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## +++ Open Call for Essays +++

Engine room: Fireproof room where the engine and related equipment are installed.

### Exploring the Engine Room of Democracy

What is the foundation of a good constitution in challenging times?

Every crisis is a challenge - including the pandemic for a state that considers itself liberal and democratic. Decisions have to be taken in the shortest possible time. The guaranteed rights of freedom and the vested dignity of the individual must be weighed up. In some cases they come into conflict with the common good, the "right to life and physical integrity". Politics as well as each individual is confronted with questions that are usually not asked. And yet they are essential - not only in times of crisis - for a reliable coexistence.

#### Open Call

Within the framework of the project *Democracy? A Question of the Constitution!* we invite all interested parties to deal with the foundations of democracy and freedom in the form of an essay. The title "Exploring the Engine Room of Democracy" leaves room for scientific, journalistic or even very personal perspectives. It sets an impulse for reflection, can provoke contradiction, and can create other images. Central for us are questions like: What are the foundations on which our rights of freedom, guaranteed by the Basic Law, are built? Under what circumstances are we voluntarily prepared to renounce individual rights? How much trust is needed in a crisis, and what is it based on? What limits and borders are drawn and by whom?

#### How you can participate - formalities:

- Length of contributions: max. 9,000 characters
- Contributions from people whose first language isn't German are explicitly welcome
- The closing date for entries is May 17, 2020
- At least four of the submitted contributions will be selected by the project team and published on the project website, probably from May 25, 2020
- Amount of prize money for each selected essay: 200 euros

**Please send your essay by eMail to our project manager Uta Rüchel:**

ruechel@wirmachendas.jetzt

**We look forward to your contributions!**

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### About the project

The Open Call for Essays is part of the project *Democracy? A Question of the Constitution!*

In this project, we use the constitutional anniversaries (100 years since the Weimar Republic Constitution, 70 years of the Basic Law and 30 years since the Peaceful Revolution) for a social debate on the foundations of our democracy.

*Democracy? A Question of the Constitution!* is a project of WIR MACHEN DAS in cooperation with the University of Bielefeld and the Robert Havemann Society, supported by the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

