One of the conditions secured by Clegg when the coalition was finalized was the promise of a referendum on the adoption of the alternative vote system. That poll, held along with local elections in May 1997, proved disastrous for the Liberal Democrats. Not only was the alternative vote referendum soundly defeated, but the party lost hundreds of local council seats, and its representation in the Scottish Parliament dropped from 16 seats to just 5. The junior partner in the previous governing coalition won just eight seats, and Clegg—“one of the few senior Liberal Democrats to retain his seat”—resigned as party leader. Led by Farron, the Liberal Democrats gained 4 seats to reach a total of 12 seats in the June snap general election called by Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May. Farron then stepped down as party leader and was replaced by Vince Cable in July. In particular, they have laid great emphasis on issues of constitutional reform, including electoral reform, devolution of state authority from the centre to the regions, reform of the House of Lords, and the need for freedom-of-information legislation and a bill of rights. The Liberal Democrats take a left-of-centre stance on educational and social issues and are committed to European integration. After the elections, the Liberal Democrats sought greater cooperation with the governing Labour Party, forming an informal pact on areas of agreement, including European integration and constitutional reform. The Liberal Democrats are an amalgam of their predecessors in organizational terms. Displaying the federalism of the Liberals, they operate separate but parallel English, Scottish, Welsh, and Federal party structures. In policy making, the Federal Conference, which meets twice a year, is formally sovereign, though much of the decisive influence over policy proposals put before conference is wielded by the Federal Policy Committee an innovation derived from the SDP, which consists of the party leader, the party president the chief extraparliamentary figure in the party, and representatives of the parliamentary party, the national parties, the local councillors, and the grassroots organizations. It consists of the party leader, the vice presidents, members of Parliament, local councillors, representatives of the national parties, members elected by the Federal Conference, and various other members. There are a number of incentives for rank-and-file members to participate in party affairs, chief among which are the right to elect the party leader and president, the right to vote in any consultative policy referendum called by the Federal Executive, and the right to participate in the selection process for parliamentary candidates. The national party organizations draw up lists of approved candidates from which

local parties can select their own shortlists; the national parties can remove names from the approved lists at any time. The party regularly wins the votes of about two-fifths of all managers, professionals, and nonmanual employees; approximately one-quarter of manual employees; and one-fifth of self-employed individuals. Geographically, some regions of relatively concentrated Liberal Democrat voting are recognizable, especially in the so-called Celtic fringes of Scotland and southwestern England. Financially, the Liberal Democrats are the most poorly funded British party:

### Chapter 4 : Liberal Democrats | HuffPost

*Liberal Democrats, British political party founded in through a merger of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party, or theinnatdunvilla.com the middle ground between the dominant Labour Party and the Conservative Party, the Liberal Democrats occupy a centre-left, libertarian position.*

### Chapter 5 : FACT CHECK: Patton Pending

*The Liberal Democrats (often referred to as the Lib Dems) is a liberal British political party formed in from a merger of the Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), a splinter group from the Labour Party which had formed the SDP-Liberal Alliance from*

### Chapter 6 : What does Liberal Democrats mean?

*A liberal is someone who believes in liberalism, which is political and ideological philosophy. Liberals have a wide array of viewpoints, but generally support freedoms and equality.*

### Chapter 7 : Top 50 most influential Liberal Democrats: - Telegraph

*Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, a political party in Russia, also known as Liberal Democrats Liberal Democratic Party of Ukraine, a political party in Ukraine, also known as Liberal Democrats Croatian People's Party - Liberal Democrats, a political party in Croatia, sometimes shortened as Liberal Democrats.*

### Chapter 8 : Liberal Democrats - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*The Liberal Democrats is a UK political party, founded in through the merger of the Liberal Party and the SDP. The party has been led since by Vince Cable MP and has 12 MPs in the House of Commons, along with thousands of local government representatives around the country, , members and representatives in the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, London Assembly and House of Lords.*

### Chapter 9 : Liberal Democrats | Politics | The Guardian

*The following chapter, The Liberal Democrat approach is taken from the Agenda Working Group's publications and summarises how the Liberal Democrats view the world and decided what courses of action to support. It was principally authored by Duncan Brack.*