



Democratic Neutrality is the study and defense of *neutral self-government*—a system ruled by reason and fairness, not faction or force. It begins with a simple truth:

The root of corruption is the entrenchment in any position in any argument.

Entrenchment is when people or institutions become attached to being *right* instead of discovering what *is right*; truth becomes a weapon, and power replaces reason.

Democratic Philosophy teaches that our republic is not divided between left and right, but between those who seek **power** and those who seek **truth**. It identifies **five forces of capture** that corrupt democracy—and five **escapes** that restore it.

Capture is my universal language for corruption — a way to describe what’s wrong without dividing people by ideology, and a roadmap for how citizens reclaim self-government through *deliberate neutrality*.

The Five Forces of Capture — and Their Escapes

Force of Capture	How It Works	Escape (Restoring Democratic Neutrality)
1. Individual Capture (Psychological)	We become trapped by pride, fear, and identity. We defend our side instead of examining our reasoning.	Escape: <i>Self-Mastery through Reason</i> — Practice humility. Question your own assumptions. Value correction over confirmation.
2. Institutional Capture (Power)	Institutions—corporations, bureaucracies, even movements—begin to serve themselves rather than justice or truth.	Escape: <i>Accountability and Transparency</i> — No institution above scrutiny. Citizens must retain oversight and clear rules for all. Protect power from itself.
3. Informational Capture (Truth)	Media and algorithms reward outrage and loyalty instead of understanding. Reality fractures into partisan versions.	Escape: <i>Open Inquiry</i> — Protect the process of truth-seeking. Reward evidence and honest debate over emotional certainty.

Force of Capture	How It Works	Escape (Restoring Democratic Neutrality)
4. Governmental Capture (Partisan Overload)	Political parties overwhelm the system designed to contain them. Elected officials serve factions instead of citizens.	Escape: <i>Democratic Neutrality</i> — Re-center government around independent (non-partisan) representation and equal consent, not partisan power.
5. Democratic Capture (Moral Confusion)	Authoritarians blur the difference between good and bad to justify control—calling dominance “order” and dissent “chaos.”	Escape: <i>Moral Clarity</i> — Judge actions by whether they protect freedom, fairness, and consent—not by who commits them.

The Path Forward

Freedom fails when we mistake loyalty for virtue.

Democracy survives only when citizens refuse to be captured—by parties, institutions, or even their own certainty.

Democratic Philosophy is the practice of remaining *governable by reason*, not by sides. It is how we keep the republic.
