The United States Constitution says you can own a gun, because why not? You can belong to any religion you want. If soldiers want to crash at your house, you can tell them to drop dead.

I'm a little obsolete. Very few nations still use me as a role model. But I'm still the law o' the land!

We the People
Of the United States of America, etc., etc.
But the Constitution does not federally guarantee your right to vote. That's up to the states.

Because they knew that to get the Constitution established, three-quarters of the states at minimum had to ratify it, so they defaulted to the states when it came to voting rights.

Leaving elections to the states was a major screwup.
YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS TEACHER MADE DEMOCRACY SOUND SO SIMPLE.

EACH PARTY PICKS A CANDIDATE. EACH CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS BASED ON ISSUES. YOU, THE VOTER, VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE WHOSE STANCES ON THE ISSUES YOU LIKE BEST.
Finally, count the votes. The candidate with the most votes wins. He or she goes to Washington or the state capital or wherever and tries to pass laws that reflect his or her campaign promises.

My constituents demand change, goddammit!

What your teacher probably didn’t tell you—what they probably didn’t know—is that getting out your side’s vote is only half the equation.
There's another, dark side to elections: trying to block the other side's vote.

We *could* come up with policies and bills that make people's lives better.

Are you crazy?!!
Journalist Greg Palast has spent much of his career investigating how powerful interests controlled by wealthy individuals manipulate the system from behind the scenes in order to figure out how to steal your vote.

Every year, they come up with a new scheme. It's STEAL-A-VOTE WHACK-A-MOLE.
There are basically four ways to block people from exercising their most fundamental right as a citizen.

First, stop them from registering to vote.

Second, if they register anyway, cancel their voter registration.

Third, prevent them from getting to the polls to cast a ballot.

Fourth, if that fails, invalidate their vote.
We'll always have politicians who look like us as long as the voters - the ones whose votes we allow to count - look like us, too!

And the old fart rulers of both parties block votes of people of color—and the young.
Democrats mostly block their own voters.

In the 2020 California, Democratic Secretary of State Alex Padilla sent 3.7 million voters ballots without the presidential candidates. The bogus ballots went to independents who favored Bernie Sanders 3-to-1 over Joe Biden, Padilla's choice. Sanders was cheated out of 553,000 votes.
HOW THEY DO IT

Here are some of the fucked-up games used to keep you from voting or, if you do manage to vote, to make sure it doesn't count.
THE EX-CON CON

In 2000, Palast discovered that GOP Secretary of State Katherine Harris (also chair of the Dubya for Prez campaign) targeted 94,000 voters, most black, as ex-cons barred from voting.

Palast got the list and found that exactly zero were illegal voters. Their only crime: voting while black.
THE HYSTERIA FACTORY

Politicians and media create hysteria over voting by aliens, the dead and undead, by "double voters." But Rutgers political science professor Lorraine Minnite says the chance of someone casting an illegal vote is five times less likely than a voter getting hit by lightning.

The myth of dead people voting is just not substantiated.
ALIENS ATTACK!

FLORIDA TARGETED 180,000 PEOPLE AS "ALIEN" VOTERS—MAKING LATINX AMERICANS PROVE THEY'RE AMERICANS. HOW MANY FOREIGN VOTERS? THEY FOUND ONE: AN AUSTRIAN WHO VOTED REPUBLICAN.
IN 2019, A FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERED TEXAS’ SECRETARY OF STATE TO DROP ITS PLAN TO DUMP 95,000 PEOPLE UNLESS THEY SENT IN THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND PASSPORTS WITHIN 30 DAYS.

“Perfectly legal naturalized Americans were burdened with what the Court finds to be ham-handed and threatening correspondence from the state which did not politely ask for information but rather exemplifies the power of government to strike fear and anxiety and to intimidate the least powerful among us.”

—Fred Biery, U.S. District Court, San Antonio
CAGED HEAT

In 2004, Palast’s investigators got hold of confidential Republican party files titled "Caging." These were lists of voters of color, including Black soldiers from the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. The plan: to challenge these voters as "Ghosts," i.e., nonexistent. Go to Iraq, lose your vote, mission accomplished.
The GOP targeted soldiers sent overseas, black students on summer vacation, and Jewish "snowbirds" visiting family in summer. In other words, "bluish" voters—Dems.

