

Democracy in the Contemporary World



"Democracy is one of the most common types of government in the modern world. Over half of the world's countries employ some kind of democratic system; however, world leaders do not agree on exactly what a democracy means."

4.1 Two tales of democracy

(a) Chile (S.A.) - South America

Salvador Allende, the President of Chile, was the founder of the Socialist Party of Chile and led the Popular Unity coalition to victory in the presidential election in 1970. After being elected he took several policy decisions to help the poor and the workers. He was opposed to foreign companies taking away natural resources. The landlords, the rich and the Church opposed his policies. Some other political parties in Chile also opposed his government.

Military Coup of 1973 - On the morning of 11 September 1973, the military took over the seaport. The military commanders asked the President to resign. Allende refused to resign or leave the country. Military surrounded the President's house and started bombing. Allende died in the military attack. A government elected by people was overthrown by the military through conspiracy and violence.

General Augusto Pinochet, an Army general, led the coup. The government of the United States of America was unhappy with Allende's rule and is known to have supported and funded activities that led to the coup. Pinochet became the President of the country and ruled it for the next 17 years. Thus a military dictatorship was established in Chile. Pinochet's government tortured and killed several of those who wanted democracy to be restored. More than 3000 people were killed by the military. Many more were reported 'missing'. No one knows what happened to them.

Restoration of Democracy - Pinochet's military dictatorship came to an end after he decided to hold a referendum in 1988. The people of Chile voted a decisive 'no' to Pinochet. This led to Pinochet losing first his political and then his military powers. Political freedom was restored. Since then Chile has held four presidential elections in which different political parties have participated. General Bachelet's daughter, Michelle Bachelet was elected President of Chile in January 2006. She became the first woman to be a Defence Minister in Latin America.

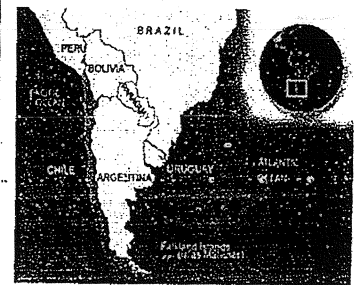


Fig.1 Chile in the world

Chile maintains an embassy in the United States at 1732 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

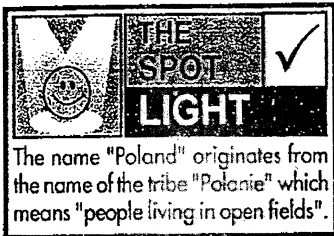
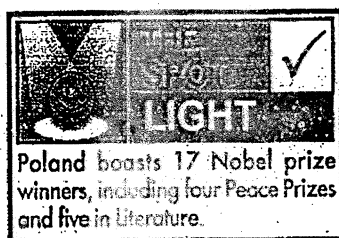


Fig.2 Flag of Poland



Democracy in Poland

In 1980, Poland was ruled by the Polish United Worker's Party, no other political party was allowed to function. The people could not freely choose the leaders of the communist party or the government. Those who spoke against the leaders or the party or the government were put in prison. On 14 August 1980, the workers of Lenin Shipyard in the city of Gdansk went on a strike. The strike began with a demand to take back a crane operator, a woman worker, who was unjustly dismissed from service. This strike was illegal because trade unions independent of the ruling party were not allowed in Poland.

Lech Walesa, a former electrician, emerged as the leader of the striking workers. Workers wanted the right to form independent trade unions. They also demanded the release of political prisoners and an end to censorship on press. The workers strike forced the government to sign a 21 point agreement, which allowed them to form their own independent unions. A new trade union called Solidarity was formed. Within a year, Solidarity swept across Poland and had about one crore members.

The government led by General Jaruzelski, imposed martial law in December 1981. Freedom to organise, protest and express opinions was once again taken away. Another wave of strikes, began in 1988. Another round of negotiations resulted in an agreement in April 1989 for free elections. Solidarity won 99 of 100 seats. In October 1990, first President elections were held and Walesa became first elected President of Poland.

The three democratic governments discussed – Allende's Chile, Walesa's Poland and Michelle's Chile share some basic features. Power was exercised by governments elected by the people and not by the army, unelected leaders or any external power. The people enjoyed some basic political freedoms. Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers. In a democracy, only leaders elected by people should rule the country, and people have freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.

