

## **Modern Democracy: Issues in Theory and Practice**

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### **Abstract**

Considering Democracy as the best form of government is self-evidently true. The meaning of democracy is rooted in the concept of common people being master of their affairs. In the words of Robert Dahl “democracy prevents despotism”. (Dahl, 2000). Today democracy is being promoted, propagated and practiced across globe from developed nations of Europe and America to the developing countries of Africa and Asia, it is prevailing everywhere. Despite its widely acceptance, the question is whether the practices of modern democracy are up to its definitions. This research undertakes the task to find out the answer to this emerging query.

The research includes the theoretical framework of democracy in detail and has explained the complicated trends and structures in modern democracy such as media and global economy and how they are marginalizing the role of common man and killing the real spirit of democracy i.e. rule by the consent of the ruled. The researcher has evaluated the democratic practices of America and Europe as they are considered the greatest democracies of the world. The research has analyzed that to what extent their political system is democratic. Furthermore, some features of developing democracies are also summed up as well. After the evaluation, it is found that due to political maneuvering and economic competition the welfare of the masses is compromised.

**Keywords:** Democracy, discrepancies, political system, welfare, framework

### **Introduction**

We live in a world where the chants of democracy and freedom echoed around the globe. Eastern Europe has left the deplorable totalitarian regimes half a century ago. The disintegrated republics from Soviet Union are constantly making efforts to replace the communist regime of seventy-five years. These excessive political changes in Europe have been remarkably heard across the globe. The premise of democracy has been mobilized in such an influential manner that today South and North America are regarded as the hemisphere of democracy. Africa is experiencing an exceptional era of democratic reforms. Moreover, new and dynamic democratic values are taking root in Asia.

Though the term Democracy is widely used in the social, political and economic realms of the contemporary era but it is still distorted and misunderstood by many circles of society. The reason behind its misconception is the rule of totalitarian governments and military regimes. Those have attempted to declare themselves as the

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legitimate representative of the people by setting representative tags upon them. The traces of real democratic essence can be found throughout the human history. It goes back to the era of Pericles (Greece) to Vaclav Havel (modern Czech Republic), and from Thomas Jefferson's declaration of independence in 1776 to Andrei Sakharov's last speeches in 1989. (NU) All are significant emblem of democratic idea. This research attempts to highlight the real meaning and spirit of democracy in the light of such ideas.

### **Democracy: The Real Meaning**

In the well-known words of Abraham Lincoln's "democracy is government of the people, by the people and for the people" (Pinsker, 1858) but democracy is much more than this phrase. There are various dimensions and underpinning concepts linked to it. In the contemporary era, democracy and freedom are usually used synonymously, but there are many differences in their connotations. Although, democracy is the set of doctrines and notions about freedom but in real sense it can be declared as a set of practices and procedures based on long evolving and convoluted history. In a comprehensive way, democracy is a systematic means to legalize and institutionalize liberty.

The major fundamentals of democratic society include constitutional and legitimate government, provision of human rights and equal implementation of law (rule of law). (NU) Another phrase that is considered the essence of democracy is the rule of majority. Although, in all democratic systems, citizens make political decisions by majority rules but this is not necessarily democratic for instance any system in which 51% of the majority is oppressing the 49% would never be regarded as just fair and democratic.

The democratic society does not based only on the rule of majority but accompanied by the provision and protection of basic rights. Rights do not depend upon the favor of majority rather the democratic law and institutions are the custodians of the rights of all citizens. (NU). Democracy extends beyond a set of constitutional principles and procedures determining the functions of a government. In a democracy, government coexists in a social fabric consisting of plethora of institutions which includes political parties, civil society, different organizations and associations. This assortment is known as pluralism. (NU) The underpinning principle of pluralism indicates that the various organized institutions and groups do not rely on the government for their survival and validity. Such organizations operate at local, national and even at international level. These may be diversified in their objectives and purposes. In this fast growing globalized setup, individuals are free to enjoy liberty and respond by taking full responsibility of a self-governance in the absence of strong grip of state. Following table shows the comparison of direct democracy, presidential democracy and parliamentary democracy.