The Republican National Committee sent them cards knowing that many would probably get returned undelivered into the GOP "cage"—and then challenged their vote.
PURGING VOTERS WHO "MOVED"

Cleaning the rolls sounds reasonable, but real-world execution of "list maintenance" is squalid. In 2019, Georgia’s GOP Secretary of State purged half a million because they’d supposedly left the state ... but the Palast team went through every name and found that 340,134 had never moved ... including Martin Luther King’s 92-year-old cousin, who got tossed out of the polling station.
In an increasingly widespread tactic, a 1995 Ohio law ordered county boards of elections to purge the registrations of "inactive voters" who hadn’t cast a ballot for six years and who had not responded to a mailer to update their registration. Yet federal law says you can’t lose your vote for not voting.

Strange... I don't see your name here.

The GOP Secretary of State deleted 267,000 names in 2019 alone. Democrats outnumbered Republicans almost 2-to-1 on the purge list.
The excuse for Republican states to remove "inactive" voters: they say that if you missed two elections and didn't respond to a junk-mail postcard, obviously you've moved far away, out of your county or state.

I'm standing right here in Wisconsin. Where I live.

What? Where?

The Palast team went through every name of every "mover" about to be purged in Wisconsin and found that 165,000 of those voters had not moved from their counties. They said Sequanna Taylor, a black woman, moved out of Milwaukee. Really? She's a Milwaukee County supervisor.
CROSS-CHECK

AS KANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE/TRUMP CRONY KRI KOBACH CREATED A LIST OF 7.2 MILLION CRIMINAL DOUBLE VOTERS.

BUT WHEN THE PALAST INVESTIGATORS GOT THE SECRET LIST THEY FOUND IT WAS SIMPLY A LIST OF COMMON NAMES: JOSE RODRIGUEZ, JESSE JACKSON, DAVID KIM—NOT DOUBLE VOTERS, BUT TYPICAL NAMES OF VOTERS OF COLOR. OUT OF 7.2 MILLION "SUSPECTS," GOP STATES DIDN'T FIND A SINGLE CRIMINAL VOTER—YET REMOVED 1.1 MILLION VOTERS, MOSTLY MINORITIES.

I HAVE HERE A LIST OF 7.2 MILLION KNOWN CRIMINAL DOUBLE VOTERS!
RATF*CKING

Most states’ congressional and legislative districts are drawn by the political hacks themselves. In honor of Nixon’s dirty tricksters, the game is called "RATF*CKING." The GOP is winning this rat race. Dems have more voters, yet the GOP controls state legislatures 60/40 because of redistricting.
In order to gerrymander the lines of voting districts, political hacks "pack and crack." You pack your opponent's voters into a single district, so the "extra" votes are wasted—or crack apart opposition strongholds into a bunch of districts so votes are diluted into impotence.
The Economist: "In the 2012 redistricting cycle, the boundaries of 48% of House districts were drawn entirely by Republican officials, compared with just 10% by Democratic ones." Result: in 2016, the Democrats won a million more votes for Congress, but the GOP took 33 more seats.

The party that received the most votes has been brutally defeated in the election. God bless America.
Another way to reduce votes by targeted groups of people is to cut the number of polling places in the area where they live. Long lines are daunting; some would-be voters are daunted and leave. As RFK Jr. famously documented in the key swing state of Ohio in 2004, voting booths are often removed from majority-black districts.
State legislatures can reduce the hours when the polls are open. Early voting that starts days in advance is more convenient—so that's sometimes done away with.

The North Carolina legislature reduced the number of early voting stations in 2016, resulting in an 8.5% drop in early voting by blacks. North Carolina also cut back on early voting on Sundays, admitting in court it was because those voters tend to be black Democrats.
Proponents of voter ID laws, such as Donald Trump, say voter fraud is a problem. In reality, voter fraud is very rare. One report found 35 cases out of 800 million votes cast from 2000 to 2014.

