

Quadrant II - Notes

Programme: Bachelor of Arts

Subject: Political Science

Paper Code: POC 102

Paper Title: Politics and Political ideas

Unit: 03

Module Name: kinds of Democracy

Module No: 20

Name of the Presenter: Asst Prof. Angela Dias e Rodrigues

Kinds of Democracy

- The *term democracy* comes from the Greek language and means "**rule by the (simple) people**"
- Democracy as **defined by Abraham Lincoln** the sixteenth president of the USA, (1809-1865) defined democracy as:
‘Government of the people, by the people, for the people’
- Government officials cannot live in comfort when the people are in misery.
- A country that has government officials enjoying at the expense of the people is undemocratic.

Democracy as a Form of government

- Guarantees basic personal and political rights
- Fair and free elections
- Independent courts of law

- Guarantee of basic Human Rights to every individual person vis-
-vis the state and its authorities as well as vis-
-vis any social groups (especially religious institutions) and vis-
-vis other persons.
- Freedom of opinion, speech, press and mass media
- Religious liberty
- General and equal right to vote (one person, one vote)
- Separation of Powers between the institutions of the state:

Government [Executive Power],

Parliament [Legislative Power]

Courts of Law [Judicative Power]

- Good Governance (focus on public interest and absence of corruption)

Direct democracy

- A direct democracy or *pure democracy* is a type of democracy where the people govern directly. It requires wide participation of citizens in politics.
- A form of government wherein citizens out rightly take part in the administration of the government
- Athenian democracy or *classical democracy* refers to a direct democracy developed in ancient times in the Greek city-state of Athens.
- A popular democracy is a type of direct democracy based on referendums and other devices of empowerment and concretization of popular will.

- Direct democracy is the oldest and pure form of democracy.
- In direct democracy, people take direct part in the administration of the state.
- People take direct part in the political system, prepare plans, prepare budget and also keep control over them.

Indirect democracy

Present age is the age of indirect democracy. This is also called representative democracy.

In this, people elect their representatives on the basis of universal adult franchise and these representatives run the government.

Representatives are responsible to the people for use of their power.

In India, England, America, indirect democracy is prevalent.

Indirect democracy implies a democracy in which people vote for their representative, to represent them in the Parliament.

- A representative democracy is an indirect democracy where sovereignty is held by the people's representatives.
- A liberal democracy is a representative democracy with protection for individual liberty and property by rule of law.
- Types of representative democracy include:
 - Electoral democracy— type of representative democracy based on election, on electoral vote as modern occidental or liberal democracies.
 - Dominant-party system— democratic party system where only one political party can realistically become the government, by itself or in a coalition government.

- Parliamentary democracy– democratic system of government where the executive branch of a parliamentary government is typically a cabinet, and headed by a prime minister who is considered the head of government.
 - Westminster democracy– parliamentary system of government modeled after that of the United Kingdom system.
- Presidential democracy– democratic system of government where a head of government is also head of state and leads an executive branch that is separate from the legislative branch.

Jacksonian democracy – a variant of presidential democracy popularized by U.S. President Andrew Jackson which promoted the strength of the executive branch and the Presidency at the expense of Congressional power.

Conclusion

Thus we can say that:

Direct Democracy is a form of government wherein citizens out rightly take part in the administration of the government

Indirect democracy implies a democracy in which people vote for their representative, to represent them in the Parliament.