

## Chapter-1

# Gradual Development of Democracy

### INTRODUCTION

The present book discusses the theoretical and practical sides of democracy. In the first chapter we will show how during the last hundred years democracy has developed and expanded in more and more countries of the world. You will see that today also in many countries democracy after coming to an end , is being re-established.

In this chapter, many examples of the end of democracy and its re-establishment in many countries have been given. Through these examples you will be able to understand how much struggle people had to make to establish democracy. After reading this chapter you will also recognize some of salient characteristics of democracy. We are also presenting examples related to establishment and re-establishment of democracy in the neighbouring countries of India. At the end of the chapter we have tried to see whether democracy is possible at the world level or not.

Before understanding the nature of the expansion of democracy in the modern world we will try to know how much struggle people had to make for the establishment of democratic set-up in their country. With the passage of time how this set-up of democracy was re-established. Let us see Chile, one of the main countries of South America, and the incidents of 1980 in Poland :-

There is a country named Chile in the continent of South America. A man named Allende established the Socialist Party in Chile and thereafter in 1970 in the Presidential elections led the alliance called "Popular Unity ". After becoming the president, Allende brought in many programmes of social reforms. He made efforts to reform the condition of the labourers, and the condition of education in Chile. The Allende government also started other programmes such as distribution of free milk to children, distribution of land to landless farmers, etc. At this stage, the economic condition of Chile was very pathetic. During this period many foreign companies were taking away the country's natural resources like copper in huge quantity and earning great profit through it. The president Salvador Allende opposed the activities of these foreign companies. Many churches, the landlords, the moneyed people, and many political parties opposed these reform programmes of the president and joined in a conspiracy against him.

As a result, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1973, a group of navy conquered a famous port of Chile. The Defence minister of the country was captured by the people from the army. Using the medium of radio, the president was asked to quit. The president Allende declined from either resigning or going out of the country. But before the army could do anything the president delivered his message to the country through the radio, the parts of which are :-

"Workers of my homeland! I have faith in Chile and its future. Chileans will overcome this dark and bitter moment when treason be came dominant. You must never forget that, sooner rather than later, the grand avenues will be opened where free men will march on to build a better society. Long live Chile! Long live the people! Long live the workers!

These are my last words and I have certainty that my sacrifice will not be in vain; I have certainty that at the least, I will be a moral lesson to castigate felony, cowardice and treason.”

- Does the president point out about the reforms of the condition of the labourers?
- Who all can oppose the president?
- Why were the rich unhappy with the president?

In this way, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1973, under the leadership of General Augusto a group of rebel soldiers, with the help of the American government, conquered the authority of Chile and killed the president Allende.

Whatever happened on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1973 in Chile is known as “Military coup d’ etat”. General Augusto Pinochet became the president of the country. The government of Pinochet subdued the followers of Allende and the seekers of democracy and got them killed. Allende’s daughter and other family members were imprisoned. Many people went missing whose details were not known.

The military government of Pinochet ruled over Chile for 17 years. The military government of Pinochet came to an end in 1988 when he decided to hold a referendum. In the referendum, the people of the country rejected the authority of Pinochet by great majority. In this way the people of Chile punished the criminals who were disloyal to the country. This is how democracy was re-established in Chile.

Up till now Chile has held four elections. In these elections different political parties have participated and many parties have formed government. Now the role of military has come to an end in the administration of Chile. In the Presidential election of January 2006, the daughter of ex air force chief Alberto Bachelet who was killed during the coup of 1973, Michelle Bachelet was declared victorious. Today Chile is a democratic country. In this way it is clear after a period of long struggle the people of Chile could establish democracy in their country.

- ACTIVITY
- Locate and shade Chile.
- Which state in our country has a shape similar to Chile?
- Find out the neighbouring countries of Chile?

## **STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN POLAND**

In the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rule of the Communist parties was established in many countries of Eastern Europe. Among these Communist countries and their rulers was the country Poland, previously ruled by the Communist rule of USSR. In those days Poland was ruled by Polish United Workers Party led by Jaruzelski. Like other Communist countries, in Poland also , no other political party was permitted to participate in politics.

