

Concept of Democracy

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Meaning and Definitions of Democracy

- **The word “Democracy” comes from the Greek word “demokratia”**
- **It means “peoples power”: rules by the people and for the people**
- **It refers to a political system in which government is form by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representative.**
- **The key elements of democracy are- Participation of the people in decision making and dispute resolution, equality and justice**

Definitions of Democracy

- U.S. president **Abraham Lincoln** defined democracy as: “Government of the people, by the people, for the people”
- Democracy is “the substitution of election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few” -- **G.B. Shaw**
- Democracy is “government by the people; that form of government in which the sovereign power resides in the people as a whole, and is exercised either directly by them or by officers elected by them.” – **Oxford English Dictionary**

- **“Democracy is a political system in which different groups are legally entitled to compete for power and in which institutional power holders are elected by the people and are responsible to the people ”—Vanhannen**
- **“Modern political democracy is a system of governance in which rulers are held accountable for their actions in the public realm by citizens, acting indirectly through the competition and cooperation of their elected representatives”—
Schmitter and Karl**
- **“Democracy is governance by leaders whose authority is based on a limited mandate from a universal electorate that selects among genuine alternatives and has some rights to political participation and opposition”—Danziger**

Essential Conditions of Successful working of Democracy

- **Education**
- **Elaborate System of Local Self Government**
- **Civic Sense**
- **Spirit of Toleration**
- **Freedom of Speech, Association and Press**
- **A Written Constitution**

Essential Conditions for Successful working of Democracy

- **Removal of Gross Inequalities**
- **Political Freedom**
- **Independent Judiciary**
- **Accountable Administration**
- **Free and Fair Elections**
- **Decentralization of power**
- **Alert and Enlighten Public Opinion**
- **Freedom to form Political Parties**

