

Abiturtraining kompakt: Attacks on democracy in the USA, Germany and Great Britain (S II)

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Der Sturm auf das Kapitol in Washington, D.C. durch einen gewaltbereiten Mob war ein Angriff auf die Demokratie in den Vereinigten Staaten. Betrachtet man in diesem Zusammenhang den Sturm auf das Reichstagsgebäude in Berlin Mitte 2020 und die heftigen Auseinandersetzungen im britischen Unterhaus, dann wird deutlich, dass die Demokratie international durch rechte Extremisten und populistische Parteien bedroht wird. Diese Vorgänge werden in den vorliegenden Unterrichtsmaterialien mithilfe von Textauszügen und Videos behandelt und bewertet.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe:	11/12 (G8), 12/13 (G9)
Dauer:	1–3 Unterrichtsstunden (Klausur: 5–6 Stunden)
Kompetenzen:	1. Hör-Seh-Verstehen: Kurzvideos zentrale Informationen entnehmen; 2. Sprechkompetenz: abstrakte Begriffe/Bedeutungen (<i>democracy</i>) und Einflussfaktoren austauschen und diskutieren; 3. Schreibkompetenz: Informationen zusammenfassen, <i>summary</i> , <i>analysis</i> , <i>comment</i> schreiben; 4. Sprachmittlung: die zentralen Inhalte eines deutschen Artikels in die Zielsprache mitteln
Thematische Bereiche:	American/British society, democracy, politics
Material:	Videos, Texte, Cartoon, Klausurvorschlag



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Tasks

1. Describe the pictures above.
2. The pictures were taken on the same day. Briefly explain what happened on that day.



Germany – attack on democracy?

M 4

The voices of far-right extremists have become louder during the last years, poked for example by the refugee crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Audio-visual comprehension: [...] far-right protesters trying to enter Parliament

Video: https://raabe.click/en_GermanyDemocracy (0:00–1:55 min) [last access: 21.01.2021]

On 29 August, 2020, about 38,000 people **protested** against rules and regulations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Berlin. While most protesters remained peaceful, some far-right rioters were aggressive and tried to fuel the situation.

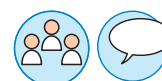
Vocabulary:

intolerable: not acceptable – **science deniers:** people who do not believe in science and scientific findings
 – **(to) overwhelm:** (to) defeat so. or sth. by using a lot of force – **(to) dismiss:** (to) state that sth. is not important/not worth considering – **(to) take advantage:** (to) make use of a situation in such ways as to benefit oneself



Tasks

- Watch the video twice and answer the following questions.
 - Name the incident that Frank-Walter Steinmeier called “an intolerable attack on the heart of our democracy”.
 - Name the responsible parties.
 - Explain the meaning of the flags the protesters are carrying.
 - Explain the meaning of the Reichstag for Germany.
 - Explain how other protesters reacted to the incident.
 - State how the interviewee explains the incident.
- The protesters were shouting “*Widerstand*” and “*Wir sind das Volk*” and used specific black, white and red flags.
 - Explain what these terms and flags mean. If necessary, do some research.
 - In groups, comment on whether this is an “attack on the heart of our democracy”.
- Optional:** Compare the attack on the German parliament building in Berlin on 29 August, 2020, with the storming of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on 6 January, 2021. If necessary, do some research on the latter.



Great Britain – ignoring democratic principles?

M 5

Audio-visual comprehension: Boris Johnson reacts to attacks by Ian Blackford over new Brexit law proposal

Heated discussions about Brexit are not new in the British Parliament. When it came to the Internal Market Bill, however, a discussion about violation of democratic principles arose.

Video: https://raabe.click/en_JohnsonDemocracy [last access: 21.01.2021]

Ian Blackford: leader of the SNP (Scottish National Party), a Member of Parliament

Dominic Cummings: Johnson’s senior advisor, he went to Scotland although the country was on lockdown

January 2020: PM Johnson signs the EU withdrawal agreement describing it as “fantastic moments” for the country; **September 2020:** Johnson pushes to backtrack on EU Deal which will nullify parts of the landmark agreement depending negotiations with the EU