On 14<sup>th</sup> August 1980, an incident occurred in Poland. On that day the workers of Lenin shipyard in the city Gdansk went on strike. The reason for the strike was – a woman crane operator was unjustly ousted

from her job. The demand of the workers was to take the woman back in her job. Like other Communist ruled countries, in Poland, apart from the Trade Union of the Communist party, any other trade union was not permitted to go on strike. Thus, the strike was declared illegal. But the workers without caring for anything, continued their strike. An electrician, Lech Walesa, dismissed from this factory, became the leader of the strikers. Slowly the strike spread across the whole of the city, and the number of its followers started increasing rapidly. The striking members put the following demands before the government:

1. Recognition of independent Trade Unions in the country;
2. Release of political prisoners;
3. An end to the censorship of press.

The government had to surrender to the popularity of the movement. The workers under the leadership of "Lech Walesa" signed a 21 point agreement with the government. This agreement was known as the "Gdanska Agreement". After this Gdanska Agreement a new Trade Union was formed whose popularity increased in the whole of Poland. The name of this trade union was Solidarnosc or Solidarity. In the form of Solidarity it was for the first time that an independent Trade Union was formed in any of the Communist states. Within a year the branches of Solidarity was established in the entire country and had about one crore members. In 1988 under the leadership of Lech Walesa there was once again a strike in Poland. At this time Poland's economy was declining very fast. There was no hope of support from the Soviet Union to the government. Revelations of widespread mismanagement and corruption of the Communist government of Poland led by General Jaruzelski started facing several difficulties. Thousands of Solidarity

members were put in prison and freedom to organise, protest and express opinions was once again taken away.

Once again under the leadership of Lech Walesa, the movement spread across the country. Finally, the Communist government of Poland had to surrender. Once again in 1989 there was an agreement between the government and Lech Walesa. According to this agreement a multi-party independent election was held in Poland. Under the leadership of Lech Walesa the Solidarity party won 99 seats of the Senate. Poland had its first Presidential elections in 1990. In this election Lech Walesa got a majority and became the first elected President of Poland.

#### **ACTIVITY**

- Locate Poland on the map. Which other European countries were ruled by Communist parties in the decade of 1990? Shade them on the map.
- Find out those countries which have Communist governments at present.

#### **FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY**

We have seen incidents relating to establishment of democracy in Chile and Poland. We have seen that the democratic government of Allende was popular among the general public in Chile, because the government had started several reform measures for the welfare of the general public. The government formed after the coup of 11 September, 1973 was non- democratic whose aim was to benefit the rich. Once again in 1988 after the Referendum democracy was restored in Chile.

In the decade of 1980 the Communist government of Poland was non- democratic which was led by the military dictator General Jaruzelski. This government was unpopular among the public. But in 1990 the government formed under the leadership of Lech Walesa was different from the earlier government in the sense that it was an elected government.

Children, let us compare these different governments. First, let us compare the two non- democratic governments. The difference between the Pinochet rule of Chile and the Communist rule of Poland are as follows:

1. There was the military rule in Chile while Poland has one- party rule.
2. The Communist government of Poland claimed that it was ruling on behalf of the working classes. The ruler of Chile, Pinochet made no such claim.
3. Whereas the rule in Poland was an example of the dictatorship of a special Trade Union, the rule in Chile was an example of military dictatorship.

In spite of these differences both had some common features which are as follows:

1. The people of both the countries could not choose their rulers.
2. There was no real freedom to express one's opinions, form political associations and organise protests and political action.

Now let us analyse the common features of the three democratic governments- the Allende government of Chile, the Lech Walesa government of Poland and the Michelle government of Chile –

1. All the three governments were elected by the people of the country.
2. Unelected leaders, or any external power or the army could not rule the country.
3. The citizens enjoyed some basic political freedoms.

From the above mentioned description we can identify some common features of democracy.

