



CLASS IX
POLITICAL SCIENCE
CHAPTER 1
DEMOCRACY

NOTES

The end of the World War II brought Colonies of Asia & Africa to the democratic path

- Several countries of Latin America revived democracy after 1980.
- The Soviet Union of 15 republics disintegrated in 1991 and some of them became democracies.
- India has a number of neighbours that could not be called real democracies.
- Nepal and Bhutan have Kings as their rulers but pretend to have democratic governments.

Meaning of Democracy

- The term Democracy is derived from the Greek words '**Demos**' which means the people and '**Kratia**' implies power.
- American President **Abraham Lincoln** defines democracy as "***A Government of the people, by the people and for the people***".
- Democracy is a form of government in which the rulers are elected by the people.
- Two Kinds of democracy : **Direct and Indirect**
- Democracy has institutions like **Legislature, Executive and Judiciary**.
- In the USA, the President is very powerful while the Congress is weak (Presidential form of Government).
- In India and Great Britain, Prime Ministers are very powerful (Parliamentary form of Government).

Democratic Principles

- Equality and Liberty.
- Free and fair elections to choose the rulers.
- Final decision making power with elected persons.
- Tolerance is another principal.
- People have the power to change the government through constitutional means.



শিগাৰোফাংলৈ থাংই নক্সাশাংলৈ (থাম)

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- Election must be free and fair to have maximum participation of people.
- Two types of candidates in election : Party Candidates and Independent Candidates.
- Majority party in election will be the rulers while the minority party will be in the opposition.
- Rulers cannot rule according to their wishes in democracy.

Alternatives to Democracy

- Alternatives to democracy are dictatorial forms of government.
- They are ruled by a monarch, a dictator or a single party.
- Minimum participation of citizens.
- News and views are censored.
- Lenin, Stalin in USSR and Mao Zedong (Mao Tse Tung) in China had Autocratic Rule with Iron Hand.
- But, Mao claimed to establish 'New Democracy' in China.
- In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 for opposing Apartheid or racial segregation policy.
- In 1994, a popular government was established in South Africa.

Merits of Democracy

- Democracy is responsive to the needs of the people as well as more accountable than others.
- It is based on consultation and discussion. The voice of the people is the voice of god.
- Differences and conflicts are easily dealt with through peaceful and persuasive methods.
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizen. There is political equality between rich and poor. E.g. One person One vote.
- It allows the people to correct their own mistakes. The wrong decisions can be changed and even the rulers can be changed.



সিগাৰ্শ্বস্কান্ড আৰু নক্সান্ডান্ড (আঁল)

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Demerits of Democracy

- Mistakes while making decisions. The elected may not be expert.
- It emphasizes more quantity than quality. It is more expensive.
- It leads to delay. Not suitable during emergency.
- It leads to corruption and electoral competition.
- Leadership remains changing and instable government.



সিগাৰ্শ্বস্কান্ড আৰু নক্সান্ডান্ড (আঁল)
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
Government of Manipur