



# Indian Institute of Governance - Segment D1- Knowledge

Segment I -Training is all about acquiring Knowledge which will help in gaining decision making capabilities by analysis and wisdom by learning through experience. This Segment is to connect the past & present and analyse events & people to create knowledge and skill sets, values & ethics to make a leader out of every aspirants.



## *Understanding Demacratism*

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## Understanding Demacratism

### Democracy

**Democracy**, or democratic government, is "a system of government in which all the people of a state or polity ... are involved in making decisions about its affairs, typically by voting to elect representatives to a parliament or similar assembly". Democracy is further defined as (i) "government by the people; especially: rule of the majority (ii) "a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections.

The term democracy indicates both a set of ideals and a political system—a feature it shares with the terms communism and socialism. “Democracy” is harder to pin down, however, than either “socialism” or “communism”; for while the latter labels have found in Marxism an ideological matrix, or at least a point of reference, democracy has never become identified with a specific doctrinal source—it is rather a by-product of the entire development of Western civilization. No wonder, therefore, that the more “democracy” has come to be a universally accepted honorific term, the more it has undergone verbal stretching and has become the loosest label of its kind. Not every political system claims to be a socialist system, but even communist systems claim to be democracies. Since World War II, “democracy” encompasses everything; as stated by a UNESCO report: “... for the first time in the history of the world ... practical politicians and political theorists agree in stressing the democratic element in the institutions they defend and in the theories they advocate” (United Nations ... 1951, p. 522).

The term originates from the Greek (dēmokratía) "rule of the people", which was found from (dêmos) "people" and (krátos) "power"

### Democracy – Basic Forms

- [Direct](#)
- [Representative](#)

### Variants

- [Athenian](#)
- [Authoritarian](#)
- [Anticipatory](#)
- [Christian](#)
- [Consensus](#)
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or "rule", in the 5th century BC to denote the political systems then existing in Greek city-states

### Democracy Structure

According to political scientist Larry Diamond, it consists of four key elements:

1. A political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections.
2. The active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life.
3. Protection of the human rights of all citizens.
4. A rule of law, in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens.

Democracy has taken a number of forms, both in theory and practice. Some varieties of democracy provide better representation and more freedom for their citizens than others. However, if any democracy is not structured so as to prohibit the government from excluding the people from the legislative process, or any branch of government from altering the separation of powers in its own favour, then a branch of the system can accumulate too much power and destroy the democracy

## **Prospects and alternatives**

The ways of history are not infinite, but they are varied. And the prospects for democracy in most of the world are related to the search for new solutions or, better said, to the search for adaptations and substitutions. If the question is whether there are "alternative forms of democracy," the reply can only be that this kind of new solution has not been discovered. But if the question is whether there are alternative

### Ancient India



Sakya Republic



Vaishali – the capital of Vajjian Confederacy.

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ways of achieving democracy more quickly, this is surely pertinent and vital. In fact, the problem of the developing countries is to catch up, a matter of speed and short cuts. And there is no better evidence that economizing is possible and that elimination of steps is feasible than the evidence provided by the Western experience itself. *The following kinds of democracy are not exclusive of one another: many specify details of aspects that are independent of one another and can co-exist in a single system.*

### **Direct**

Direct democracy is a political system where the citizens participate in the decision-making personally, contrary to relying on intermediaries or representatives. The supporters of direct democracy argue that democracy is more than merely a procedural issue. A direct democracy gives the voting population the power to:

- Change constitutional laws,
- Put forth initiatives, referendums and suggestions for laws,
- Give binding orders to elective officials, such as revoking them before the end of their elected term, or initiating a lawsuit for breaking a campaign promise.

Direct democracy only exists in the Swiss cantons of Appenzell Innerrhoden and Glarus

### ***Representative***

Representative democracy is a form of democracy in which people vote for representatives who then vote on policy initiatives as opposed to a direct democracy, a form of democracy in which people vote on policy initiatives directly

## **Direct Democracy**



In Switzerland, with no need to register, every citizen receives the ballot papers and information brochure for each vote, and can return it by post. Switzerland has various directly democratic instruments; votes are organised about four times a year.

Switzerland is a rare example of a country with instruments of direct democracy (at the level of the municipalities, cantons and federal state).

