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## Ch:What Is Democracy? Why Democracy?

The word democracy originated from two Greek words: 'demos' meaning people and 'kratia' meaning rule. So democracy means rule by the people. Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as: "Democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people".

Democracy is the most prevalent form of government in the world today and it is expanding to more countries.

### *What is democracy?*

#### **A simple definition:**

- Democracy is a system of governance where the citizens of a country choose representatives who form a governing body.

### *Features of democracy*

#### **First feature**

- In a democracy, the final decision making power must rest with those elected by the people.

#### **Second feature**

- A democracy must be based on a free and fair election where those currently in power have a fair chance of losing.

### Third feature

- In a democracy, each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.

### Fourth feature

- A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.

### Summary Definition:

#### Democracy is a form of government in which:

- Rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions;
- Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers;
- This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis; and
- The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights.

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