

CLASS 9 CIVICS

What is democracy? Why democracy?



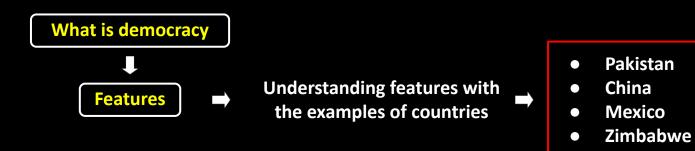


## **One Shot Live Revision Series**

Date	Class 10 <sup>th</sup> Live @ 6:00 PM Daily	Class 9 <sup>th</sup> <mark>Live</mark> @ 8:45 PM Daily
17 Sep 23	The rise of nationalism in Europe	The French Revolution
18 Sep 23	Resources and Development	India - Size and Location
19 Sep 23	Power Sharing	What is democracy? Why democracy?
20 Sep 23	Development	The story of village Palampur
21 Sep 23	Nationalism in India	Socialism in Europe and the Russian Revolution
22 Sep 23	Forest and Wildlife Resources	Physical Features of India
23 Sep 23	Federalism	Constitutional Design
24 Sep 23	Sectors of the Indian Economy	People as Resource
25 Sep 23	Gender, Religion and Caste	Electoral politics
26 Sep 23	Water Resources	Drainage



Introduction



Why democracy?

- Arguments against democracy.
- Arguments for democracy.
- Broader meanings of democracy.



**Democracy** 



Democracy is a form of a government in which the rulers are elected by the people.

**Features of Democracy** 



- Rulers are elected by the people to take major decisions.
- Through elections, a fair and choice of opportunity is given to people to change the current ruler.
- This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.
- The exercise of this choice leads to the formation of a government, limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizen's right.



1. In a democracy the final decision making power must rest with those elected by the people.



- In 1999, A military General, Pervez Musharraf took over the government.
- In 2002, he changed his designation to President, also held a referendum that granted him 5 years of extension
- In 2002, he issued a Legal Frame Work, according to which he amended the constitution. It gave the President the right to dismiss the national/provincial assemblies.
- The work of civilian cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council, which was dominated by the military. After the law was passed, elections were held in the assemblies.
- Therefore, there were elected representatives that had some power, but the final power was under the military and General Musharraf.



2. A democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.



#### China



- In China, elections are regularly held after every five years for electing the country's parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (National People's Congress).
- Before contesting elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party.
- Only those who are members of the Chinese
   Communist Party or eight smaller parties allied
   to it were allowed to contest elections

#### Mexico



- Since its independence in 1930,
   Mexico holds elections after every six years to elect its President.
- But until 2000 every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party)
- The PRI was known to use many dirty tricks to win elections.





3. In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.



- In Saudi Arabia, women do not have the right to vote
- Estonia has made its citizenship rules in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote
- In Fiji, the electoral system is such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji
  has more value than that of an Indian-Fijian.



4. A democratic government rules within limits set by 'constitutional law and citizens' rights.



- Zimbabwe gained independence in the year 1980. Since then, the country had been ruled by the party ZANU-PF this party led the freedom struggle in the leadership of Robert Mugabe.
- Since then, the elections had held at a regular pace and won by ZANU-PF.
- President Mugabe is popular, but also uses unfair practices in elections. Over the years, this government has changed the constitution several times to increase his powers and less accountability.
- The opposition party workers were harassed, and their meetings were disrupted. Public demonstrations against the government are illegal.
- Television and radio are controlled by the government and give only the ruling party's vision. There are independent newspapers, but the government harasses journalists who go against them.



Why Democracy?

#### **Arguments against democracy**

- Leaders keep changing in a democracy. This leads to instability.
- Democracy is all about political competition and power play. There is no scope for morality.
- So many people have to be consulted in a democracy that it leads to delays.
- Elected leaders do not know the best interest of the people. It leads to bad decisions.
- Democracy leads to corruption, for it is based on electoral competition. ■ Ordinary people don't know what is good for them; they should not decide anything.

#### **Arguments For democracy**

- A democratic government is a better government because it is a more accountable form of government.
- Thus democracy improves the quality of decision-making
- Democracy provides a method to deal with differences and conflicts.
- Democracy enhances the dignity of citizens.
- democracy is better than other forms of government because it allows us to correct its own mistakes.



**Broader Meaning of Democracy** 



**Representative democracy** 



- 1. Democracy as an organisation other than the government.
- A democratic decision involves consultation with and consent of all those who are affected by that decision.
- 2. Sometimes we use the word democracy not to describe any existing government but to set up an ideal standard that all democracies must aim to become.



"True democracy will come to this country only when no one goes hungry to bed."



- It enables us to judge an existing democracy and identify its weaknesses.
- It helps us to distinguish between a minimal democracy and a good democracy.

No country is a perfect democracy.



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