The Republicans don’t win and that’s because of potentially illegal votes.
Voter ID laws target poor, older, and minority voters, that is, Democratic voters. 80,000 African Americans in Indiana don’t have voting IDs. North Carolina’s ID law reduced the Democratic vote by up to 3%. Texas allows a gun permit but not a student ID.
YOU MIGHT BE REGISTERED TO VOTE. YOU MIGHT PLAN TO SHOW UP ON ELECTION DAY. BUT WHAT IF YOU RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL-LOOKING LETTER THAT SENDS YOU TO THE WRONG PLACE TO VOTE? IF YOU'RE A GO-GETTER, YOU CAN CALL THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS. BUT YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF ANYONE PICKS UP THE PHONE ON THE BUSIEST DAY OF THE YEAR.

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THE ADDRESS?

POSITIVE.
Voting procedure disinformation is when you send false information about when and how to vote. In recall elections for the Wisconsin State Senate in 2011, the pro-republican group Americans for Prosperity, founded by the Koch brothers, sent Democratic voters a mailing that gave the wrong deadline for returning absentee ballots in the hope that they would be sent in too late to count.
GOON SQUAD

WHAT BETTER WAY TO KEEP YOUNG MINORITY VOTERS WHO DISTRUST THE POLICE (WITH GOOD REASON) AWAY FROM ELECTIONS THAN BY REQUIRING VOTERS TO PASS THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF ARMED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS? AND REPUBLICANS SENT LATINX VOTERS FALSE WARNINGS THAT ICE GOONS WERE ARRESTING VOTERS AT THE POLLS.
UNCOUNTED

The nasty secret of U.S. elections: we don’t count all the votes. Three million ballots are “disqualified” or not recorded in a typical national election year. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission found in 2000 that if you’re black your chance of your ballot getting junked is 900% higher than if you’re white.
PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

The chance you'll get one of these "hey you're not registered but here's a piece of paper" ballots is six times greater if you're young and black than if you're old and white. Three million of these ballots were cast in 2016—and one million thrown in the dumpster. That's official.

Well, you can always use this "provisional ballot."

Will it be counted?

Not really.
WANTED!
FOR VOTE RUSTLING

CRAZY BUT TRUE, ELECTIONS ARE
ADMINISTERED BY PARTISAN POLITICAL
HACKS APPOINTED BY POLITICIANS
LOYAL TO ONE OF THE MAJOR
PARTIES. HERE ARE SOME OF THE
MOST NOTORIOUS MISCREANTS.
Before running for governor against Stacey Abrams in 2018, the GOP Secretary of State of Georgia purged half a million voters, refused to add 40,000 registrations of young minority voters to the rolls, and threatened to arrest Korean American voter registration volunteers—which turned out to be enough evil to steal his own election.
AS OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE, THIS REPUBLICAN ORDERED THE CLOSING OF EVERY EARLY VOTING STATION (USED BY 70% OF BLACK VOTERS) EXCEPT ONE PER COUNTY—SO THAT CLEVELAND, WITH A MILLION (BLACK) PEOPLE, GOT ONE POLL. THERE WERE SEVEN-HOUR WAITS. VINTON, POPULATION 14,000 INCLUDING COWS, GOT ITS OWN IN-AND-OUT POLL.
OH NO! EVEN THE NICE "LIBERALS" AT THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUST ARE IN THE RACIAL VOTE PURGE BUSINESS. PEW CREATES THE "ERIC" PURGE LIST FOR STATES LIKE WISCONSIN—WRONGLY TARGETING YOUNG VOTERS AND VOTERS OF COLOR. PEW IS TECHNICALLY INNOCENT. THEY JUST LOAD THE GUNS AND HAND THE PURGE WEAPON TO THE STATE OFFICIALS, WHO PULL THE TRIGGER.
Kris Kobach
The King of Cross-Check

Created the list of 7.2 million "potential double voters" that targeted 1-in-7 African Americans, and 1-in-6 Asian Americans and Hispanics; none voted twice. Chosen by his buddy Trump to head a "voter fraud" commission, which collapsed when they couldn't find any fraudulent voters, because who actually does that?
HANS "THE FOX" VON SPAKOVSKY

