



Narajole Raj College

Dept. of Political Science

1st Semester,

C1T

The Grammar Of Democracy

Democracy : The History of an Idea

Compiled and circulated by : Dr. Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Introduction: The word “democracy” is familiar to all of us . Whether a student of Political Science or any lay person, everybody has heard the word. But if the question is asked that what is democracy? There will be no unanimous answer. That is because everybody has their own idea of democracy.

Definition of Democracy :

The word democracy is derived from the Greek word ***demos*** meaning people and ***kratein*** means to rule.

It is defined basically as a form of government ,in which supreme or sovereign power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected representatives under a free electoral system.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

In other words democracy is a system of government where the citizens of a state exercise power to govern the state, either directly or through their elected representatives.

According to **Abraham Lincoln**, Democracy is the Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

David Held says, Democracy means a form of government in which , in contradistinction monarchies and aristocracies, the people rule. Democracy entails a political community in which there is some form of political equality among the people.

A democracy is a system where people can change their rulers in a peaceful manner and the government is given the right to rule because the people say it may.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Characteristics of democracy:

- 1.People's participation is of primary importance in a democratic government,
- 2.People may participate directly or indirectly.
- 3.It is a form of government in which people have equal opportunity and this type of government is based on individual merit and no place of hereditary privileges is to be found in democracy.
- .4. Democracy recognizes that all sections of the community will receive their due shares,
- .5. Measures are taken in democracy to protect the interests of the minorities,
6. All the public offices and opportunities are opened to everyone and to fill the posts public examinations are held,
7. In the system of democratic government, no discrimination on the basis of class, caste, religion, sex , place of birth etc. is entertained in other word, equality is preserved,



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

8. In Democracy , rulers are to be accountable to the ruled and forms of accountability are many,
9. People do have the right to choose as well as change the rulers in Democracy,
10. . In Democracy, all have the scope to govern or be a member of the government.

History of Democracy : It was commonly known that democracy was originated in the city state of Athens.

But studies of contemporary non-literate tribal societies and other evidence suggest that democracy was practised within tribes of hunter-gatherers in prehistoric times.

It was because, the transition to settled agricultural communities led to inequalities of wealth and power between and within communities and hierarchical non democratic forms of social organization.

In the 6th century BCE, a relatively democratic form of government was introduced in the City-state of Athens in Greece.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Classification of Democracy:

Classical views : i) Direct and ii) Indirect or Representative

Features of classical democracy

- Priority of the people.
- People's consent is the basic of authority
- Rule of Law – as a method of peaceful solution of coercion
- Equal rights of everybody
- General Welfare of the people/ People's interest

Modern views: i) Liberal Representative Democracy

ii) Socialist Democracy

Features of Liberal Representative Democracy



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

- To protect people from autocracy or any kind of authority
- To establish the right and ideology of liberty
- To preserve the interests and rights of the people
- To establish the sovereignty of the people/ constitution

Classification of Democracy: David Held

David Held classified Democracy into **eight** categories in his book entitled **Models of Democracy**

- Classical Democracy**
- Protective Democracy**
- Development Democracy**
- Direct Democracy**
- Competitive Elitist Democracy**
- Pluralist Democracy**
- Legal Democracy**
- Participatory Democracy**

Political Science, C1T - The Grammar of Democracy



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Classical Democracy :

David Held explains Atheian Democracy as classical Democracy where people rule and also ruled accordingly. Assembly of Citizens is considered as the source of sovereignty and people get the opportunity to take part in the legislative and judicial activities , directly.

Protective Democracy :

According to David Held, during the 17th and 18th Century Indirect Democracy was introduced in the big and populated country as an alternative of Direct Democracy.

Election of Representatives through secret ballot, existence of political parties, rule of the majority, accountability of the government are the **features of Protective democracy.**

All these are considered as the means of **preservation of people's rights.**

John Locke, Montesquieu, James Mill propounded this kind of Democracy.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Development Democracy

The second phase of Protective Democracy is considered as the Developmental Democracy. **John Stuart Mill** advocates in favour of this kind of democracy.

Popular Sovereignty, Universal Adult Suffrage, Representative Democracy, minimum interference of government in the citizens' life, competitive market economy are the **features of Developmental Democracy.**

To uplift the life of the citizens and to make them good and sincere citizens is the **objective of this kind of democracy.**

Direct Democracy

Socialist Democracy or democratic practices in the Socialist societies is described as Direct Democracy by David Held.

