

What Is Democracy ?

Democracy is a **form of government** in which the common **people** hold **political power** and can rule either **directly** or through **elected representatives**.



Objectives:

- Define Democracy
- Identify Values and Democratic principles that Australia support
- State the effects that yield from practicing democracy
- Provide methods that enhance democracy

Australian values include:

- freedom and dignity of the individual
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance
- Equality of opportunity for all



Personal Values

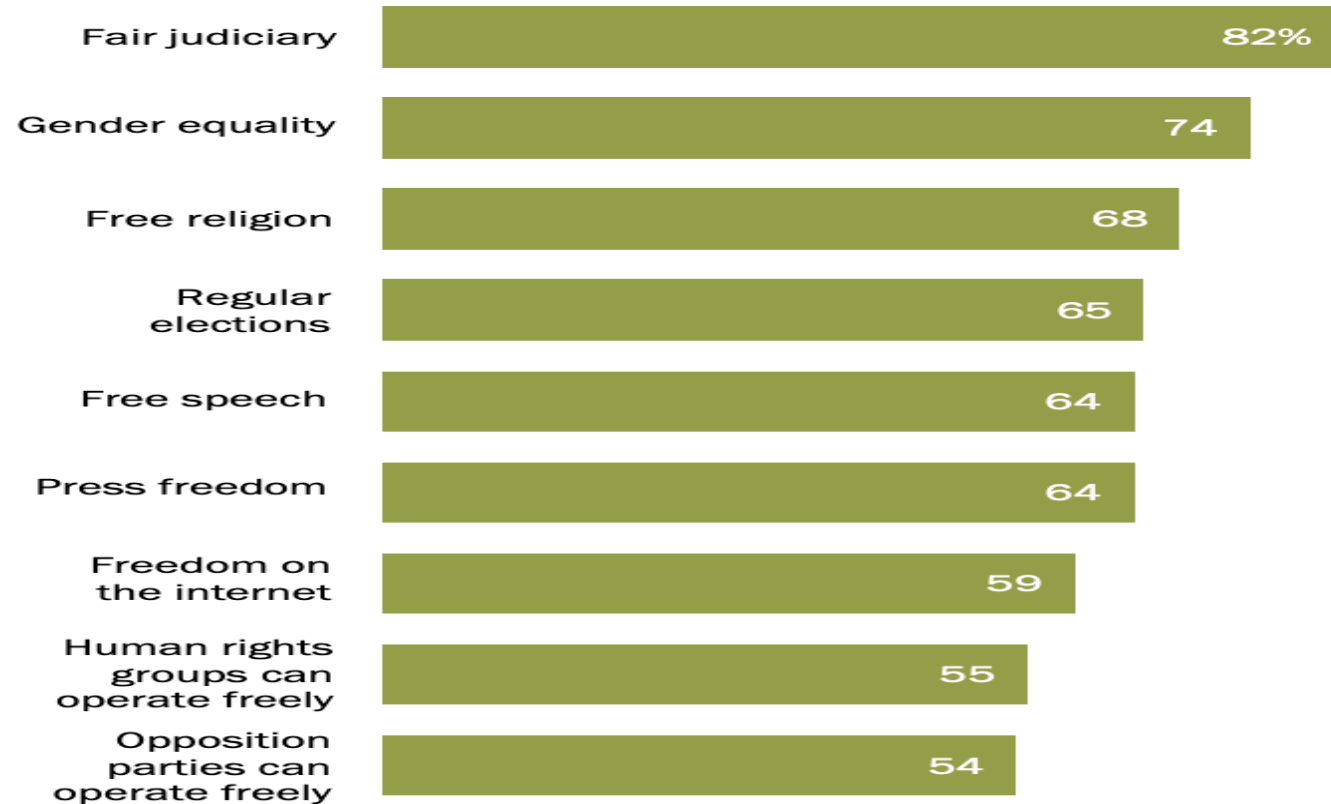
The diagram consists of two vertical orange brackets on the right side of the slide. The top bracket spans the first three bullet points (freedom and dignity of the individual, Mutual respect, and Tolerance) and is labeled 'Personal Values'. The bottom bracket spans the fourth bullet point (Equality of opportunity for all) and is labeled 'Team Values'.

Team Values

Democratic principles that Australia support:

Support for democratic principles

% who say it is very important to have ___ in their country



Note: Percentages are medians based on 34 countries.

Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey. Q55a-f, Q57a-c.

“Democratic Rights Popular Globally but Commitment to Them Not Always Strong”

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Effects

What effect does the lack of democracy have on economic growth?

What ramifications do the absence of democracy have on political sectors?

How can the lack of democracy affect the well-being psychologically ?

