Deliberative democracy has long been thought of as a project to deepen existing democratic societies and systems. But what happens when those systems are in democratic retreat? The dimensions of the current crisis of democracy involve post-truth politics, populist demagogues, electoral authoritarianism, the return of oligarchy in constitutional disguise, the domination of elected governments by the institutions of the international political economy, increasing distrust, toxic identity politics, and the radicalization of old people. Deliberative democracy has important things to say to all these challenges (except perhaps the last one). It is not sufficient in itself, but it ought to be central to any democratic response.