The main sources for this project were Governing the Commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action, by Elinor Ostrom, and The evolution of cooperation, by Robert Axelrod.

The methods employed in the project were comparative literature, case study review, and test reconstruction. Several works concerning collective goods, common-pool resources, and cooperation were combined in considering democratic government as a public good with unique attributes and great liberatory potential.

The idealized pluralist perspective of the US holds that the more individuals who are able to express their views and participate in self-rule, the better. More ideas in circulation, a wider pool of talents and views, and a greater diversity of knowledge could all contribute to a stronger and better government. While there are certainly risks of misinformation, abuse, and alienation, there is an even greater potential for an increase in understanding, dialogue, and renewed civic engagement. Following the implications of the Prisoner’s Dilemma tournament, there is a chance at this moment to have a renaissance of community involvement, a profound realization of the continuing need that people in the United States and the world round have for each other. There is an opportunity for an increase in communication and cooperation, which can further essential efforts to confront climate change, a rise in authoritarianism worldwide, and the persistent threat of nuclear proliferation (a Prisoner’s Dilemma par excellence). The present moment must be met with all the knowledge that has been gained from the past, and a deep faith in the future.

**REFERENCES**