FOX TV COMMENTATOR AND THE "BRAINS" BEHIND THE CLAIM THAT OVER TWO MILLION ILLEGAL ALIENS VOTE. BUT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, THEY'VE LOCATED THREE—ALL OF WHOM ARE NOW IN PRISON. BUT SPAKOVSKY-INSPRED "PROVE YOU'RE A CITIZEN" LAWS HAVE COST TENS OF THOUSANDS OF LEGIT CITIZENS THEIR REGISTRATIONS.
ELECTIONS BOARD DIRECTOR IN NORTH CAROLINA UNTIL 2019, WHEN SHE IGNORED ILLEGAL REPUBLICAN "BALLOT HARVESTING." HIRED AN FBI AGENT WHO SPENT SIX MONTHS LOOKING FOR THE 35,000 "FRAUDULENT" VOTERS SHE NAMED. THERE WERE NO BUSTS. ALL OF THEM WERE INNOCENT EXCEPT FOR THE CRIME OF VOTING WITHOUT WHITE SKIN.
KARL ROVE
BUSH'S BRAIN

ROVE'S OFFICE CREATED ILLEGAL CAGING LISTS. BUSH CALLED HIM "TURD BLOSSOM" BECAUSE HIS METHODS STANK BUT WON ELECTIONS.
RUTH JOHNSON
MISTRESS OF MICHIGASS

In 2016 she blocked the hand count of 75,355 paper ballots in Detroit that broken scanners failed to count. Trump “won” Michigan by just 10,700 votes—not counting those in Detroit.
ALEX PADILLA
SURFER DUD

THE DEMOCRATIC SECRETARY OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA FIXED PRIMARY RACES AGAINST BERNIE SANDERS TWICE. PADILLA OUT AND REJECTED MORE BS PROVISIONAL BALLOTS THAN ALL OTHER STATES IN AMERICA COMBINED. THESE "TRANQUILIZER" BALLOTS WENT TO INDEPENDENT VOTERS WHO PREFERRED SANDERS 3-TO-1 OVER PADILLA'S FAVES.
THE VOTERS MAY HAVE FIRED HIS ASS IN 2018 BUT HIS ID LAW IN WISCONSIN MAY WELL PICK OUR NEXT PRESIDENT. HE DENIED 182,000 U OF WISCONSIN STUDENTS THE RIGHT TO VOTE (IN A STATE THE DONALD WON BY JUST 22,000 VOTES).
PAUL SINGER
THE VULTURE

VOTE RUSTLING AIN'T CHEAP. IT TOOK AN EXPENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO GUT THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND PREVENT A CONGRESSIONAL FIX.

THE LOBBYING CAMPAIGN WAS FUNDED BY THIS BILLIONAIRE INFAMOUS FOR SEIZING THE FUNDS FROM CHOLERA MEDICINE MEANT FOR CONGO.
AND NOW...MAIL-IN MADNESS

I VOTED. NOW I FEEL AWFUL!

THE CANDIDATES COULD BE BETTER.

THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS CRISIS REQUIRES PEOPLE TO STAY AT HOME OR RISK CONTRACTING A DANGEROUS DISEASE. YOU CAN’T REALLY “SOCIAL DISTANCE” AT A PUBLIC VOTING STATION. SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SUGGESTING THAT WE VOTE BY MAIL.
Assuming the government could pull together vote by mail quickly enough for November 2020—a logistical and bureaucratic challenge during the best of times—going postal would almost certainly result in a ton of "lost" votes. In 2016, more than 500,000 mail-in ballots were rejected, not counted at all.

An MIT study found that 22% of all mail-in votes were expunged, disproportionately those of people of color.
DON'T STEAL YOUR OWN VOTE
... BY NOT VOTING

POLS STEAL YOUR VOTE BECAUSE IT'S WORTH A WHOLE LOT ... TO THEM AND THEIR BILLIONAIRE BUCK BUDDIES. DON'T STEAL YOUR OWN VOTE BY NOT VOTING.

YOUR VACCINE DEPENDS ON IT.

TED RALL
2020