Citizens have more power than in a representative democracy. At the federal level, citizens can propose changes to the constitution (federal popular initiative) or ask for a referendum to be held on any law voted by the parliament.



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### *Parliamentary*

Parliamentary democracy is a representative democracy where government is appointed by, or can be dismissed by, representatives as opposed to a "presidential rule" wherein the president is both head of state and the head of government and is elected by the voters. Under a parliamentary democracy, government is exercised by delegation to an executive ministry and subject to ongoing review, checks and balances by the legislative parliament elected by the people.

Parliamentary systems have the right to dismiss a Prime Minister at any point in time that they feel he or she is not doing their job to the expectations of the legislature. This is done through a Vote of No Confidence where the legislature decides whether or not to remove the Prime Minister from office by a majority support for his or her dismissal. In some countries, the Prime Minister can also call an election whenever he or she so chooses, and typically the Prime Minister will hold an election when he or she knows that they are in good favour with the public as to get re-elected. In other parliamentary democracies extra elections are virtually never held, a minority government being preferred until the next ordinary elections. An important feature of the parliamentary democracy is the concept of the "loyal opposition". The essence of the concept is that the second largest political party (or coalition) opposes the governing party (or coalition), while still remaining loyal to the state and its democratic principles

### *Presidential*

Presidential Democracy is a system where the public elects the president through free and fair elections. The president serves as both the head of state and head of government controlling most of the executive powers.

### Democratic Countries

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Belgium
5. Brazil
6. Canada
7. Chile
8. Costa Rica
9. Czech Republic
10. Denmark
11. Finland
12. Galicia (Spain) Galicia
13. Germany
14. Hungary
15. Iceland
16. India
17. Ireland
18. Italy
19. Japan
20. Mauritius
21. Netherlands
22. New Zealand
23. Norway
24. Poland
25. South Korea
26. Sri Lanka
27. Sweden
28. Taiwan
29. United Kingdom
30. United States of America



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The president serves for a specific term and cannot exceed that amount of time. Elections typically have a fixed date and aren't easily changed. The president has direct control over the cabinet, specifically appointing the cabinet members.

The president cannot be easily removed from office by the legislature, but he or she cannot remove members of the legislative branch any more easily. This provides some measure of separation of powers. In consequence however, the president and the legislature may end up in the control of separate parties, allowing one to block the other and thereby interfere with the orderly operation of the state. This may be the reason why presidential democracy is not very common outside the Americas, Africa, and Central and Southeast Asia.

A semi-presidential system is a system of democracy in which the government includes both a prime minister and a president. The particular powers held by the prime minister and president vary by country

### *Hybrid or semi-direct*

Some modern democracies that are predominately representative in nature also heavily rely upon forms of political action that are directly democratic. These democracies, which combine elements of representative democracy and direct democracy, are termed hybrid democracies, semi-direct democracies or participatory democracies. Examples include Switzerland and some U.S. states, where frequent use is made of referendums and initiatives.

### Leaders Promoted Democracy

1. Aristotle
2. Cleisthenes
3. Emmeline
4. Franklin Roosevelt
5. John Locke
6. Mahatma Gandhi
7. Martin Luther King
8. Millicent Fawcett
9. Pankhurst
10. Solon
11. Susan B
12. William Penn

### Early Modern Democracy

1628: Petition of right passed in England,

1679: Habeas Corpus Act passed in England,

1689- Bill of rights in England



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### Variants

#### *Constitutional monarchy*

Many countries such as the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Scandinavian countries, Thailand, Japan and Bhutan turned powerful monarchs into constitutional monarchs with limited or, often gradually, merely symbolic roles. For example, in the predecessor states to the United Kingdom, constitutional monarchy began to emerge and has continued uninterrupted since the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and passage of the Bill of Rights 1689

Élite upper houses of legislatures, which often had lifetime or hereditary tenure, were common in many nations. Over time, these had their powers limited (as with the British House of Lords) or else became elective and remained powerful (as with the Australian Senate).

#### *Republic*

The term republic has many different meanings, but today often refers to a representative democracy with an elected head of state, such as a president, serving for a limited term, in contrast to states with a hereditary monarch as a head of state, even if these states also are representative democracies with an elected or appointed head of government such as a prime minister.