Abolition of all kinds of discrimination, inequalities and exploitation , competitive market economy, private property, direct participation of the people, direct control over the representatives like Plebiscite, Referendum, Initiative and Recall etc. are the features of Socialist or Direct Democracy.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Competitive Elitist Democracy

According to David Held, in this kind of democracy, stress is given on **the skilled, efficient, influential and wise representative who would be the rulers.**

Instead of majority, **quality** is considered as the primary element of ruling.

Max Weber, Joseph Schumpeter are the proponents of this kind of democracy.

Pluralist Democracy

According to Pluralism, society is plural by nature that means there are different and numerous organizations in the society.

These organizations are built to fulfill the various needs of the individual. So in a modern liberal state no single group or class can rule the society.

These organizations are built to fulfill the various needs of the individual. So in a modern liberal state no single group or class can rule the society.

. **David Truman** and **Robert Dahl** are the chief advocates of Pluralist Democracy.



Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor,
Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Legal Democracy

In this kind of democracy, priority is given on **Law**. Law is considered as the source of political and economic rights of the citizens, rule of the majority.

Basic features of this legal democracy are i) Constitutional government, ii) Rule of Law, iii) minimum interference of Government in the activities of Individual and Group/Community etc.

Robert Nozick, F.A.Hayek argue in favour of Legal Democracy.

Participatory Democracy

According to David Held, Participatory government is the latest form / kind of democracy, developed in the last decade of Twentieth Century.

In this kind of democracy, participation of people in the activities of the state is given utmost importance. Basically through participation in the different social organizations like Trade Unions, Local Governments, Political Parties etc, people will be motivated to take part in the Government.

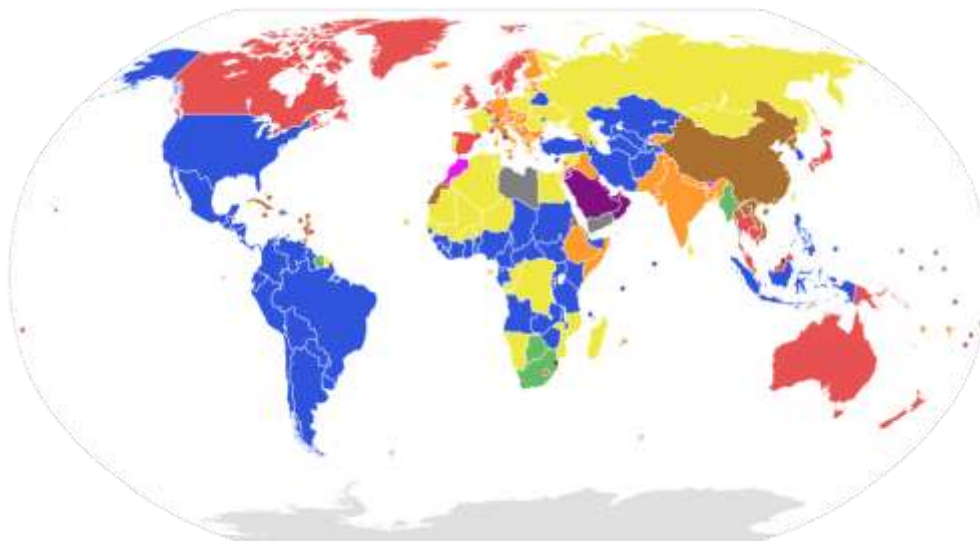


Compiled and circulated by : Dr.Rajasree Debnath, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science ,Narajole Raj College

Reconstruction of Party System, accountability and responsibility of the Party, to serve for the poor, women's participation, reduce the influence of Bureaucracy are some of the **basic features** of Participatory Democracy.

N.Poulantzas, C.B. Macpherson, C.Pateman are the famous advocates of participatory democracy.

Types of governmental democracies[



- Full presidential republics*
- Parliamentary republics with an executive president dependent on the legislature
- Parliamentary constitutional monarchies
- Absolute monarchies
- Countries where constitutional provisions for government have been suspended (e.g. military dictatorships)
- Semi-presidential republics*
- Parliamentary republics*
- Constitutional monarchies which have a separate head of government but where royalty still hold significant executive and/or legislative power
- One-party states
- Countries which do not fit any of the above systems