



Principles of Democracy

Important Terms Relating to Democracies: Articulation

- Articulation – Process by which individuals and groups can express views to government
 - Institutional Groups: Groups whose main purpose is something other than governance, but work with government to advance own position
 - ex. Catholic Church
 - Associational Group: A formal organization whose primary goal is the articulation of its members interests
 - Ex. The National Rifle Association
 - Non-Associational Group: Similar to a Associational Group, but is less formal and may not have membership
 - Anomic Groups: Sporadic groups that form around a particular issue. May sometimes turn violent due to hastily assembled organization

Important Terms Relating to Democracies: Aggregation

- Aggregation – Formalizing practice of combining interests of Political institutions, elites, and political parties to form policy within a state structure
 1. Authoritarian single-party Exclusive and Inclusive
 - Power reserved to ruling party or elite
 2. Authoritarian multi-party
 - Authority not exclusively held by one particular party
 3. Competitive Two Party
 - Authority contested between two main political parties
 4. Pluralist party systems – Parliamentary Proportional electoral system
 - Authority contested between many parties, Prime authority determined by strength of representation

Important Principles of Democratic Governance

- The Rule of Law – Trust in the legal authority and accountability of the government to an established legal system
- Legitimacy – Trust in the government as the sole legal authority
 - Transparency, free elections, compatibility of system with culture, open and free press, economic success, improved living standards, rule of law, access to quality public services, civil rights, responsiveness to inputs, civil society, accountability, political efficacy, absence of relative deprivation



Civic Culture and Civic Society

- Civic Culture – The general acceptance of the legitimacy of the state and trust in its institutions. Includes at least limited participation by its citizens
- Civic Society – The collection of organizations that advocate for issues within the state, without being under the control of the government



Required Fundamental Principles

- Established by Mark Kesselman
 - 1 – political accountability – state must be able to be held accountable by the governed
 - 2 – political competition – alternation of power must be possible for different political parties and the losers must accept the winner's right to govern
 - 3 – political freedom – citizens must have the rights to participate and be informed – must have rule of law and independent judiciary
 - 4 – political equality – all citizens must be able to participate in politics with their votes and voices weighted equally

Conditions to be labeled a Democracy

- Democracies must meet a number of tests fairly consistently and over a period of time

1. Free and fair competitive elections with rules and regularity
2. Freedom of assembly and party activity
3. Procedures without arbitrariness, and with due process, transparency in policy-making and accountability
4. Civil liberties and rights with political equality
5. Independent judiciary with power over other institutions of government

Issues related to Democracies

1. Democracy can be inequitable
2. No country is completely democratic
3. Contentiousness of issues often result in valid and legitimate positions that result in a winner and loser, where the loser believes that the decision may be illegitimate
4. Economic inequalities stack the deck against the poor in the arena of politics
5. Many different institutional types of democracies, not just presidential



Democratization

- The process through which states go from non-democratic to Substantive Democracies
 - Happens over a period of time
- Three main waves of democratization
 - 19th and 20th Centuries, Decolonization, and End of Cold War

Authoritarian -> Electoral authoritarian-> Illiberal-> procedural-> Substantive

Types of Democracies

- Substantive Democracy – Enduring or consolidated democracy
- Procedural democracy – Has the basics like a newly transitional democracy, but not consolidated yet
- Illiberal democracy – Has the appearance of democracy, like a Potemkin Village, but the underlying factors do not exist to much extent
- Electoral authoritarianism – non-democracies who pretend to be democratic