4.2 The changing map of democracy

Take a look at these three maps and find out if there was a pattern in the way democracies have evolved in the twentieth century. The first map depicts the countries that were democracies in 1950, a few years after the end of the Second World War.

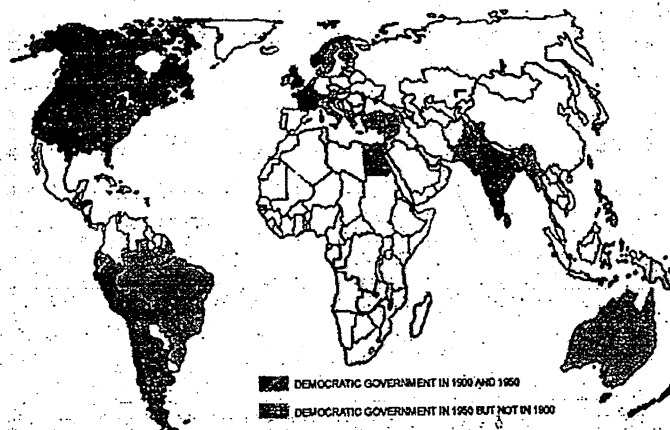


Fig.3 Democratic governments in 1900-1950

This figure presents a picture of democratic regimes in 1975, after most of the colonies had gained independence.



Fig.4 Democratic governments in 1975

Finally, we take another leap and look at democracies in the year 2000, at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

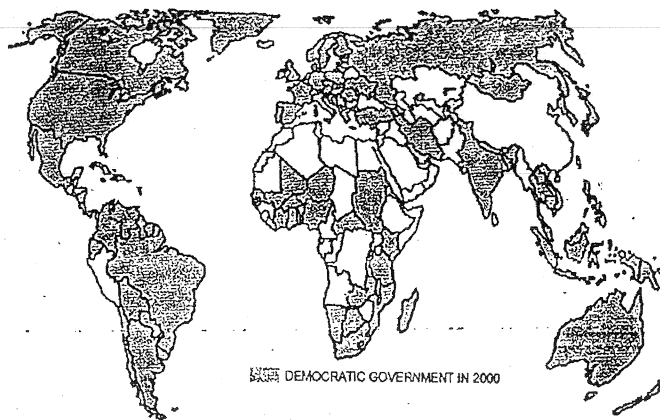


Fig.5 Democratic governments in 2000

The main points that emerge from a reading of these maps are –Democracy has expanded throughout the twentieth century. Democracy did not spread evenly in all parts of the world. It was established first in some regions and then spread to other regions. While a majority of countries are democratic today, there are still large parts of the world that are not democratic.

4.3 Phases in the expansion of democracy

(a) The Beginning

The story of modern democracy began at least two centuries ago. Though French Revolution of 1789 did not establish a secure and stable democracy in France, yet the French Revolution inspired many struggles for democracy all over Europe. In Britain, the progress towards democracy started much before the French Revolution. Through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, series of political events reduced the power of monarchy and feudal lords. The right to vote was granted to more and more people. The British colonies in North America declared themselves independent in 1776. In the next few years these colonies came together to form the United States of America. They adopted a democratic constitution in 1787.

In the nineteenth century struggles for democracy often centred round political equality, freedom and justice. One major demand was the right

**THE
SPOT
LIGHT**

A democratic system can only work if a country's citizens participate. In a democracy, it is every adult's responsibility to be educated about and aware of societal issues and to vote.



Fig.6 Christine Lagarde

**THE
SPOT
LIGHT**

Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde is a French lawyer and Union for a Popular Movement politician, the first woman to become finance minister of a G8 economy, and is the first woman to head the IMF.



The only five countries in the world (with populations greater than 500K) not to hold elections between 2000 and 2012 are: China, Eritrea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.



Fig.7 World Bank logo



The World Bank is a United Nations international financial institution that provides loans to developing countries for capital programs. The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, and a member of the United Nations Development Group.

for every adult citizen to vote. Many European countries that were becoming more democratic did not initially allow all people to vote. In some countries people owning property had the right to vote. In the United States of America, the blacks all over the country could not exercise the right to vote until 1965. Those struggling for democracy wanted this right granted universally to all adults – men or women, rich or poor, white or black. This is called 'universal adult franchise' or 'universal suffrage'. By 1900 New Zealand was the only country where every adult had voting right. Early democracies were established in Europe, North America and Latin America.

