

## **Democracy By the People with Dr. Darrick Hamilton**

Dr. Darrick Hamilton is an economist, thought leader, and one of the nation's leading scholars on racial wealth inequality, stratification economics, and economic rights. He is the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy and the founding director of the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at The New School.

### **Start of transcript.**

I am Darrick Hamilton, a university professor, and the founding director of the Institute on Race, Power, and Political Economy at the New School, a university in New York. I'm a Black man wearing a charcoal suit.

Democracy by the people is the capability to civically engage in such a way to determine the rules, the structures, the resources, the public infrastructure that affect your life, your community's life, and the economy overall.

Democracy is a fundamental concept for our freedom, but it's inadequate. Freedom is grounded in power. Without a doubt, the power to elect leaders that are going to structure our society, the rules, the regulations, that's a big part of our notion of freedom.

But without resources, democracy is inadequate. It's not enough. The ability to vote when you're hungry is not freedom. The ability to civilly protest when you're unhoused is not freedom. Freedom is about power. Freedom is about agency—economic agency and political agency. They're inseparable.

It is through power that we determine the rules, the regulations, the distribution of resources of a society. Democracy requires resources and inclusion. Inclusion of all of us. It is inclusion, democracy, and resources that come together to facilitate a flourishing humanity.

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