

**PUB 1270: Socio-Political Environment**

# **DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT**

*Session 09*



**Department of Public Administration  
Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura  
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# Learning Outcomes

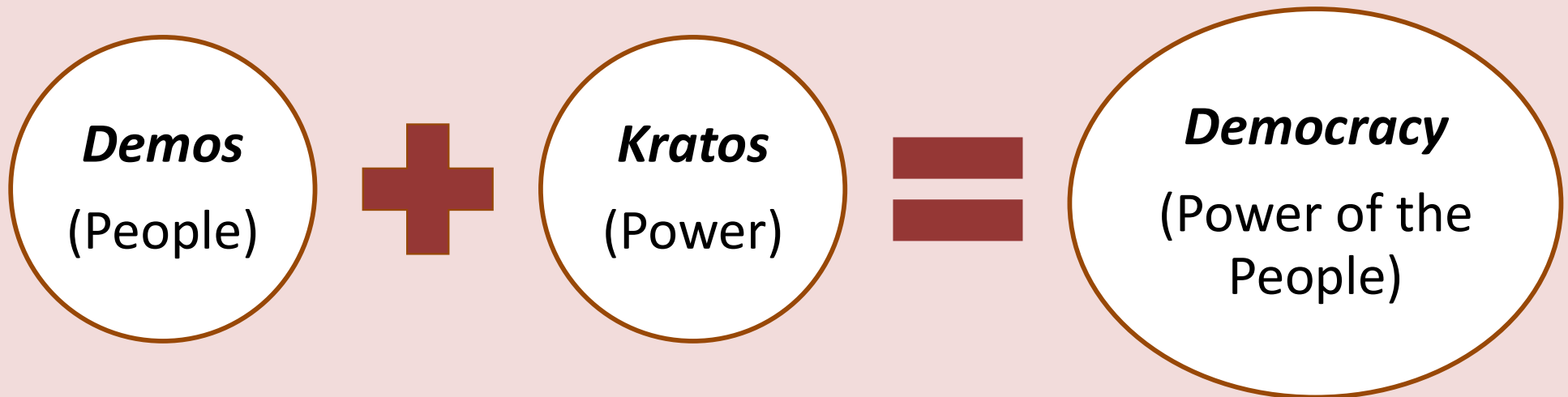


- Define democracy
- Identify the types of democracy
- Describe the basic principles of democracy

# Democracy

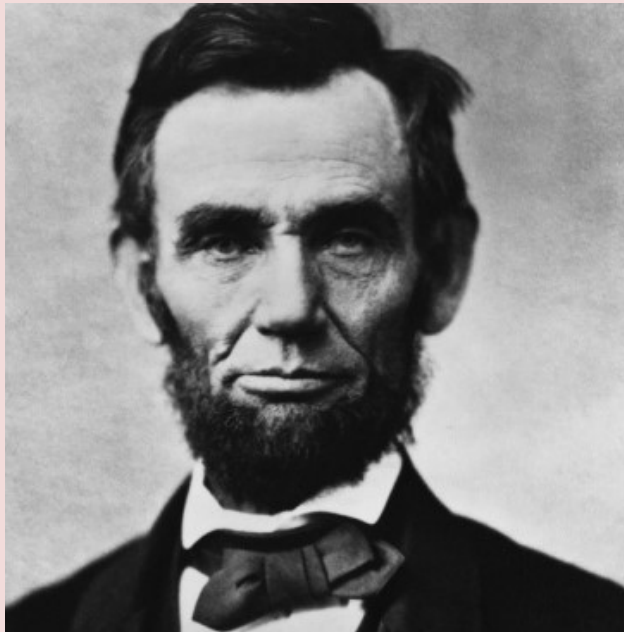


- The word 'Democracy' is derived from two Greek words,



- It is a form of government in which the *people rule themselves* either directly or indirectly through their representatives.

# Democracy cont'd.



“Democracy is a Government,  
*of the people,*  
*by the people,*  
*and for the people.”*

***Abraham Lincoln***

# Democracy cont'd.



## Types of Democracy

### Democracy

**Direct / Pure  
Democracy**



**Indirect/ Representative  
Democracy**



# Democracy cont'd.



## Democratic Tools

### Direct Democracy

- **Referendum** – It is a direct and universal vote in which an entire electorate is invited to vote on a particular proposal
- **Initiative** - A specific number of voters may draft a bill and send it to the government for its adoption by parliament (America/ Switzerland)
- **Recall** - The voters may bring back or recall a representative chosen by them in case they are dissatisfied with him. (China-Local level)

### Indirect Democracy

## Election



# Direct Democracy in practice (Referendum)



## 1982 Sri Lanka National Referendum

Extends life of parliament by six years

### Results

	Votes	%
✓ Yes	3,141,223	54.66%
✗ No	2,605,983	45.34%
Valid votes	5,747,206	99.63%
Invalid or blank votes	21,456	0.37%
Total votes	5,768,662	100.00%
Registered voters/turnout	8,145,015	70.82%