(b) End of colonialism

People of the colonised countries had to wage struggles to achieve independence. They not only wanted to get rid of their colonial masters, but also wished to choose their future leaders. Many of these countries became democracies immediately after the end of the Second World War in 1945. India achieved independence in 1947 and embarked on its journey to transform itself from a subject country to a democracy. Ghana, a country in western Africa, used to be a British colony named Gold Coast; became independent in 1957. Kwame Nkrumah, a freedom fighter became the first prime minister and then the president of Ghana. But later on he declared himself elected president for life. He was overthrown in 1966 by the military. Many countries which became independent after Second World War were not able to remain democracies for long.

(c) Recent phase

The next big push towards democracy came after 1980, as democracy was revived in several countries of Latin America. Poland and several other countries became free from the control of Soviet Union during 1989-90. They chose to become democracies. Finally the Soviet Union itself broke down in 1991. The Soviet Union comprised 15 republics. All the constituent Republics emerged as independent countries. Most of them became democracies.

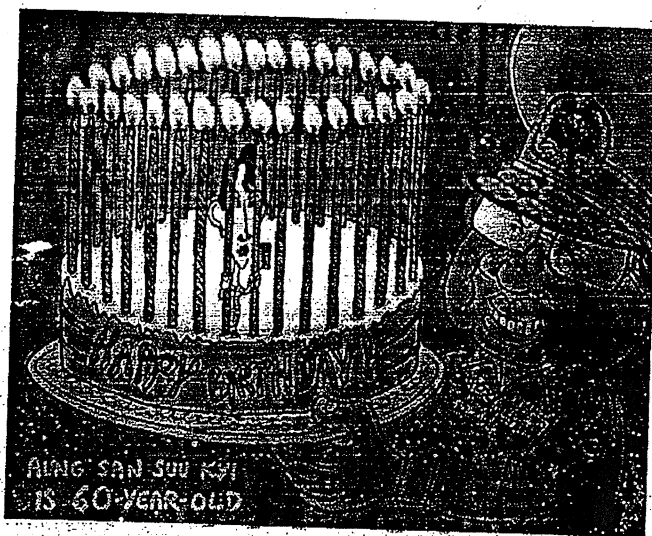


Fig.8 Aung San Suu Kyi turned 60

Pakistan and Bangladesh made a transition from army rule to democracy in 1990s. In Nepal, the king gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional monarch to be guided by elected leaders. In 1999 General Musharraf brought back army rule in Pakistan. In 2005 the new king of Nepal dismissed the elected government and took back political freedoms

that people had won in the previous decades. By 2005, about 140 countries were holding multi-party elections. More than 80 previously non-democratic countries have made significant advances towards democracy since 1980.

Even today, there are many countries where people cannot express their opinion freely. They still cannot elect their leaders. They cannot take big decisions about their present and future life. Myanmar gained freedom from colonial rule in 1948 and became a democracy. But the democratic rule ended in 1962 with a military coup. In 1990 elections were held for the first time after almost 30 years. The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi won the elections. But the Military leaders of Myanmar refused to step down and did not recognise the election results. Suu Kyi was put under house arrest. Anyone caught publicly airing views or issuing statements critical of the regime can be sentenced up to twenty years in prison. Despite being under house arrest, Suu Kyi continued to campaign for democracy. Her struggle has won international recognition. She has also been awarded the Noble Peace Prize. Yet the people in Myanmar are still struggling to establish a democratic government in their country.

4.4 Democracy at the global level

(a) International organisations

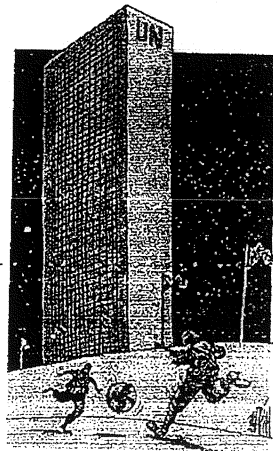


Fig.9 'International Games'

Is United Nations a Democratic Organisation ?