The Founding Fathers of the United States rarely praised and often criticised democracy, which in their time tended to specifically mean direct democracy, often without the protection of a Constitution enshrining basic rights; James Madison argued, especially in The Federalist No. 10, that what distinguished a democracy from a republic was that the former became weaker as it got larger and suffered more violently from the effects of faction, whereas a republic could get stronger as it got larger and combats faction by its very structure.

### 18th and 19th century Democracy

1707: The English parliament merged with Parliament of Scotland to form the First Parliament of Great Britain.

1787: Adoption of United States Constitution.

1789: Declaration as the rights of man and citizens adopted by Revolutionary France

### 20th and 21st century Democracy

1965: Voting Rights Act by United States Congress.

1980's: Many dictatorships and communist countries started applying democratization.

2010: International Democracy Day declared by the UN





## *Understanding Demacratism*

What was critical to American values, John Adams insisted, was that the government be "bound by fixed laws, which the people have a voice in making, and a right to defend."

### *Liberal democracy*

A liberal democracy is a representative democracy in which the ability of the elected representatives to exercise decision-making power is subject to the rule of law, and moderated by a constitution or laws that emphasise the protection of the rights and freedoms of individuals, and which places constraints on the leaders and on the extent to which the will of the majority can be exercised against the rights of minorities (see civil liberties).

In a liberal democracy, it is possible for some large-scale decisions to emerge from the many individual decisions that citizens are free to make. In other words, citizens can "vote with their feet" or "vote with their dollars", resulting in significant informal government-by-the-masses that exercises many "powers" associated with formal government elsewhere.

### *Socialist*

Many democratic socialists and social democrats believe in a form of participatory democracy and/or workplace democracy combined with a representative democracy.

Within Marxist orthodoxy there is hostility to what is commonly called "liberal democracy", which they simply refer to as parliamentary democracy because of its often centralised nature. Because of their desire to eliminate the political elitism they see in capitalism, Marxists, Leninists and Trotskyists believe in direct democracy implemented through a system of communes (which are sometimes

## *Ancient History of Democracy*

In recent decades scholars such as political theorist John Keane explored the advancements toward democratic government that preceded Ancient Greece.

Keane, in his work *The Life and Death of Democracy*, cites the ancient civilization of Sumer in Mesopotamia, occupying areas we now know as Syria, Iran and Iraq, as a model for early democracy.

He considers the institutions of these ancient societies as a precursor to the system of democracy in Ancient Greece around 2600 BCE, which developed after the appearance of the earliest civilizations in Ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East



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called soviets). This system ultimately manifests itself as council democracy and begins with workplace democracy.

### ***Anarchist***

The only form of democracy considered acceptable to many anarchists is direct democracy. Some anarcho-communists oppose the majoritarian nature of direct democracy, feeling that it can impede individual liberty and opt in favour of a non-majoritarian form of consensus democracy, similar to Proudhon's position on direct democracy.

### ***Sortition***

Sometimes called "democracy without elections", sortition chooses decision makers via a random process.

### ***Consensus democracy***

A consensus democracy, in contrast, would not be dichotomous. Instead, decisions would be based on a multi-option approach, and policies would be enacted if they gained sufficient support, either in a purely verbal agreement, or via a consensus vote - a multi-option preference vote. If the threshold of support were at a sufficiently high level, minorities would be as it were protected automatically. Furthermore, any voting would be ethno-colour blind.

### ***Supranational***

Qualified majority voting is designed by the Treaty of Rome to be the principal method of reaching decisions in the European Council of Ministers. This system allocates votes to member states in part according to their population, but heavily weighted in favour of the smaller states. This might be seen as a form of representative democracy, but representatives to the Council might be appointed rather than directly elected.

## **Study on Mesopotamia**

Thorkild Jacobsen has studied the pre-Babylonian Mesopotamia and uses Sumerian epic, myth, and historical records to identify what he calls primitive democracy. By this he means a government in which ultimate power rests with the mass of free male citizens, although "the various functions of government are as yet little specialised [and] the power structure is loose". In the early period of Sumer, kings such as Gilgamesh did not hold the autocratic power which later Mesopotamian rulers wielded. Rather, major city-states had a council of elders and a council of "young men" (likely to be composed of free men bearing arms) that possessed the final political authority, and had to be consulted on all major issues such as war.



