

Module II

What is democracy?



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Who governs
the country?
Who manages
rules,
resources,
justice and
security?

- All countries have governments.
- There are different forms of governments
- One form is DEMOCRACY.
- In Europe the governments are democratic.



Forms of government

- **Do you know other forms of governing a country ?**

Other forms of government

- **Autocracy**

In an autocracy, a single person has all legal and political power.

All decisions are made by this person.

This person has no legitimation by the citizens.

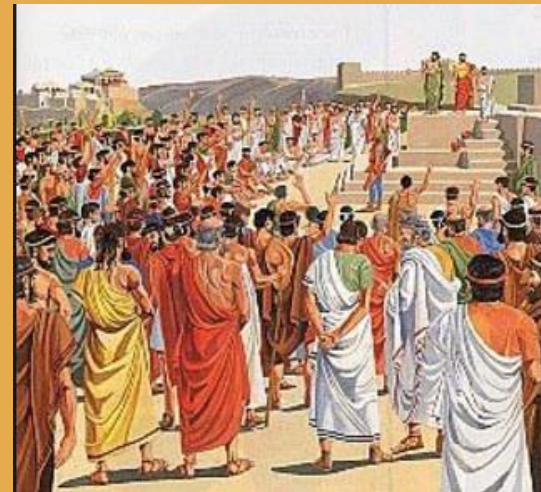
- **Oligarchy**

In an oligarchy a small number of people have the political power. They often use the power for their own benefit and wealth.

δημοκρατίας (Democracy)

History
Greek
6th and 5th
Century
before Christ

- 'demos', means people
- 'Kratos' means power or rule
- Democracy means: **Making rules by people**
- In the **Assembly** adult citizens met and voted.
- No women, slaves and foreigners could take part.
- Decisions were made by majority vote system.



Forms of democracy

- **Which forms of democracy do you know?**

Forms of democracy



- **Direct democracy:**

- Every single law, bill, or issue of justice is voted on by all the people.

This type of democracy existed in ancient Greece.

- **Representative democracy:**

- The people of a country vote for people who represent them.

These representatives are politicians.

Citizens have something to say in their government by electing politicians.

The politicians make decisions and laws on their behalf.

6 principles of democracy



- **Free elections**
- **Equality**
- **System of law**
- **Separation of powers**
- **Human and minority rights**
- **Rights of Freedom (Civil Rights)**

Principle of democracy 1



- **Free elections:**

Regular free and fair elections are open to all citizens of voting age.

Attention:

This is still not the case for people with disabilities in some European countries.

Principle of democracy 2



- **Equality:**

All individuals have the same value and have equal opportunities.

They must not be discriminated because of social or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity among other reasons.

Principle of democracy 3



- **System of law:**

The ones who belong to any form of government are bound by law.

Government and its officials actions are limited and held accountable by the law.

Principle of democracy 4



■ Separation of powers:

The political authority of the state is divided into **legislative, executive and judicial** powers.

Separation of powers is the division of government responsibilities into parts.

No part can exercise the core functions of another.

Legislative: creates rules

Executive: carries out rules

Judicial: dispenses justice

Principle of democracy 5



Human Rights

- **Human and Minority rights**

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person all over the world.

They cover the most fundamental needs of people in order to have a safe and good life and participate fully in society.

Minority rights are extra rights to bring all members of society to a balanced enjoyment of their human rights.

Principle of democracy 6



▪ **Rights of Freedom**

- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Freedom of political expression
- Freedom of assembly and association

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- Figure 2: Assembly Ancient Greek: <https://edu.glogster.com/glog/ancient-athenian-assembly/2aqxpcxn8o2?=glogpedia-source>
- Figure 3: Democracy: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/democracy-day>
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- Figure 5 : Equality Symbol: <http://clipart-library.com/equality-symbol.html>
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- <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/democracy/index.html>
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