Everyone of the 193 member countries of the UN has one vote in the UN General Assembly. General Assembly is like the parliament where all the discussion takes place. In that sense the UN would appear to be a very democratic organisation. But the General Assembly cannot take any decision about what action should be taken in a conflict between different countries. The fifteen-member Security Council of the UN takes such crucial decisions. The Council has five permanent members – US, Russia, UK, France and China. Ten other members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms (non-permanent members as on 19.4.13 are - Argentina, Azerbaijan, Australia, Guatemala, Luxemburg, Morocco, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Togo). The real power is with five permanent members. Each permanent member has veto power. The Council cannot take decision if any permanent member says no to that decision. This system has led more and more people and countries to protest and demand that the UN becomes more democratic.

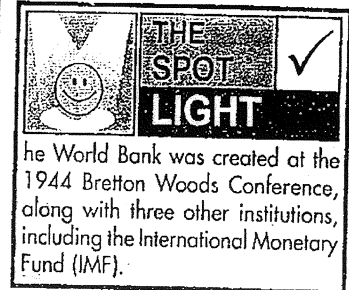
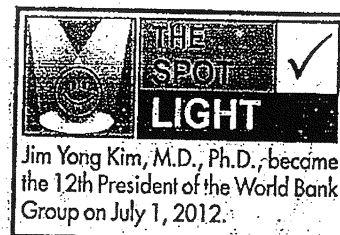


Fig.10 Jim Yong Kim



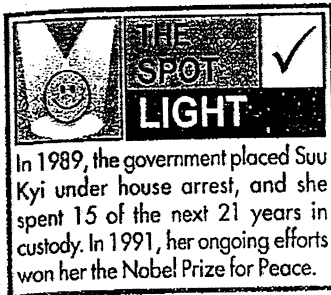


Fig.12 Aung San Suu Kyi

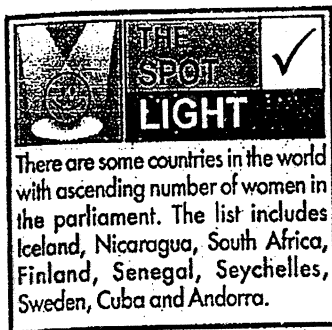


Fig.11 Wolfowitz

CHECK YOUR LEARNING 4.1

1. According to figure 8, a cartoon appeared in 2005 when Aung San Suu Kyi turned 60. What is the cartoonist saying here? Will the army rulers feel happy with this cartoon?
2. The cartoon shown in figure 9, was published in Mexico in 2005 and was titled 'International Games'. Which games is the cartoonist talking about here? What does the ball symbolise? Who are the players?
3. According to figure 11, Wolfowitz was a senior official in the Department of Defence in the US (commonly called Pentagon). He was an aggressive supporter of the invasion of Iraq. The cartoon comments on his appointment as the President of the World Bank. What does the cartoon tell us about the relationship between the World Bank and the US?

Are IMF and World Bank, Democratic Organisations ?

International Monetary Fund (IMF) is one of the biggest moneylenders for any country in the world. Its 188 member states do not have equal voting rights. The vote of each country is weighed by how much money it has contributed to the IMF. Nearly half of the voting power in the IMF is in the hands of only seven countries as they contribute the maximum (US -16%, France - 4.8%, Japan - 6.02%, Germany -5.88%, U.K -4.86%, S.Arabia - 3.16%, China - 3.66%). The remaining countries have very little say in how these international organisations take decisions. The President of the World Bank has always been a citizen of the US, conventionally nominated by the Treasury Secretary (Finance Minister) of the US government.



Fig.13 "Cactus of Democracy"

Are Global Institutions becoming more democratic than before ?

International Organisations are becoming less democratic. Twenty years ago there were two big powers in the world : the US and the Soviet Union. The competition and conflict between these big powers and their allies kept a certain balance in all the global organisations. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US appears to be the only superpower in the world. This American dominance affects the working of international organisations. Over the past few years, people of different countries have formed global organisations (Green Peace, Amnesty International etc.) against war and against domination of the world by a few countries and business companies. As in the case of democracy within the nations, the initiative for democracy among nations has come from the struggles of the people.