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In other states the legislature is dominant and the presidential role is almost purely ceremonial and apolitical, such as in Germany and India. These states are parliamentary republics. In parliamentary systems the head of government, most often titled prime minister, exercises the most real political power. Semi-presidential systems have a president as an active head of state, but also have a head of government with important powers.

In liberal democracies presidents are elected, either directly by the people or indirectly by a parliament or council. Typically in presidential and semi-presidential systems the president is directly elected by the people, or is indirectly elected as done in the United States.

### ***Inclusive***

The basic unit of decision making in an inclusive democracy is the demotic assembly, i.e. the assembly of demos, the citizen body in a given geographical area which may encompass a town and the surrounding villages, or even neighbourhoods of large cities.

The citizen body is advised by experts but it is the citizen body which functions as the ultimate decision-taker. Authority can be delegated to a segment of the citizen body to carry out specific duties, for example to serve as members of popular courts, or of regional and confederal councils. Such delegation is made, in principle, by lot, on a rotation basis, and is always recallable by the citizen body. Delegates to regional and confederal bodies should have specific mandates.

### ***Participatory politics***

A Parpolity or Participatory Polity is a theoretical form of democracy that is ruled by a Nested Council structure.

### **Study on Ancient India**

Another claim for early democratic institutions comes from the independent "republics" of India, sanghas and ganas, which existed as early as the sixth century BC and persisted in some areas until the fourth century BC. The evidence is scattered and no pure historical source exists for that period.

In addition, Diodorus (a Greek historian writing two centuries after the time of Alexander the Great's invasion of India), without offering any detail, mentions that independent and democratic states existed in India.

The Shakyas , koliyas , mouryas , malla , and Licchavis, the Gautama Buddha's people, had the assembly open to all men, rich and poor.



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A council court of randomly chosen citizens serves as a check on the tyranny of the majority, and rules on which body gets to vote on which issue.

Delegates are recallable at any time. Referendums are possible at any time via votes of most lower-level councils, however, not everything is a referendum as this is most likely a waste of time. A parpolity is meant to work in tandem with a participatory economy.

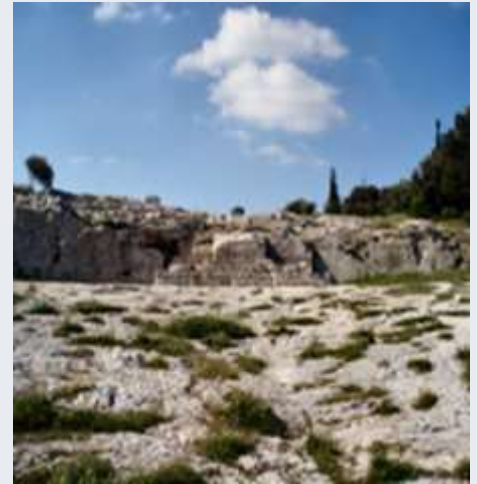
### *Cosmopolitan*

Cosmopolitan democracy, also known as Global democracy or World Federalism, is a political system in which democracy is implemented on a global scale, either directly or through representatives. An important justification for this kind of system is that the decisions made in national or regional democracies often affect people outside the constituency who, by definition, cannot vote. By contrast, in a cosmopolitan democracy, the people who are affected by decisions also have a say in them.

According to its supporters, any attempt to solve global problems is undemocratic without some form of cosmopolitan democracy. The general principle of cosmopolitan democracy is to expand some or all of the values and norms of democracy, including the rule of law; the non-violent resolution of conflicts; and equality among citizens, beyond the limits of the state. To be fully implemented, this would require reforming existing international organisations, e.g. the United Nations, as well as the creation of new institutions such as a World Parliament, which ideally would enhance public control over, and accountability in, international politics.

Cosmopolitan Democracy has been promoted, among others, by physicist Albert Einstein, writer Kurt Vonnegut, columnist George

## Democracy under Cleisthenes and Pericles



The meeting place of the people of Athens.

