

# DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is defined as a form of 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 periodic free elections.
- Democracy is not merely a form of government . It is also a form a state as a well society. It is closely associated with participation, competition and civil and political liberties. It is order of society.

## *Introduction*

- The principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community.
- The common people, considered as the primary source of political power.
- Right to give vote to elect their representatives.
- There is no one party government In the country.
- There is freedom of speech.
- People Elected government.
- Democracy refers to a political system in which government is form by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representative.

## DEFINITIONS

- Most definitions of democracy focus on qualities, procedures, and institutions
- There is no clear – cut, universal definition of democracy.
- Abraham Lincoln:-Democracy is a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”
- It defines as government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

## Continue.....definitions

- Bryce: Democracy really means nothing more or less than the rule of the whole people, expressing their Sovereign will by their votes.
- Gettel: Democracy is that form of government in which the masses of the population possesses the right to share in the exercise of sovereign power.
- MacIver : Democracy is a form of state is merely a mode of appointing, controlling and dismissing a government

# Meaning of Democracy

Democracy [*demos* = the people;  
*cracy* > *kratos* = strength/rule,  
so *democracy* = *rule by the people*]

Democracy offers one means to permit a people to live in safety and enjoy both liberty and justice. The people shall be as both governors and governed, they will advance the common good without oppressing themselves also the as you.



# Aristotle on Democracy



## Aristotle: in Ancient Greece

- Monarchy – ruled by one
- Oligarchy, *Aristocracy* – ruled by a few
- Democracy – ruled by many



## Democracy, therefore is.....

- A political unit that has a democratic government.
- 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.
- Government by the people, especially- rule of the majority.
- 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.
- The word 'democracy' itself means 'rule by the people.'

# Principles of democracy

- Participation of people in decision making process.
- Majority Rule.
- Role of opposition party.
- Guarantees rights and freedoms.
- Importance of Public Opinion.
- Political Equality.
- Freedom to live or travel anywhere in the country.
- Open Society.
- Government by consent of the people.
- Change the Government.
- Rule of law.
- Free elections .
- Independent Judiciary.
- Free Media.
- Spread of education.
- Right to commerce.
- Rise of political institutions.
- Element of decentralization.
- Constitution.



# Marxist Theory

- The marxist approach to literature is based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, a German philosopher and economist
- Marx major argument is that- whoever controlled the the means of production in a society controlled the society
- This approach became popular in 1917

# Marxist theory of democracy

- It tends to establish a democratic political system in which the interest of the working class is preserved.
- It is against the capitalist economic system
- because capitalist system serves only the interest of the bourgeoisie
- Marx wanted to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat
- To establish a classless society
- And a classless state

- Marxism is generally mistaken to be anti-democratic.
- It is basically different with the model of liberal or bourgeois democracy.
- Marx and Engels never lost their faith in democratic system
- Marx and Engels desired to replace the existing pattern of democracy with a new pattern of 'socialist democracy'.
- In this system, the major requirement is to give power to the workers and peasants.
- a government in the hands of the workers and peasants must liquidate all exploiters and oppressors.

# Features of Marxist Theory of Democracy

- It appreciates the liberal democratic theory (capitalist system) for terminating the era of feudalism and instead introducing the system of parliamentary democracy. It was appreciated for it paved the way for the advent of socialism.
- 'socialist democracy' or 'people's democracy' guarantee rights of the working class and provides conditions for the people to exercise them.
- It not only touches the political aspect, but it lays equal emphasis on its social and economic dimensions. It means political power in the hands of the people & absence of class distinctions and exploitation.
- it changes its complexion in the final stage of socialism.

# According to Marx and his followers, democracy has three phases:

- During the first phase of liberalism, it guarantees rights to all (formally). But it creates conditions so that the rights may be exercised only by a limited section of the bourgeois class.
- In the second phase of socialism- the rights are formally guaranteed to all and they must also be enabled to exercise them so that a really people's rule comes into existence.
- In the third phase of communism, democracy becomes a social affair as the classless society is converted into the stateless condition of life. Marx and Engels called it the negation of the capitalist and the socialist states. The society in this phase of its development would have no institution of government, separate and estranged from the people and it would have no coercive force, for none would be needed by the people.