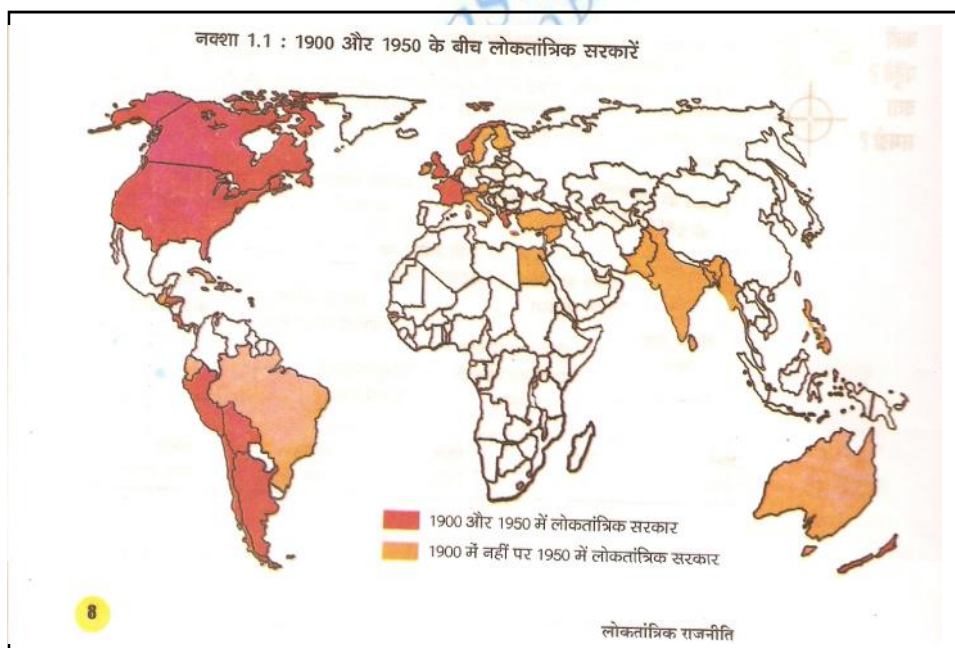
- Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers.
- Only leaders elected by people should rule the country.
- In democracy people have the freedom to express their views.
- In democratic countries people have the freedom to protest.
- People have the right to organise.

we shall come back once again to this question in Chapter 2 and develop a simple definition of Democracy. After reading the above stories we draw the following conclusions:

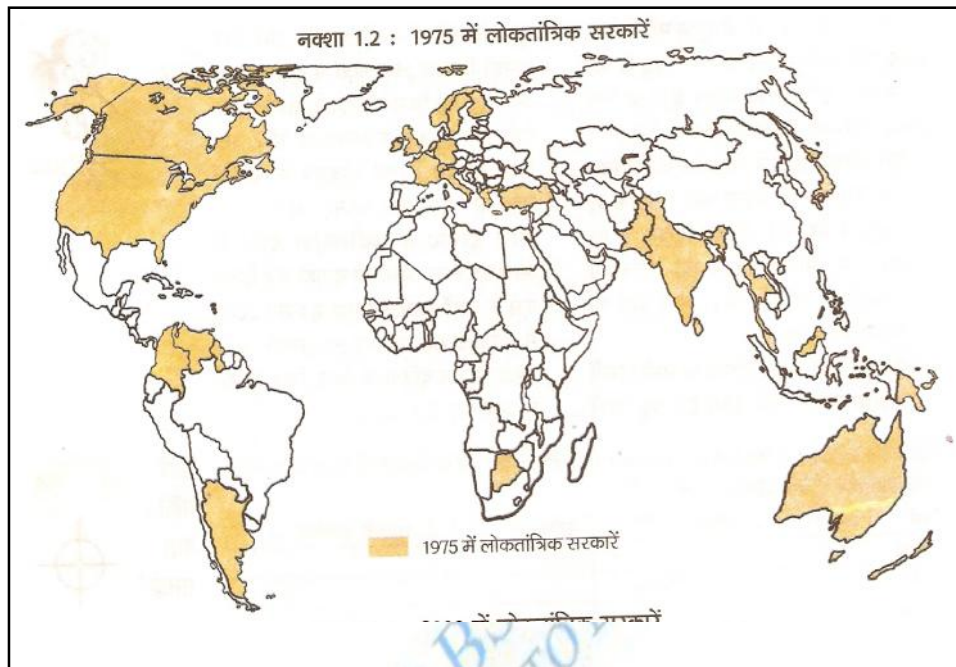


- For the establishment of Democracy, the challenges faced by Democracy and for the re-establishment of Democracy, the people had to struggle a lot.
- In many countries after the establishment of Democracy a Military Coup d'etat occurred and a military Dictatorship was established as a result in the country.
- Once again after a long struggle, Democracy, was re-established.