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### Three Basic Types of Democracy

**Table 1: types of democracy**

<b>Direct Form of Democracy</b>	<b>Presidential Form of Democracy</b>	<b>Parliamentary Form of Democracy</b>
Example: Switzerland	Examples: USA, France	Examples: UK, Italy, Spain, Germany
<b>Head of the State</b> Any member of executive council in turn (for one year), with no special powers but for ceremonial proceedings.	The <b>President</b> is head of the government and state simultaneously.	<b>Head of the State</b> is a nominal head, enjoys power with the collaboration of Prime Minister. It may be a monarch (queen/king) or an elected person (president)
<b>Government:</b> members of executive (federal council) enjoys equal rights, elected by the legislative body (the federal assembly)	<b>President</b> elected by the electoral college.	<b>Government (executive head)</b> is elected by the parliament based on a majority of votes, may be dismissed by the parliament (especially when based on a coalition of several parties)
<b>Legislature</b> is elected for a fixed legislative period, no dissolution; changing coalitions, sometimes even extreme right and extreme left together against the center (though for different reasons)	<b>Legislature</b> is elected for a fixed legislative period. clear institutional separation of powers between legislature and executive (but the officials may cooperate as closely as in the other systems, if they like to do so)	<b>Legislature</b> is elected for a fixed legislative period, dissolution of legislature and early new elections are possible if a clear majority cannot be established.
Government members (the members of executive council) are not required to be the member of federal assembly (legislature).	Government members (cabinet ministers) are not required to be the members of legislature.	Government members (cabinet ministers) must be elected members of parliament.
<b>Strong position of the people</b> (frequent referendums and	<b>Strong executive position of the president</b> (veto power)	<b>Strong position of the political parties</b>

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<p>initiative moves from people on laws)</p>		
<p><b>Laws</b> are reformulated in four steps:          1. Draft by the administration          2. Consultation of federal states, political parties, entrepreneurs, unions and other interested groups          3. Parliamentary debate and final version passed          4. Possibility of a referendum          If a strong party or lobby threatens to call for a referendum, the legislature might be inclined to a compromise, the formal consultation process gives the public a clear view of the critical aspects and the pros and cons already at an early stage of formulation.</p>	<p><b>Laws</b> are discussed and passed by the legislative body;          lobbyists do not have a formal right to be heard, but do exercise some influence on members of congress (legislature) in reality;          the president may block a law by exercising the power of veto;          the personality of president is important in the process of election. He is not considered only as a party leader but the leader of the people as a whole. He may or may not rely on a majority of the congress (in practice there have been some periods when a president forced to cooperate with a majority of opposition members of congress (legislature)</p>	<p><b>Laws</b> are proposed by the government (being the leaders of the coalition of parties)          laws are debated and passed by the parliament;          lobbyists do not have a formal role to be heard or influence the process of law making in reality;          if there is a solid majority, compromises are sought within the coalition (and may sometimes represent tactics rather than conviction), the opposition may be ignored until the next elections but then laws may be revoked or changed by a new majority</p>
<p>The process of making laws is rather slow, which may be a handicap with more technically oriented laws (regulating questions of broad public interest but addressing a small number of professionals). Laws concerning everybody's everyday's actions, however, may get more</p>	<p>A strong president may act immediately - but there is a certain risk that he rushes to conclusions he may hardly be willing to withdraw from even if they prove to be unwise from a later point of view.</p>	<p>If there are many small parties in a country, and legislature without any clear party with majority, the dependence of the government on a parliamentary majority may undermine the stability of the government.</p>

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attention and acceptance by the public and therefore be more effective due to the intense public debate.		
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Source: compiled by the researcher

### Different Models of Democracy

In this section, Avenu Lijphart and Thomas Mayer's famous models of democracy are analyzed.

#### A) Lijphart's Democratic Model

Lijphart in his book patterns of democracy discusses two distinct models,

- West minister Model
- Consensus Model

#### West minister

West minister model signifies the traditional majority rule attributed to democracy. (Lijphart, 1999). Lijphart consider this model as a simple majority model. In which people are elected by a simple majority. When the government's performance does not reflect the wishes of the people, they have right to reject them in the next elections. Lijphart argues that this model is flawed that it can jeopardize the rights of 49% of the population. (Lijphart, 1999) Thus the legitimacy of this democratic setup is always questionable. He termed this model as west minister because Great Britain is the greatest upholder of this model from centuries.

#### Consensus Model

Lijphart describes this model as a consensus model because of its inclusiveness, bargaining and power sharing characteristics (Lijphart, 1999). It upholds the dispersion, limitation and distribution of power. The key element is the system of proportional representation in which parliament seats are divided among the parties in proportion to the votes they obtain. In this system, the government is generally formed in collations without a significant large majority. Lijphart consider this model significantly beneficial for the society with large religious, linguistic and other social cleavages (Lijphart, 1999). Through this model, representation can be given to even a party who has scored a considerably less support from the masses. The pivotal idea of this model is inclusive decision making and this principle is inconformity to the real

spirit of democracy. The model has been adopted widely across Europe such as in Switzerland, Belgium and Germany.

**B) Thomas Mayer's Model**

Thomas Mayer in his model has identified three paradigms of democracy that enables us to understand the phenomena of involvement or contribution in politics.

