ROOTS of the American Democracy Crisis

In 1971, the big corporations making up the US Chamber of Commerce were facing a groundswell of grassroots opposition to decades of unethical practices. They saw with funding from key far right billionaires,

- KOCH... who funds a political network employing 3.5 times the staff of the RNC and its congressional campaign arms
- OLIN... who showered money on conservative culture warriors, transforming them into significant public players
- MERCER... whose alternative media ecosystem has sown distrust of government and was instrumental in bringing Steve Bannon into the Trump campaign’s inner circle
- DEVOS... who backed the lawsuit for over a decade that ended up in 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court ruling, further increasing corporate and individual non-disclosed election spending

The POWELL MEMO began the ANTI-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT with 4 goals...

1. Commanding the narrative via anti-democracy think tanks and media outlets
2. Delegitimizing democracy’s norms and institutions
3. Quietly creating a parallel political operation pushing the anti-democracy message, with hundreds of front groups, community by community
4. Building big donors’ common purpose and coordinate their efforts

...and 4 EFFECTIVE strategies

1. Unleashing big money in politics
2. Greatly increasing lobbying expenditures, even creating the American Legislative Exchange Council, bringing lobbyists and politicians together
3. Manipulating district lines (even gerrymandering)
4. Wiping out local democracy all together

WHAT are the results?

Check out this fact sheet... Check out Daring Democracy by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen and the Field Guide to the Democracy Movement for ways to get involved!