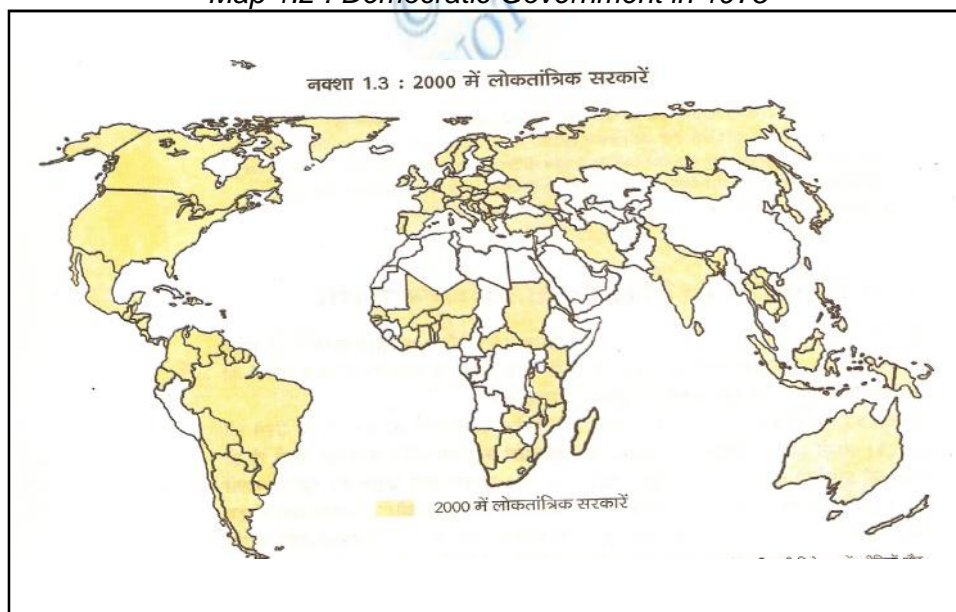
No, let us identify the Democratic organisations in different countries of the world on the basis of the basic features of Democracy which have been mentioned earlier. All these conditions can be seen clearly in the map mentioned below. In the first map the countries with Democratic rule up 1950 have been depicted. By 1975 many colonial countries of the world have gained independence. Those countries have



Map 1.1 : Democratic Government during 1900-1950



Map 1.2 : Democratic Government in 1975



Map 1.3 : Democratic Government in 2000

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been depicted in the second map of 1975. In the same manner, in the third map are depicted those countries where Democratic regimes had been established by 2000.

As we look at these maps, some questions arise in our minds. How has Democracy marched through the 20<sup>th</sup> century? When and in which regions did the expansions take place? Did it expand in the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century? Can we say that the expansion of Democracy in all parts of the world was not an even pattern? Is a great part of the world yet not Democratic? Let us search the answers of these questions and solutions to our doubts in the sub- title: **Different Phases in the Expansion of Democracy.**

### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

On the basis of these maps identify three countries where there were Democratic organisations in the given years and fill the table given below:

Year	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America
1950				
1975				
2000				

- ◆ Locate those countries in the map 1.1 where there was Democracy from 1900 to 1950.
- ◆ Identify those countries in map 1.1 and 1.2 where Democracy came from 1950 to 1975
- ◆ Locate those countries of Europe in the maps 1.2 and 1.3 which were Democratic during 1975 to 2000.
- ◆ Identify those countries of Latin America which accepted Democracy after 1975.
- ◆ Make a list of such countries which were not Democratic even by 2000.