## Britain Votes to Leave

U.K. votes to quit European Union after more than four decades



# Democracy cont'd.



## Basic Principles of Democracy

- Liberty (freedom)
- Equality (equal opportunity)
- Human rights
- Multi party system
- Free and fair elections
- Political tolerance
- Citizen participation
- Independence of judiciary
- Rule of law
- Control over abuse of power
- Accountability and transparency

**Source :Inter Parliamentary Union, (1997)**



# Liberty

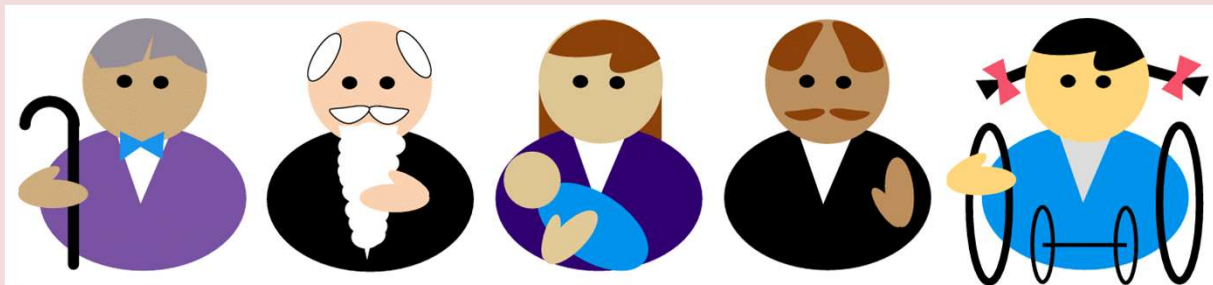


- Liberty means *freedom to do anything without hindering the freedom of others.*
- It is conditioned by law.

# Equality



- Popular meaning is that,  
*all human beings are equal and all should be entitled for same treatment.*
- It refers to abolition of all kinds of social privileges or absence of legal discrimination against any individual, group, class or race.



# Rights



Rights are certain advantageous conditions of social wellbeing indispensable to the true development of the citizens.

*Ma Cun*

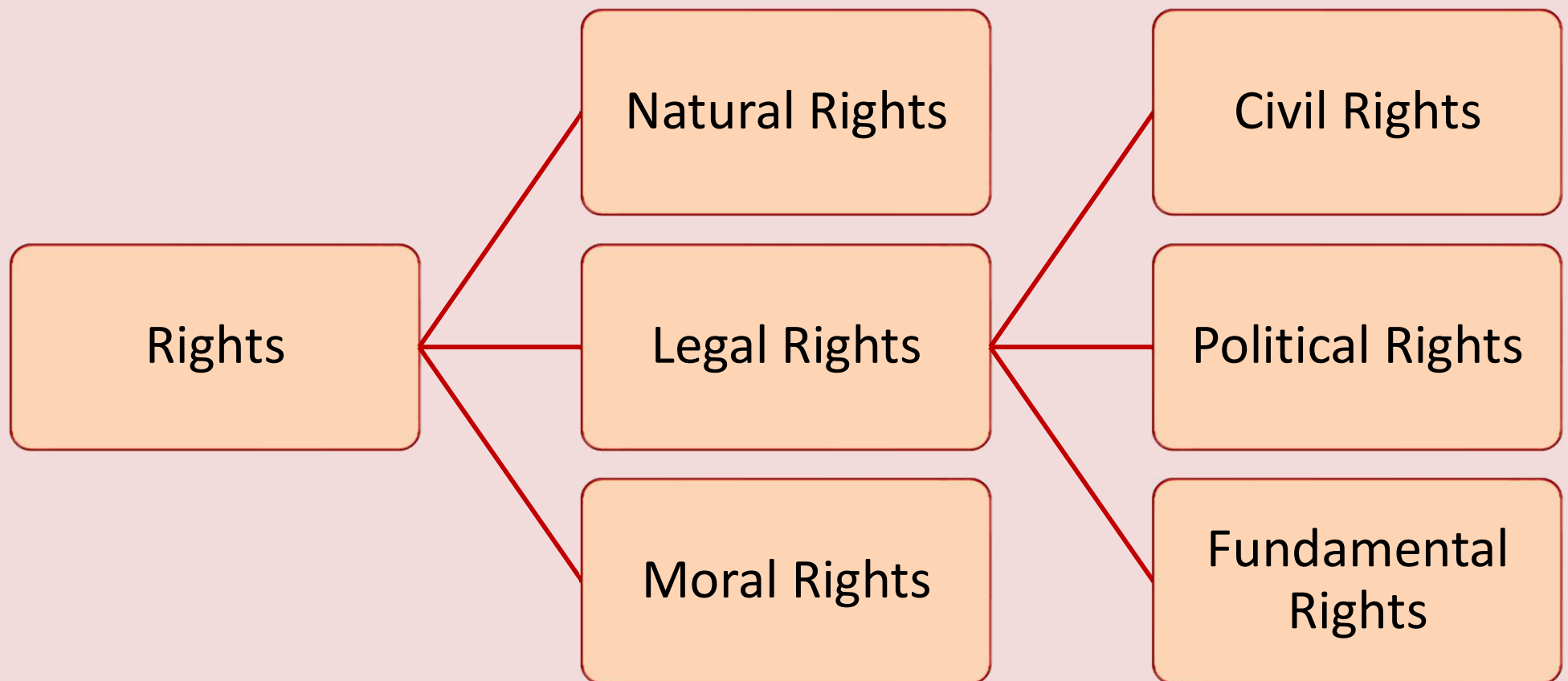
Rights are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek to be himself at his best.

