

## Chapter 6: Democracy

### **Introduction**

Because of the inherently positive connotation of the term “democracy”, many organizations describe themselves as democratic, although they define the term in different ways.

Communist systems –

Western democracies –

The word “democracy” comes from the Greek words *demos* and *kratia*, meaning:

demos –

kratia –

Democracy indicates a system where power resides with the people. People can exercise power either directly or indirectly.

Direct democracy –

Indirect democracy / Republicanism –

The exercise of power commonly takes three forms:

1.

2.

3.

Political scientists often times use the more specific term “liberal democracy”. This term means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Many liberal democracies have social-democratic regimes, which place a much higher emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_, tempering individual freedoms in favor of greater equality. Social democracies continue to respect the basic liberal – democratic tenets of participation, competition, and liberty.

### **The Origins of Liberal Democracy and the Rule of Law**

Democratic practices have their roots in ancient \_\_\_\_\_, specifically \_\_\_\_\_.

The modern form of democracy is one of \_\_\_\_\_.

Republicanism in its original form did not necessarily mean democracy. Many republicans advocated wider control over \_\_\_\_\_, but believed power should be granted only to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Today, democracy and republicanism are intertwined.

The origins of modern democracy can be traced back to \_\_\_\_\_ in England.

At that time, English nobles forced King John to sign the \_\_\_\_\_, a document that:

The emergence of democracy in England was incremental, developing across the centuries. One notable aspect of British democracy is that as a result of this incremental process, the country still lacks a formal \_\_\_\_\_.

**Define: Rule of law –**

### **Participation: Voting and Elections**

Participation is central to liberal democracy. Examples of participation include:

Voting and elections are important forms of participation.

- Elections prevent any one individual or group from maintaining its power indefinitely.
- Elections limit the possibilities for leaders to abuse their powers.
- In a true democracy, the right to vote, or suffrage, needs to be open to all adult citizens, with few restrictions.
- Some democracies consider voting a responsibility as well as a right.

**Electoral systems –**

**Electoral systems matter because**

All democracies divide their populations up into a number of electoral boundaries or constituencies that are allocated a certain number of legislative seats. How these boundaries are drawn matters because:

## **Electoral Systems**

First Past the Post –

FPTP is seen by political scientists as having a profound impact on the number of  
\_\_\_\_\_ because

Proportional Representation -