## **DIFFERENT PHASES IN THE EXPANSION OF DEMOCRACY:**

Now let us, first, observe Democratic set –up established in some areas of ancient India. In many Republics of 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. of the Buddhist period we come across the remains of Democratic administrative organisations. Among these Republics are included Kapilavastu of the Sakyas, the state in the hills of Subhar, the Buli of Alkampa, the Kalam of Keruputta, Ramagram, the Mallas of Kushinara, the Moriyas of Pippalivana, the Licchavis of Vaishali, the Vidhas of Mithila, etc. In these Republics the chief of the administration was an elected officer who was called the king. The real strength of the king lay in the central committee in which there were representatives from the people. These representatives were also known as kings. It is said that in the central committee of the Licchavis there were 1707 representatives. Every king has as his sub-ordinates- Deputy King, Chief of the army, Storekeeper, etc. Any decision was taken through a majority. Thus, this helps us to draw a conclusion that in the Buddhist period the rulers of the Republic were chosen through election.

Now, let us observe the different phases of the expansion of Democracy in the modern world.

### **PRIMARY PHASE :**

In the modern world Democracy is established and expanded after the French Revolution of 1789. This Revolution established the three tenets of Democracy – Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. But the mass Revolution of France did not establish a secure and stable Democracy because the French rulers overthrew Democracy several times. But again and again Democracy was restored in France. The message of the French Revolution spread across many countries of the

world. This mass Revolution inspired many countries of Europe to struggle for the sake of Democracy.

In Britain the progress towards Democracy started much before the French Revolution. After the Glorious Revolution of 1688 Democracy had started consolidating its position in Britain. As an effect of a series of political events that took place in Britain, it reduced the power of the Monarchy and the feudal lords and people were granted many rights. In the U.S.A. there was the British rule in the earlier period. But in the later half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the people of this country started struggling against the British regime. This is called the American War of Independence. In 1776 A.D. the American citizens overthrew the British regime and America became independent. All the colonies came together and formed the United States of America. In 1789 a Democratic Constitution was enforced and till date the American government follows this Constitution.

Though in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the struggles for Democracy continued and there was a rise in it but these struggles were centred round political equality, freedom, and justice. Till now universal adult suffrage was not given to people. By 1900, New Zealand was the only country where every adult had voting right. In New Zealand the people had been granted the right to vote in 1893. In some countries only those people had the right to vote who owned property. In America along with the common women the non- White males were also granted the right to vote. In this way struggle was still needed for the establishment of Democracy. Now all people, all adults, whether male or female, rich or poor, black or white, started struggling for the right to vote. Now this was clear that the primary phase of Democracy was over in Europe, North and South America. In these countries people selected the government of their own choice

through a great majority. Although the majority that participated in elections were more often males.

### **END OF COLONIALISM:**

Now, let us glance through the colonies which broke threw the shackles of colonialism and established democracy. Most of the countries of Asia and Africa were colonies of European countries. Hence, the people of these countries started struggling for establishment of democracy in their own countries. The colonial rulers tried to suppress them but looking at the spread of their struggle the colonial rulers had to surrender and rights to form government with limited rights was granted. But the people were not satisfied. There was demand for complete political rights. Finally, the colonial rulers had to make these countries independent. In these countries democracy was established. In this way our country India was made independent in 1947 and democracy was established. This democracy was successful and it continues successfully. But for majority of the countries who had been colonies, the experience has not been so good.

Let us take the story of the country Ghana in West Africa where the experiment of democratic rule was not successful. Ghana used to be a British colony named Gold Coast. Here struggle for political rights began. A teacher, Kwame Nkrumah, son of a goldsmith, was the leader of this struggle. In his leadership Ghana became independent in 1957. After independence Nkrumah became the first Prime Minister and then the President of Ghana. In this way the first trial with democracy in West Africa was successful. But democracy could not stabilise for long because Nkrumah got himself elected president for life. Soon after, in 1966, he was overthrown by the military and in this way democracy ended



in Ghana. Like Ghana , most African countries that gained independence had almost the same fate.

THE PERIOD OF UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE	
1893	New Zealand
1917	Russia
1918	Germany
1919	Netherland
1928	Britain
1931	Sri Lanka
1934	Turkey
1944	France
1945	Japan
1950	India
1951	Argentina
1952	Greece
1955	Malaysia
1962	Australia
1965	America
1978	Spain
1994	South Africa

### **ACTIVITY**

- ◆ Locate Ghana in Atlas and find out who is the present ruler of Ghana?
- ◆ Find out the leaders of French Revolution.

