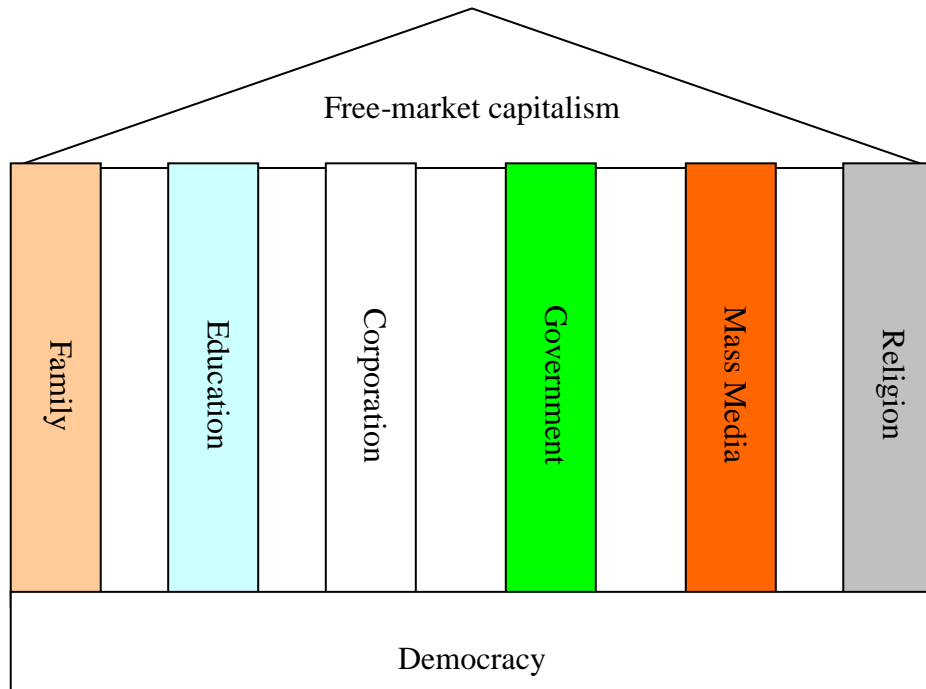


Individuals are the bricks that make up the entire edifice. Lastly, what binds all of this together is the mortar known as the social contract (see illustration below).

*The house built with Democracy and Capitalism, and the Institutions as pillars.*



### **The Start of the Breakdown**

With or without warning, signs, and awareness the beginning of the end will come. It is inevitable. Mankind's knowledge about the vaunted end-of-days ranges from the great deluge to the Apocalypse to nuclear annihilation, the Y2K bug, and the more recently-discovered cyclical comet slamming the face of the Earth. We have a knack of throwing our fates into the sky, as if we are not capable of controlling our environment. Most human accomplishments are seen as extraordinary flukes of our natural being. For a great part of human history evolution granted the best chances to realize exceptional achievements. One day, as a result of our higher intellect, technology will create artificial intelligence. As a consequence of our medical experiments we will engineer an indestructible super-virus. As a result of our ignorance, simply said, we can destroy ourselves. The start of the breakdown comes from the same processes that led to the downfall of the civilizations of, to name a