Fig.14 'Helping Democracy'

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS 4.1

- No. The cartoon mocks the military rulers. They wish Suu Kyi a happy birthday by putting her in jail. Her 60th birthday cake is in the shape of a jail.
- 'International Games' refers to the politics between super powers and the terrorists. The ball represents the rest of the world kicked around in the struggle.
- The cartoon exposes the aggressive policies of the US. Wolfowitz claims, "I worked for peace at the Pentagon" and backed US attack on Iraq! He is going to do the same at the World Bank. Support US aggression with the help of the World Bank. It shows how the US is dominating the world policies.

CHECK YOUR LEARNING 4.2

- The cartoon shown in figure 13, "Cactus of Democracy" was published in 2004. What does the cactus look like here? Who is gifting it, and to whom? What is the message?
- According to figure 14, 'Helping Democracy' was a comment on the presence of US forces during the elections in Iraq. Do you think the cartoon can apply to many other situations? Identify some examples from this chapter in which this cartoon can help understand.

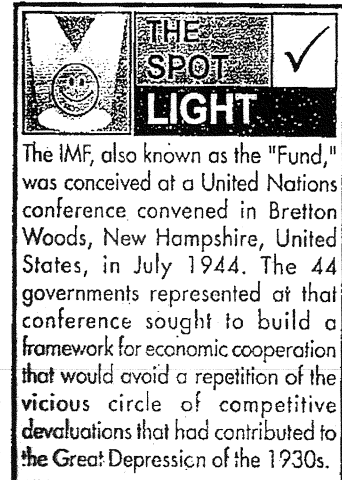
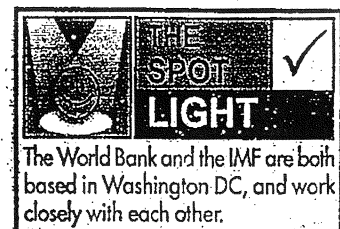


Fig.15 Logo of IMF





President Bashar Hafez al-Assad is the President of Syria, General Secretary of the Ba'ath Party and Regional Secretary of the party's branch in Syria. He has served as President since 2000, when he succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad, who led Syria for 30 years until his death.



Fig.16 Bashar Hafez al-Assad

Democracy promotion

Recently, many powerful countries in the world, particularly the United States of America, have taken on the task of democracy promotion in the rest of the world. In some cases they have even launched armed attack on non-democratic countries. Iraq became independent from British rule in 1932. Since 1968, it was ruled by Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Saddam Hussein, a leading Ba'th party leader, played a key role in the 1968 coup that brought the party to power. This government abolished traditional Islamic law and gave women the right to vote and several freedoms not granted in other west Asian countries. After becoming the President of Iraq in 1979, Saddam ran a dictatorial government and suppressed any dissent or opposition to his rule. The US and its allies like Britain, alleged that Iraq possessed secret nuclear weapons and other 'weapons of mass destruction' which posed a big threat to the world. But when a UN team went to Iraq to search for such weapons, it did not find any. Still the US and its allies invaded Iraq, occupied it and removed Saddam Hussein from power in 2003. The US installed an interim government of its preference. The war against Iraq was not authorised by the UN Security Council. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, said that the US war on Iraq was illegal.

Any government, imposed on the people by external force, cannot last long. We have learnt from the lesson how all military rulers were overthrown by the people. Democracy can be established only when people of the country want it and struggle for it. We have the examples of Chile, Poland, Ghana and the break-up of the mighty USSR.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS 4.2

1. The cactus looks like the Statue of Liberty in the USA. Iraq is gifting it to the US Army. It clearly states that the Iraqis do not want liberty forced on them by the US Army, a liberty which destroyed their country in a war
2. Yes, this cartoon gives an indirect message to all. External force can never establish democracy in any country. The presence of the US Armed forces in Iraq have forced people to vote. But this kind of election cannot be sustained for long.

IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **CENSORSHIP**
A condition under which the freedom of expression is taken away. It means anything that the government finds objectionable cannot be published.
 2. **COALITION**
An alliance of people's associations, parties or nations. It may be temporary or a matter of convenience.
 3. **COMMUNIST STATE**
A state governed by a communist party without allowing other parties to compete for power. The state controls all the big property and industry.
 4. **COUP**
A coup d'etat (pronounced ku de'ta) or simply a coup, is the sudden overthrow of a government illegally. It may or may not be violent in nature. The term is French for 'a sudden blow or strike in state'.
 5. **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**
A government headed by a king or queen whose powers are limited by a constitution.
 6. **DECOLONISATION**
The process of transfer of power from the colonial powers to independent national governments in Asia and Africa.
 7. **DICTATORSHIP**
A form of government in which a person or a group of persons possess absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.
 8. **MARTIAL LAW**
A system of rules that takes effect when a military authority takes control of the normal administration of justice.
 9. **REFERENDUM**
A direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal. This may be adoption of a new constitution, a law or a specific governmental policy.
 10. **TRADE UNION**
An association of workers for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their employment.
 11. **VETO**
The right of a person, party or nation to stop a certain decision or law. The word comes from Latin, which means 'I forbid'. A veto give unlimited power to stop a decision, but not to adopt one.
 12. **WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**
An international organisation set up in 1995 by the members of the United nations to promote trade between countries.
-

EXERCISE # 1

Multiple choice questions

1. Who became the President of Chile in 1970 ?
(1) Salvadore Allende (2) Augusto Pinochet
(3) Alberto Bachelet (4) Michelle Bachelet
2. Who led the military coup in Chile in 1973?
(1) General Alberto Bachelet
(2) Michelle Bachelet
(3) General Augusto Pinochet
(4) Salvador Allende
3. What is a referendum?
(1) A vote of all the people on an important national issue
(2) A vote of educated population
(3) A vote of men only
(4) None of the above
4. Who was elected as President of Chile in Jan. 2006?
(1) Michelle Bachelet (2) General Bachelet
(3) General Pinochet (4) None of the above
5. The workers of Lenin Shipyard in the city of Gdansk went on a strike on
(1) 14 Aug 1980 (2) 15 Aug 1980
(3) 14 Sept 1980 (4) None of the above
6. Who was the leader of the Solidarity Movement in Poland?
(1) Pinochet (2) Lech Walesa
(3) Jaruzelski (4) None of the above
7. The three governments of Allende's Chile, Walesa's Poland and Michelle's Chile had a
(1) Democratic form of government
(2) Martial law
(3) Communist form of government
(4) All the above
8. When did the British colonies in America declare themselves independent?
(1) 1774 A.D. (2) 1776 A.D.
(3) 1778 A.D. (4) 1780 A.D.
9. Which one of the following statements is incorrect?
(1) America became independent from British rule in 1776
(2) They adopted a democratic constitution in 1787
(3) Many countries in Europe gave right to vote to only propertied people
(4) In United States of America all the citizens including Blacks were given right to vote from the beginning.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

10. Which country among the following was the only country by 1900, where every citizen had voting right?
(1) Australia (2) New Zealand
(3) Poland (4) USA
11. After Independence, who became the first Prime Minister and then the President of Ghana?
(1) Patrice Lumumba (2) Jomo Kenyatta
(3) Sam Nujoma (4) Kwame Nkrumah
12. By 2005, about how many countries were holding multi-party elections in the world?
(1) 160 (2) 240 (3) 140 (4) 260
13. Soviet Union broke in the year:
(1) 1930 (2) 1900 (3) 1991 (4) 2001
14. When did Myanmar attain independence and what type of government did it adopt?
(1) 1946, communist (2) 1948, democracy
(3) 1947, democracy (4) 1948, dictatorship
15. Which award has been won by Suu Kyi?
(1) Literary Award (2) Oscar Award
(3) Nobel Peace Prize (4) None of the above
16. Who is the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.N.?
(1) General Secretary (2) Secretary General
(3) Security General (4) General
17. Which organ of the U.N. is responsible for maintaining peace and security among the countries?
(1) General Assembly
(2) Security Council
(3) International Court of Justice
(4) All the above
18. The President of the World Bank has always been from
(1) U.K. (2) U.S.A.
(3) France (4) Russia
19. Which party ruled Iraq since 1968?
(1) Baa'th Party
(2) Socialist Baa'th Party
(3) Arab Socialist Baa'th Party
(4) None of the above
20. In which year did Saddam Hussein become the President of Iraq? Which type of government did he set up?
(1) 1969, dictatorial government
(2) 1970, democratic government
(3) 1979, communist government
(4) 1979, dictatorial government

