

Idiocracy

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The Oxford English Dictionary has accepted *idiocracy* as an English word this month, [noting](#):

The OED records more than 100 words derived ultimately from the Greek suffix — $\text{ἰδο-}\text{κρατ-}$, $\text{ἰδο-}\text{κρατί-}$ (rendered in English as—*crapy*), meaning ‘power’ or ‘rule’. One more has now been added to the list: [*idiocracy*](#), referring to a society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots, or a government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant, or idiotic. Words like *democracy* and *aristocracy* originated in ancient Greek, but by the 18th century, *-ocracy* was being added to English words, as in *statocracy* and *mobocracy*. In the 19th century, the trickle of such formations became a flood, with many of the new words being terms of ridicule, a tradition to which *idiocracy* belongs; the earlier terms *foolocracy* (1832) and *idiotocracy* (used by Ambrose Bierce in 1909) express a similar concept. *Idiocracy* itself is first attested in 1967, but it owes its current prominence to the title of the satirical 2006 film *Idiocracy*, which depicts a dystopian future in which the human race has become extremely ignorant, stupid, and anti-intellectual.

I am not sure there is a great deal to add by way of comment on this timely decision.