Now let us discuss the recent rise of democracy.

After 1980, in Latin America a democratic government was established. We have already read about Chile. Also, we saw how after the diffusion of Soviet Union, democracy was once again established in Poland. In 1989-90 the control of the Soviet decreased on the Eastern European countries and citizens of these countries accepted democratic rule. After the break- down of the Soviet Union in 1991, the 15 Republics of Soviet Union emerged as independent countries. Most of them became democracies. Thus, the break- up of Soviet Union led to a big change in the political map of the world.

Now, let us get some information about the struggles going on in some of the neighbouring countries of India.

We can see the story of Nepal, a neighbouring country of India the establishment of democracy, its end and revival- in 1948 the first constitution of Nepal was made. According to this constitution the king was the real ruler of Nepal. In 1959 King Mahindra enforced a new constitution and the first elections for the Parliament were held in 1962, but in 1962, King Mahindra ended the democracy in Nepal. As a result of people's movement in 1990 in Nepal, a multi- party democracy was established. In 1991 in the Parliamentary elections of Nepal the Nepali Congress got a majority and G. P. Koirala became the Prime Minister of



the country. Thus, democracy was re-established in Nepal. In 1996 the Maoists in Nepal started movements to end the monarchy and raise the voice of the people. In June 2001, there was a dramatic turn in the history of Nepal when King Birendra and his family members were assassinated in the royal palace. Thereafter Jnanendra ascended as the King. King jnanendra dissolved the Parliament and dismissed the government. So, once again the king had ended the democracy in Nepal. But after the people's movement in Nepal in May 2008, the Constitutional Assembly was elected and in Nepal Dr. Rambardhan Yadav became the President of the first Republic and Prachanda became the Prime Minister. Monarchy which had been existing for centuries was put to an end. Thus, we have seen, how democracy was ended and revived in Nepal several times.

In another neighbouring country of India, Pakistan, the process of establishment and decline of democracy keeps going on. After the death of General Zia ul Haq, in the decade of 1990, democracy was revived in Pakistan but it was not stable. In 1999 General Pervez Musharraf brought about a coup and ousted Prime- Minister Nawaz Sharif and established military rule. But in the recent times there has been a change in the condition of Pakistan and the people there had started struggling for democracy. Finally the military rule had to surrender to public movement and elections for Parliament were held. After the elections of 2008 the coalition government of Pakistan People's Party came into power. But this change was not peaceful in Pakistan and the democracy supporter leader and the Ex Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. When the new government came into power the chief of the military rule, Pervez Musharraf, had to quit. Asif Ali Zardari became the President and Yusuf Raza Gilani became the Prime Minister. Democracy was, thus, established in Pakistan but it has to face challenges even now.

In the same manner Myanmar, previously known as Burma, the struggle for democracy is continuing. Though after independence from colonial rule in 1948, it accepted democracy, but in 1962 after the military coup democracy came to an end. Again in 1990 after almost 30 years elections were held for the first time. In these elections the National League for democracy led by Aung San Su Kyi won by a majority but the military leaders of Myanmar refused to step down and did not recognize the election results. Instead the military put the elected pro- democracy rulers, including Su Kyi, under house arrest. Anyone caught publicly airing views or issuing statements critical of the regime was prohibited. Due to the coercive policies of the military ruled government in Myanmar, lakhs of people in that country have been uprooted from their homes and have taken shelter elsewhere.

Despite being under house arrest Su Kyi continued to campaign for democracy. According to her: "The quest for democracy in Burma is the struggle of the people to live whole, meaningful lives as free and equal members of the world community." Her struggle has won international recognition. She has also been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The U.N. has appealed to all the countries of the world to put restrictions on Myanmar to end the present military dictatorship. In this way, the movement supporting democracy is gaining strength day by day and the day is not far when democracy will be re-established in Myanmar.

#### **ACTIVITY**

- ◆ Locate those countries of Asia where the struggle of Democracy is going on.
- ◆ Find out the names of the presidents and Prime minister of Pakistan and Nepal
- ◆ Locate Myanmar on an atlas which Indian states border this country ?