Match the following Columns

	Column I		Column II
1.	(A) Salvador Allende	(i)	First independent trade union in any of the communist countries.
	(B) Michelle Bachelet	(ii)	First elected President of Poland
	(C) Solidarity	(iii)	Has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
	(D) Lech Walesa	(iv)	Leader of the Socialist Party and to victory in the presidential election in 1970
	(E) Kwame Nkrumah	(v)	Elected President of Chile in January 2006.
	(F) Aung San Suu Kyi	(vi)	First prime minister and then the president of Ghana

True or false

- After being elected the President, Pinochet had taken several policy decisions to help poor and the workers.
- In Chile a government elected by people was overthrown by the military through conspiracy and violence.
- Pinochet's military dictatorship came to an end after he decided to hold a referendum in 1988.
- On 14 August 1990, the workers of Lenin Shipyard in the city of Gdansk went on a strike.

- The government, led by General Jaruzelski imposed martial law in Poland in December 1981.
- Around the same time as the British Revolution, the British colonies in North America declared themselves independent in 1776.
- Poland and several other countries became free from the control of the Soviet Union which itself broke down in 1991.
- The General Assembly can take any decision about what action should be taken in a conflict between different countries.

Fill in the blanks

- A system of rules that takes effect when a military authority takes control of the normal administration of justice is called.....
-is one of the biggest moneylenders for any country in the world.
-is the present head of Arab Socialist Bath Party.
- The UN council has.....permanent members.
- The....., an organ of the UN, is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries.
- Everyone of the 192 member countries of the UN has.....vote in the UN General Assembly.
-was the first country to become democratic.
-is the current chairman of the World Bank.

ANSWER KEY

Multiple choice questions

Que	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ans.	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	2
Que	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ans.	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	4

Match the column

1. A → iv ; B → v ; C → i ; D → ii ; E → vi ; F → iii

True or false

1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. True 6. False 7. True 8. False

Fill in the blanks

1. Martial law 2. IMF 3. Bashar-al asad 4. Five 5. UN Security Council
6. One 7. Greece 8. Jim Yong Kim

EXERCISE # 2

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Short answer type questions

1. Who was Salvador Allende? Why was his policy opposed by the aristocrats?
2. How we can say that government under Pinochet was a military dictatorship ?
3. Who was Lech Walesa? How did he become famous in Poland?
4. How was democracy re-established in Poland?
5. Why did the workers of Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk go on strike in 1980?
6. What was the position that Nkrumah enjoyed in Ghana after its independence?
7. 'The disintegration of the Soviet Union accelerated the process of expansion of democracy.' Give reasons.
8. What role does General Assembly play in the UN?
9. 'International Monetary Fund is not truly democratic institution.' Justify this statement with three examples.
10. How can we say that the Government of Saddam Hussain was not a democratic one ?

Long answer type questions

1. Compare the policies adopted by Allende and later on Pinochet. How was democracy restored in Chile?
2. Can we say that Communist countries were non-democratic ? Explain with taking examples from the story of Poland.
3. Which revolutions gave the idea of Modern Democracy ? Were some drawbacks related with it ?
4. Prove with the help of an example that many countries which became democratic after indepedence were not able to continue the democratic government.
5. Can we call UN a democratic organisation ? Justify your answer.
6. Prove that 'While nations are becoming more democratic than they were earlier, international organisations are becoming less democratic'.
7. Can we say that by attacking Iraq and by removing Saddam Hussain, USA really promoted democracy ?

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

1. Which of the following does not lead to the spread of democracy?

- (a) Struggle by the people
- (b) Invasion by foreign countries
- (c) End of colonialism
- (d) People's desire for freedom

Ans. Invasion by foreign countries.

2. Which of the following statement is true about today's world?

- (a) Monarchy as a form of government has vanished
- (b) The relationship between different countries has become more democratic than ever before.
- (c) In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.
- (d) There are no more military dictators in the world.

Ans. In more and more countries rulers are being elected by the people.

