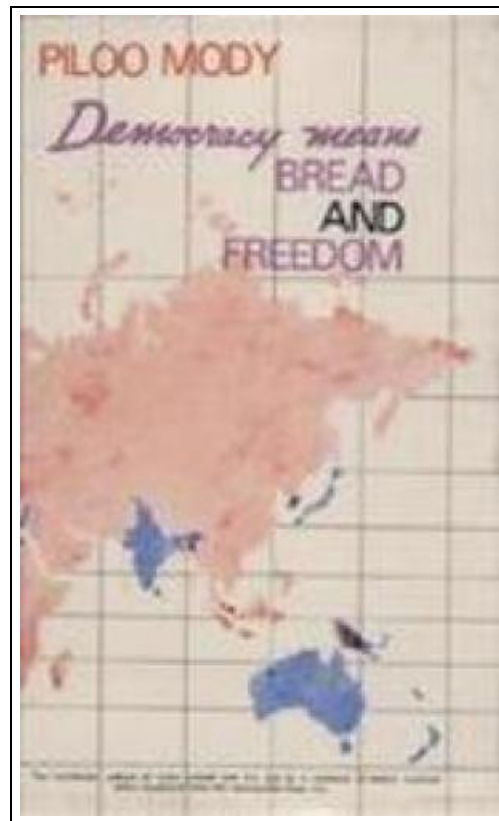


## Democracy Means Bread and Freedom



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**(Alda Barton)**

## DEMOCRACY MEANS BREAD AND FREEDOM



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Abhinav Publications, New Delhi. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First Edition. 195pp. On the night of July 25, 1975, Indian democracy came within a hair-breadth of extinction. A people who, thirty years earlier had wrested their freedom from the greatest Empire on earth, came close to losing it for ever. That India had been given a second chance to make democracy work is due entirely to the miscalculation of the would-be dictator. Mrs. Indira Gandhi believed that the Indian people, cowed and crushed by nineteen months of unbridled tyranny, would be too enervated by fear to oppose her but Mrs. Gandhi was wrong. The people of India discarded Mrs. Gandhi's well-ordered and regimented dictatorship and opted for the flawed and imperfect liberal model. If the democratic concept came close to being destroyed, it was because the people of India had taken it for granted, delegating power to representatives undeserving of their trust, and looking on their rulers as their masters instead of what they actually were-servants on electoral sufferance. The author, a victim of the coup, had enough time during his 15.5 months in jail to ponder the causes that led up to it. What he found most difficult to swallow was the glib explanations offered by his colleagues in jail about their woefully shallow understanding of democracy itself. It is this realisation of pervasive ignorance and apathy that led him to write this book - an attempt to trace the genesis of democracy and search for the origins of the attitudes and institutions that sustain it. The book tries to explain the virtues of democracy and how they were arrived at; it also tries to warn its friends against the onslaughts of economic and political controls and those who would advocate them. At times this book will prove heavy going...



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