Thucydides recorded Pericles, in the funeral oration, describing the Athenian system of rule:

“ Its administration favors the many instead of the few; this is why it is called a democracy. If we look to the laws, they afford equal justice to all in their private differences; if no social standing, advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with merit; nor again does poverty bar the way, if a man is able to serve the state, he is not hindered by the obscurity of his condition.

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Monbiot, and professors David Held and Daniele Archibugi. The creation of the International Criminal Court in 2003 was seen as a major step forward by many supporters of this type of cosmopolitan democracy.

### *Creative Democracy*

Creative Democracy is advocated by American philosopher John Dewey. The main idea about Creative Democracy is that democracy encourages individual capacity building and the interaction among the society. Dewey argues that democracy is a way of life in his work of ""Creative Democracy: The Task Before Us" and an experience built on faith in human nature, faith in human beings, and faith in working with others. Democracy, in Dewey's view, is a moral ideal requiring actual effort and work by people; it is not an institutional concept that exists outside of ourselves. "The task of democracy", Dewey concludes, "is forever that of creation of a freer and more humane experience in which all share and to which all contribute".

## *Democracy in the World History*

### *Ancient Greece*

Within the Athenian democratic environment, many philosophers from all over the Greek world gathered to develop their theories. Socrates was the first to raise the question, further expanded by his pupil Plato, about the relation/position of an individual within a community. Aristotle continued the work of his teacher, Plato, and laid the foundations of political philosophy

Aristotle systematically analyzed the different systems of rule that the numerous Greek city-states had and categorized them into three categories based on how many ruled: the many (democracy/polity), the



### *Bas-relief of Lycurgus (Sparta)*

The legendary creator of the Spartan system of rule was the lawgiver Lycurgus. He is associated with the drastic reforms that were instituted in Sparta after the revolt of the helots in the second half of the 7th century BCE. In order to prevent another helot revolt, Lycurgus devised the highly militarized communal system that made Sparta unique among the city-states of Greece. All his reforms were directed towards the three Spartan virtues: equality (among citizens), military fitness, and austerity.

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few (oligarchy/aristocracy), a single person (tyranny or today autocracy/monarchy).

### Roman Republic

Even though Rome is classified as a Republic and not a democracy, its history has helped preserve the concept of democracy over the centuries. The Romans invented the concept of classics and many works from Ancient Greece were preserved. Additionally, the Roman model of governance inspired many political thinkers over the centuries, and today's modern (representative) democracies imitate more the Roman than the Greek models

### Medieval institutions

Most of the procedures used by modern democracies are very old. Almost all cultures have at some time had their new leaders approved, or at least accepted, by the people; and have changed the laws only after consultation with the assembly of the people or their leaders. Such institutions existed since before the times of the Iliad or of the Odyssey, and modern democracies are often derived from or inspired by them, or what remained of them.

Nevertheless, the direct result of these institutions was not always a democracy. It was often a narrow oligarchy, as in Venice, or even an absolute monarchy, as in Florence, in the Renaissance period; but during the medieval period guild democracies did evolve.

### American Democracy

Historian Jack Weatherford has argued that the ideas leading to the American Constitution and democracy derived from

### Representative Pictures



Representation of a sitting of the Roman Senate: Cicero attacks Catilina, from a 19th-century fresco.



Porgnýr the Lawspeaker is teaching the Swedish king Olof Skötkonung that the power resides with the people, 1018,Uppsala, by C. Krogh

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various indigenous peoples of the Americas including the Iroquois. Weatherford claimed this democracy was founded between the years 1000–1450, and lasted several hundred years, and that the American democratic system was continually changed and improved by the influence of Native Americans throughout North America

Temple University professor of anthropology and an authority on the culture and history of the Northern Iroquois, Elizabeth Tooker concluded that the documents only indicate that some groups of Iroquois and white settlers realized the advantages of a confederation, and that ultimately there is little evidence to support the idea that eighteenth century colonists were knowledgeable regarding the Iroquois system of governance

## 20th century waves of democracy

The end of the First World War was a temporary victory for democracy in Europe, as it was preserved in France and temporarily extended to Germany. Already in 1906 full modern democratic rights, universal suffrage for all citizens was implemented constitutionally in Finland as well as a proportional representation, open list system. Likewise, the February Revolution in Russia in 1917 inaugurated a few months of liberal democracy under Alexander Kerensky until Lenin took over in October. The terrible economic impact of the Great Depression hurt democratic forces in many countries. The 1930s became a decade of dictators in Europe and Latin America.