3. Use one of the following statements to complete the sentence:

Democracy in the international organisations requires that

- (a) The rich countries should have a greater say.
- (b) Countries should have a say according to their military power.
- (c) Countries should be treated with respect in proportion to their population.
- (d) All countries in the world should be treated equally.

Ans. All countries in the world should be treated equally.

4. Based on the information given in this chapter, match the following countries and the path democracy has taken in that country.

Country Path to Democracy

- | | |
|------------|--|
| (a) Chile | (i) Freedom from British colonial rule |
| (b) Nepal | (ii) End of military dictatorship |
| (c) Poland | (iii) End of one-party rule |
| (d) Ghana | (iv) King agreed to give up his powers |

Ans. a - (ii); (b) - (iv); (c) - (iii); (d) - (i).

5. What are the difficulties people face in a non-democratic country? Give answers drawing from the examples given in this chapter.

Ans. (i) No freedom to elect their leaders

- (ii) No freedom to speech and expression
- (iii) Censorship of press
- (iv) No freedom to form unions
- (v) Single-party rule
- (vi) No hand in government policies
- (vii) Suffering violence, oppression without any legal redress.

6. Which freedoms are usually taken away when a democracy is overthrown by the military?

Ans. All the above.

7. Which of the following positions can contribute to democracy at the global level? Give reasons for your answer in each case.

- (a) My country gives more money to international institutions. Therefore, I want to be treated with more respect and exercise more power.
- (b) My country may be small or poor. But my voice must be heard with equal respect, because these decisions will affect my country.

(c) Wealthy nations will have a greater say in international affairs. They cannot let their interests suffer just because they are outnumbered by poor nations.

(d) Big countries like India must have a greater say in international organisations.

Ans. (b) Because in a democracy all nations must have equal powers while the rest of the statements support the rich and the developed nations. They cannot contribute to democracy on a global level.

8. Here are three opinions heard in a television debate on the struggle for democracy in Nepal. Which of these do you agree with and why?

Guest 1 : India is a democracy. Therefore, the Indian government must support the people of Nepal who are struggling against monarchy and for democracy.

Guest 2 : That is a dangerous argument. We would be in the same position as the US was in Iraq. Remember, no outside force can promote democracy.

Guest 3 : But why should we bother about the internal affairs of another country? We should be worried about our business interests there, not about democracy.

Ans. Guest 1: Without interfering one can support democracy through public opinion, media and international forums. India has to support freedom struggle led by the people in Nepal, because it is our neighbour and a buffer state between China and India. Moreover, India has always supported democracy all over the world and people's struggle for it.

9. In an imaginary country called Happyland, the people overthrew the foreign ruler and brought back the old royal family. They said: "After all their ancestors were our kings before foreigners started ruling us. It is good that we have one strong ruler, who can help us become rich and powerful." When someone talked about democracy the wise men said it is a foreign idea. Their struggle was to throw the foreigners and their ideas out of the country. When someone demanded freedom for the media, the elders thought that too much criticism of the ruler would not help them improve their living standards. "After all, the king is so kind and interested in the welfare of all the subjects. Why create problems for him? Don't we all want to be happy?"

After reading the above passage, Chaman, Champa and Chandru made the following observations:

Chaman : Happyland is a democratic country because people were able to throw out the foreign rulers and bring back the king.

Champa : Happyland is not a democratic country because people cannot criticise the ruler. The king may be nice and may provide economic prosperity, but a king cannot give a democratic rule.

Chandru : What people need is happiness. So they are willing to allow their new ruler to take decisions for them. If people are happy it must be a democracy.

What is your opinion about each of these statements? What do you think about the form of government in this country?

Ans. Chaman : There is a flaw in the argument. The king was not elected, he can turn an absolute monarch and take away democratic institutions. There is no guarantee that he will bring happiness to the people. Freedom from colonial rule does not guarantee democracy.

Champa : I agree with Champa. A king does not guarantee democracy. It will be a one-man rule. For a democracy we need representatives chosen by the people for a fixed period of time, not forever.

Chandru : Happiness does not mean democracy, it may mean economic prosperity. It does not mean that people have been given all their rights by the king. It could be a welfare state without being a democracy. One single ruler for life is not a feature of democracy. The form of government is a monarchy.