*(Harold Laski, 1923)*

# Rights cont'd.



## Classification



# Rights cont'd.



## Natural Rights

- Natural rights are based upon the universal law, the law of nature, and are common to all people in all countries.

## Moral Rights

- Rights based on the ethical feelings of man (What we think ought to be our rights).
- A moral right is not supported by the law of the State.
- It is sanctioned by the moral opinion of the community.

## Legal Rights

- Rights which are granted to human by law and are protected by law.

# Legal Rights



## Civil Rights

- The rights which relate to the protection and enjoyment of life and property. It include,
  - Right to life
  - Freedom from arbitrary arrest
  - Freedom to acquire and hold property
  - Right to liberty and free movement
  - Freedom to speak and write for publication
  - Freedom to meet publicly
  - Freedom to form associations for peaceful ends
  - Freedom to make contracts
  - Right to religion
  - Right to education
  - Right to work



# Legal Rights cont'd.



## Political Rights

- Capacity of a citizen to involve in political affairs of the country
- Political rights include,
  - Right to vote and elect
  - Right to be elected
  - Right to hold public offices
  - Right to petition
  - Right to criticize the government

# Legal Rights cont'd.



## Fundamental Rights

- These are the certain basic rights which civilized communities guarantee in normal times, because they are deemed fundamental to the existence and growth of human.
- The tendency in a democratic State is to ***incorporate such basic rights in its Constitution.***

E.g.: Chapter III of Sri Lankan Constitution

# Duties



- A duty is an **obligation**.
- It is something we owe to others as social beings.
- My right involves my duty to allow same condition for others.
- Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin.

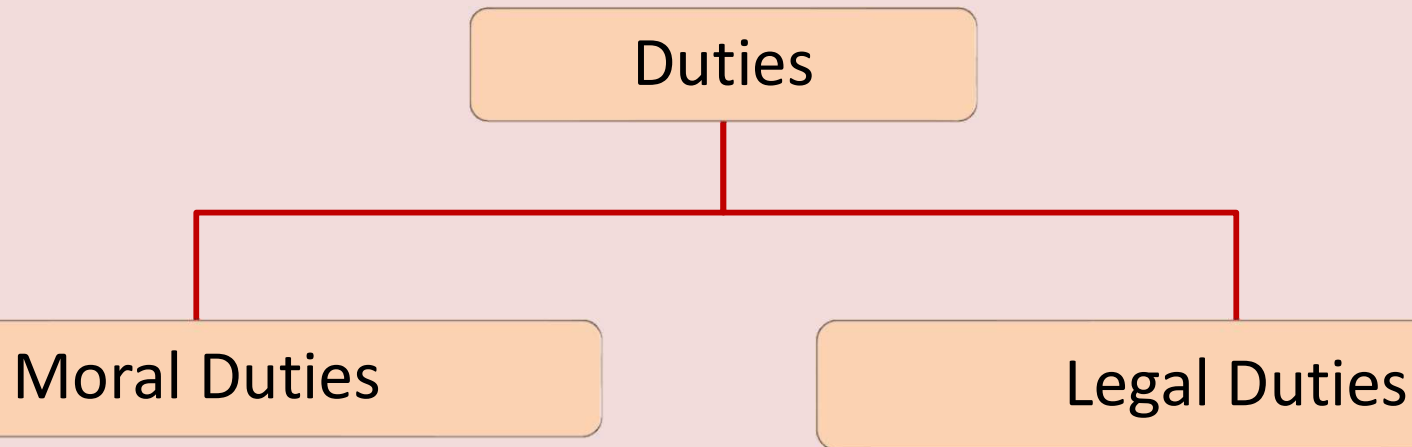
***“I can enjoy my rights only if I respect the rights of others.”***



# Duties cont'd.



## Classification



- It is based on the moral values of the people
- If there is a breach of a moral duty there is nothing legally to punish the wrongdoer, though it may involve social condemnation.

- It enforced by law of the State
- Failure to perform legal duties is punishable.  
E.g.: Tax aversion