## **DEMOCRACY AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL**

We have seen that democracy has been expanding in most of the countries of the world. An idea often comes to our mind whether we are moving towards global democracy. India has a government, Nepal has a government, Britain has a government but the world has no government who can enforce laws made by it on the people of the world. There is no world government, but there are many institutions in the world that partly do those very works which the government of any country does. These institutions or organisations cannot control different countries or its people as any government can do.

The United Nations was established in 1945. Presently it has 192 members. It has six main organs – Great Assembly, Defence Council, Economic and Social Council, Trust Council, International Court of Justice and Parliament. The Great Assembly is just like the Parliament, where there can be a discussion on any international problem or issue. All the 192 member countries have the right to cast one vote. The decisions are taken on the basis of majority. On the basis of this we can say that the organisation of the Great Assembly is democratic. There are 15 members in the Defence Council of which five are permanent while ten temporary. The permanent members are – America, Russia, Britain, France and China. The ten temporary members are elected by the Great Assembly for two years. All the permanent members have the right to veto. If any permanent member exercises this right the Defence Council cannot take a decision against it.

The Economic and Social Council encourages economic and social co-operation among different countries. It has 54 members. The Trust Council chiefly looks at those areas which were not independent or had not developed self- rule. The International Court of Justice is that

organ of United Nations which presents a solution to the conflicts between different countries. There are total 15 judges in it. It has got its own Parliament situated at New York in America. The General Secretary of the United Nations is its chief administrative officer.

Organisations like United Nations cannot control countries or people as the government of a country can do. These organisations make such laws that decide the work process of different governments and give directions to them. After analysing the nature of laws and rules made and developed by the international organisations, these are the points that are made clear to us.

- ◆ Laws made for trading in the sea areas within the boundary of a country
- ◆ Laws to restrict factors influencing environment of all countries.
- ◆ Laws made to control arms.

To enforce these rules and laws on international level, we have to face many difficulties. The competition among different states creates obstacles in enforcing them. In this age of Globalisation for the last few years people from different countries have come into closer contact. There has been even more demand than it was earlier for democracy in global organisations and struggle for it is still continuing.

### **Questions for Practice:**

1. Which of the following is not true about democracy?
  - a. People have freedom of expression in democracy.
  - b. People have the right to form organisations in democracy.
  - c. People do not have the right to oppose in democratic countries.

- d. Only the elected representatives have the right to rule the country in democracy.
- 2. Which of the following help in the expansion of democracy?
  - a. Attack of a foreign democratic rule.
  - b. Military coup de'etat
  - c. Restriction on press.
  - d. Struggle of people.
- 3. Which of the following expressions is true?
  - a. There is no proof of democracy in Ancient India.
  - b. After the Glorious Revolution of 1688 democracy grew weak in Britain.
  - c. The French Revolution of 1789 sowed the seeds of democracy .
  - d. There were no challenges to democracy in Pakistan and Nepal.
- 4. Complete the following sentence with any of the given statements—  
Democracy is required in international organisations so that –
  - a. The richer country may become more influential.
  - b. There may be equal behaviour among all the countries of the world.
  - c. The countries may get respect according to the size of their population.
  - d. The countries will get their importance according to the ratio of their armed forces.

### 5. Match A and B

A	B
Lichchavis	End of military dictatorship
Nepal	Independence from British colonial administration.
Pakistan	An Ancient Indian Republic with Democratic rule.
Ghana	The king agreed to leave his rights

6. What are the difficulties that the people have to face in non-democratic countries? On the basis of the examples given in this chapter give your opinion in favour of this statement .
7. Name five non- democratic countries of Asia.
8. When a military coup uproots a democratic rule, what are the liberties that are generally seized?
9. On the basis of the study of this chapter, point out the common features of democracy.

Make different groups in you class and collect information related to the struggle of democracy going on in Nepal and Pakistan. Focus your attention on these issues:

- a. On which basis was the previous government of these countries non-democratic
- b. What are the main complaints and demands of Nepal and Pakistan?
- c. What were the reactions of the earlier rulers?
- d. Who is the chief leader of struggle for independence in these two countries?