

CHAPTER ONE

The Most Prevailing Constitutional Systems



THREE MODELS OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF POWER

MONOCRACY

OLIGARCHY

DEMOCRACY

MONOCRACY

- It is the form of government in which power belongs to one individual
- It can be a king, an emperor or a dictator
- There are four models of monarchies
 - ❑ Monarchies
 - ❑ Theocracies
 - ❑ Popular Cesarism
 - ❑ Dictatorship

MONARCHY

Two categories:

✓ Absolute monarchies:

- ❖ Based on divine power
- ❖ Run by an individual (who concentrates all powers)
- ❖ Hereditary transmission of power

✓ Limited monarchies:

- ❖ Mixed exercise of power
- ❖ Allows some separation of powers
- ❖ Example: “Constitutional Monarchies”

Theocracy

- It is a form of absolute **confusion of political and religious powers**
- It is also a form of **confusion of legislative and executive powers**
- The Chief is mostly considered as holding or representing **divine power**
- He has **unlimited powers**

Popular Cesarism

- It is an other form of government based on **plebiscite** and on **the exercise of authoritarian powers** by one individual
- This style of government has been launched by the French Emperor **Napoleon Bonaparte**
- It is based on a **dictatorial reality** hidden behind **democratic appearances**

Dictatorship

- It is a form of authoritarian government in which there is no freedom nor democratic control;
- Various forms:
 - ❖ Military Dictatorships
 - ❖ Totalitarian Dictatorships
 - ✓ Fascist Regimes
 - ✓ Marxist Regimes
 - ✓ **Nazi**onal Socialism

OLIGARCHY

- It is an aristocratic conception of power, based on elites.
- Power belongs to a privileged social class.
- There are four types of Oligarchy:
 - Aristocracy
 - **Ploutocracy**
 - **Partitocracy**
 - **Technocracy**

Aristocracy

- It is a **privileged social class**
- The aristocratic conception of power is based on **an elitist approach**
- It claims the **government by the best**
- The Antique **Spartan city** of Greece was a typical model of aristocratic regime
- **Rhodesia** and Apartheid **South Africa** were contemporary forms of aristocratic regimes

Ploutocracy

- It is a form of government in which **power is vested in the wealthiest**;
- Leaderships are selected on the basis of their wealth;
- One form of its expression is the application of **census taxes** in the electoral process.



Partitocracy

- What is intended by this notion is that power is vested in **political parties**;
- Party apparatuses share power through multiple systems of **coalitions**;
- Within this kind of system, political pluralism implies rotation of party leaderships in key government positions.



Technocracy

- It is a form of organization in which power is detained by **those who have the knowledge**;
- These are commonly called '**technocrats**';
- **Technocratic governments** usually tend to make up for the limits of party governments.



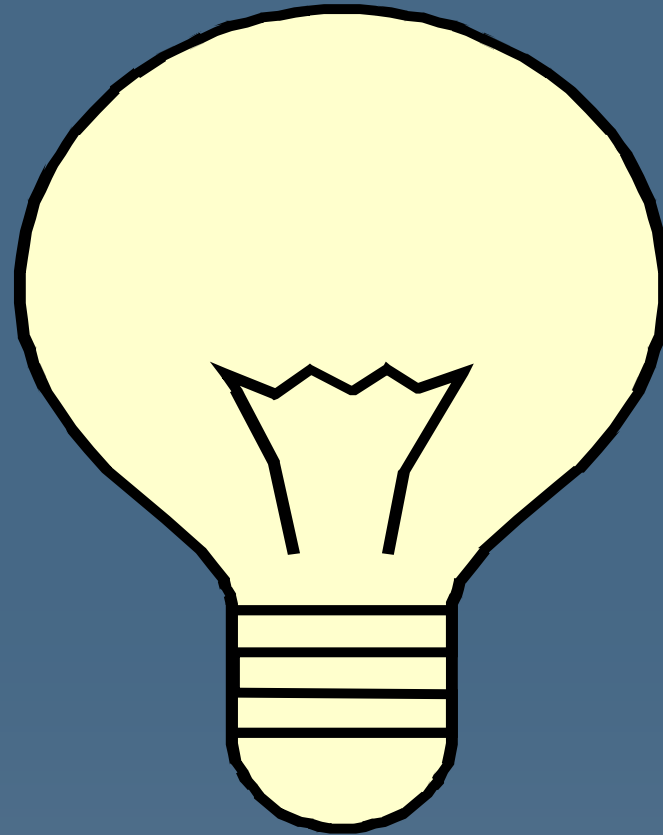
DEMOCRACY

- It is a form of government in which it is the 'people' who rule;
- The word "democracy" comes from the ancient Greeks;
- To them '*demo*' referred to the people and '*kratia*' meant "to rule";
- "Government of the people, by the people and for the people" Abraham Lincoln.

DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is based on the reunion of three elements:
 - ❖ **Freedom** (all basic freedoms)
 - ❖ **Equality** (all aspects + equal opportunity)
 - ❖ **Legality** (due process of law)

DO YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS?



For Further Reading

What Is Democracy?

- **Democracy** comes from the Greek word, "demos," meaning people. In democracies, it is the people who hold sovereign power over legislator and government.
- Although nuances apply to the world's various **democracies**, certain principles and practices distinguish democratic government from other forms of government.
- **Democracy** is government in which power and civic responsibility are exercised by all citizens, directly or through their freely elected representatives.
- **Democracy** is a set of principles and practices that protect human freedom; it is the institutionalization of freedom.
- **Democracy** rests upon the principles of majority rule, coupled with individual and minority rights. All democracies, while respecting the will of the majority, zealously protect the fundamental rights of individuals and minority groups.
- **Democracies** guard against all-powerful central governments and decentralize government to regional and local levels, understanding that local government must be as accessible and responsive to the people as possible.

[To be continued in next slide...]

For Further Reading

What Is Democracy?

[...Continuation of previous slide]

- **Democracies** understand that one of their prime functions is to protect such basic human rights as freedom of speech and religion; the right to equal protection under law; and the opportunity to organize and participate fully in the political, economic, and cultural life of society.
- **Democracies** conduct regular free and fair elections open to all citizens. Elections in a democracy cannot be facades that dictators or a single party hide behind, but authentic competitions for the support of the people.
- **Democracy** subjects governments to the rule of law and ensures that all citizens receive equal protection under the law and that their rights are protected by the legal system.
- **Democracies** are diverse, reflecting each nation's unique political, social, and cultural life. Democracies rest upon fundamental principles, not uniform practices.
- Citizens in a **democracy** not only have rights, they have the responsibility to participate in the political system that, [in turn, protects their rights and freedoms.
- Democratic societies are committed to the values of tolerance, cooperation, and compromise. **Democracies** recognize that reaching consensus requires compromise and that it may not always be attainable. In the words of **Mahatma Gandhi**, "[intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.](#)"

Next Week

**THE BASIC FEATURES
OF THE AMERICAN
POLITICAL SYSTEM**