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted full U.S. citizenship to America's indigenous peoples, called "Indians" in this Act. The act further enfranchised the rights of people's resident within the boundaries of the

### Representative Pictures



The election of Augustus II at Wola, outside Warsaw, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1697.



Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen approved by the National Assembly of France, 26 August 1789.

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United States.

### Post World War II

World War II was ultimately a victory for democracy in Western Europe, where representative governments were established that reflected the general will of their citizens. However, many countries of Central and Eastern Europe became undemocratic Soviet satellite states. In Southern Europe, a number of right-wing authoritarian dictatorships (most notably in Spain and Portugal) continued to exist. MaxRange shows a dramatic expansion of democracy, especially from 1989. Even though the number of democratic states has continued to grow since 2006, the share of weaker electoral democracies has grown significantly. This is the strongest causal factor behind fragile democracies

Japan had moved towards democracy during the Taishō period during the 1920s, but it was under effective military rule in the years before and during World War II. The country adopted a new constitution during the postwar Allied occupation, with initial elections in 1946.

### Decolonisation and Civil Rights Movements

Many restive colonies/possessions were promised subsequent independence in exchange for their support for embattled colonial powers during the war.

On 14 May 1948 the state of Israel declared independence and thus was born the first full democracy in the Middle East. Israel is a representative democracy with a parliamentary system and universal suffrage

India became a Democratic Republic in 1950 after achieving independence from Great Britain in 1947. After holding its first national elections in 1952, India achieved the status of the world's largest liberal democracy

### Representative Pictures



The establishment of universal male suffrage in France in 1848 was an important milestone in the history of democracy.



Countries highlighted in blue are designated "electoral democracies" in Freedom House's 2015 survey "Freedom in the World", covering the year 2014



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with universal suffrage which it continues to hold today.

In the United States of America, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act enforced the 15th Amendment. The 24th Amendment ended poll taxing by removing all tax placed upon voting, which was a technique commonly used to restrict the African American vote. The Voting Rights Act also granted voting rights to all Native Americans, irrespective of their home state. The minimum voting age was reduced to 18 by the 26th Amendment in 1971.

### Late Cold War and after

New waves of democracy swept across Southern Europe in the 1970s, as a number of right-wing nationalist dictatorships fell from power. Later, in Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s, the communist states in the USSR sphere of influence were also replaced with liberal democracies.

Much of Eastern Europe, Latin America, East and Southeast Asia, and several Arab, central Asian and African states, and the not-yet-state that is the Palestinian Authority moved towards greater liberal democracy in the 1990s and 2000s.

### 21st century waves of democracy

In the Arab world, an unprecedented series of major protests occurred with citizens of Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Syria and other countries across the MENA region demanding democratic rights. This revolutionary wave was given the term Tunisia Effect, as well as the Arab Spring. The Palestinian Authority also took action to address democratic rights.

In Iran, following a highly disputed presidential vote fraught with corruption, Iranian citizens held a major series of protests calling for

### Representative Pictures



The European Parliament is the only supranational organ elected with universal suffrage (since 1979)



Voting is an important part of the formal democratic process.



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change and democratic rights (see: the 2009–2010 Iranian election protests and the 2011 Iranian protests).

In Asia, the country of Burma (also known as Myanmar) had long been ruled by a military junta, however in 2011; the government changed to allow certain voting rights and released democracy-leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

In Bhutan, in December 2005, the 4th King Jigme Singye Wangchuck announced to that the first general elections would be held in 2008, and that he would abdicate the throne in favor of his eldest son. Bhutan is currently undergoing further changes to allow for a constitutional monarchy. In the Maldives protests and political pressure led to a government reform which allowed democratic rights and presidential elections in 2008.

### Few books on Democracy

- The Life and Death of Democracy by John Keane
- A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn
- Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy by Joseph Alois Schumpeter
- A Preface to Democratic Theory by Robert A. Dahl
- Participation and Democratic Theory by Carole Pateman
- India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy by Ramachandra Guha
- Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950–1990 by Adam Przeworski
- The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change by Al Gore
- No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Surveillance State by Glenn Greenwald

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