Economical

Psychological

Political

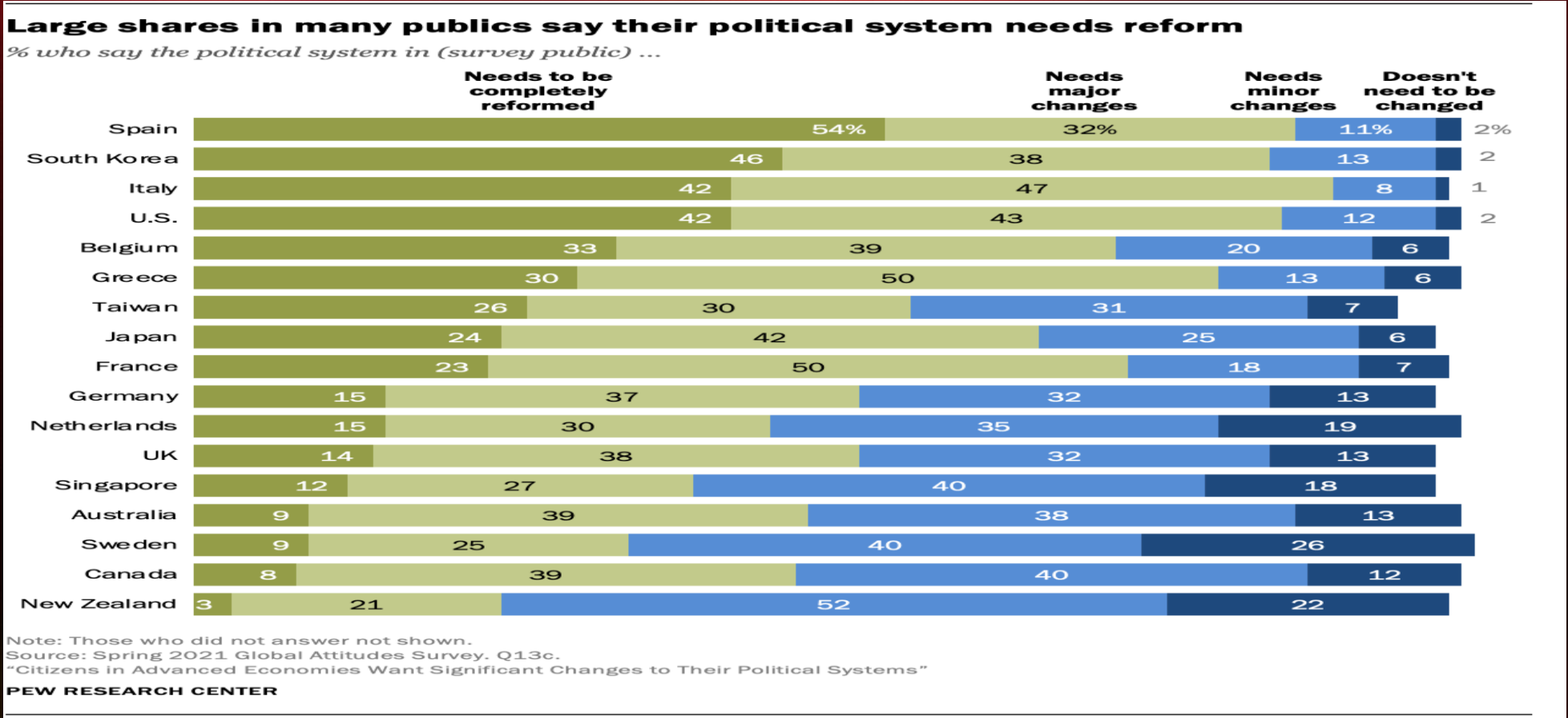
How are countries affected economically by democracy ?

Democracy is associated with higher human capital accumulation, lower inflation, lower political instability, and higher economic freedom.

Democracy is closely tied with economic sources of growth, like education levels and lifespan through improvement of educative institutions as well as healthcare.

To what extent does the scarcity of democracy cause radical changes in our political system ?

A median of 56% of respondents in 17 advanced economies polled in 2021 believe their **political system** requires major **changes** or is totally transformed. In Italy, Spain, the United States, South Korea, Greece, France, Belgium, and Japan, roughly two-thirds or more agree.



How can the lack of democracy affect the well-being psychologically ?

Researches show that the **lack of voting** among individuals lead to the **unbelonging** of those individuals to their country. **Feelings** of connection and belonging **change** the way individuals **interact** with the world around them.

One approach to illustrate this concept is through the **Social Ecological Model of Health**. Accordingly, an **individual's health** is **controlled** not just by their **biological and individual choices**, but also by the **community** in which they live in, the **systems** with which they interact, and the **cultural norms** that form their realities. **Health** starts with the **genes** you receive from your parents, but it **extends** into how you are affected by your **social environment** through **voting** and thus democracy.

What are the suggested methods for enhancing democracy?



- Produce a high profile report
- Create democratic schools from the inside out
- Strengthen community learning
- Political education through the media



A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful.

Charles W. Pickering

References :

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