- Democracy as a marketplace
- Model of participatory democracy
- Model of democratic civil society

**Democracy as a marketplace:**

This model is borrowed from the classic economic theory of marketplace. The model highlights that in a political landscape, individual must have set of choices to elect from and these choices reflect individual self-interest. The central idea of this model is that the democracy is limited to the availability of choices for the individuals during the elections. Individual choice based on his self-interest, that standard of choosing will automatically harmonize with the decisions of the representatives and result in general welfare.

This model is based on the libertarian logic on the working of a free market. Where voters only need to choose their representatives, who will represent them in the business of government. The model does not state anything regarding the link between the policies made for elite class and real interest of ordinary citizen. Furthermore, the model also lacks in explaining the degree to which citizens are allowed to participate in the decision-making procedures once their representatives are in office. (Mayer)

**Model of participatory democracy**

This model is highly institutionalized form of representative democracy. In this model member of legislature take part in the collective decision making process associated with party-led democratic behavior. In the model of participatory democracy, parliament is beyond an exclusive, and unique place of high level decision making rather parliament is emblem of flow of activities that characterizes the environment in which it operates. The major component of legitimacy in a society according to this model is not just the participation of citizens in elections but also the defense of their interests through political parties.

This model is characterized by significant and sustained participation by many active citizens. The involvement of citizens can be observed at many levels in a political system particularly at the transitional level of political parties, associations and steps taken at grass root level. In the decision-making process the citizens are also a party being member of a political party. Political organizations and parties must accommodate the interest of their members in order to ensure the smooth running of political system. This process also requires the will of the people to participate. (Mayer).

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### **Model of democratic civil society/ grass root democracy:**

This model is different from participatory democracy in the respect that it does not expect much from institutions and organizations in the system of democracy. It is based on the belief that in civil society, citizens take part and supervise the process of decision making. This collaboration of civil society can influence government's policies for the collective betterment of society. The only solution to create democratic wellbeing at a large scale for a society is possible through creating the culture of collaboration among civil societies working at grass root level. According to the advocates of this model, the real spirit of democracy can flourish at grass root civil societies as it operates at local level. (Mayer) Coating famous tip O'Neal here according to whom "All politics is local" clearly reflects the centrality of local politics in a democracy. (O'Neill, 1994) The practices of information processing, judgment formation and consideration to reach at consent shifted to the active involvement of citizens at grass root level.

### **Modern Democratic Theory**

In the theoretical framework of modern democracy, most significant work has been done by Samuel P Huntington, Francis Fukuyama and Robert Dahl. Francis Fukuyama in his famous thesis 'The end of history and the last man' consider modern democracy and capitalism as the last stage of human progress after the disintegration of Soviet Union and demise of communism. (Fukuyama, 2006) It has been proven that capitalist democracy is the ultimate success acquired by mankind.

### **Huntington's Three Waves of Democracy**

According to the famous thesis presented by Samuel P Huntington, the world is currently experiencing the third wave of democracy.

In the book *The Third Wave* (1993) Samuel Huntington tries to describe the procedure of democratization in modern-day political scenario. According to this process of democratization, the waves of democracy goes back to the early nineteenth century till the present day. As it is discussed that, a wave of democratization shows the tendency of transition in the form of governments from non-democratic systems to democratic systems within a specific period of time. This tendency of conversion is outnumbered in the reverse direction. (Huntington, 1993). The deep analysis of dichotomous approach creates a link with Schumpeter's 'Democratic Method'. This method emphasizes democracy as merely a systematic institutional arrangement to arrive at political decisions. Individuals obtain power through competitive struggle of votes to partake in the process of decision making. (Schumpeter 1947).

The procedural nature of democracy have rejected all the classical views on democracy and acknowledged the systematic empirical study in this regard. This procedural approach makes classification of regimes as democratic or otherwise 'a

relatively simple task' through applying clinical bench marks and criteria. (Huntington, 1993)

All three waves of democracy given by Huntington possessed different implications.

1. The first wave of democracy was majorly observed in United States during 1828-1926. This phase is characterized as 'minimal democracy' as during this phase more than 50% of male population was enfranchised with the trend of periodic elections and responsible executive. (Huntington, 1993). There was also an era 1922-1942, which observed the first reverse wave. During this reverse wave only four countries have maintained their democratic stature out of seventeen countries, adopted democratic system after 1910.
2. The second wave of democratization was perceived during Second World War. This notion of transition was encouraged by the victory of allies. In the late 1950s, the political development and transition of governments were comprising heavily on an authoritarian cast. (Huntington, 1993)
3. The second reverse wave of democracy remained active till the end of dictatorship in Portugal in 1974. This transition of system from dictatorship to democratic, have signaled the start of the third wave of democratization first started in Europe and spread worldwide. Present era is the time where the system of democracy is considered tempting and most desirable. This global tide of democracy is moving from one triumph to the next. (Huntington, 1993)

The deep examination of the democratization practice can also be seen in numerical weight. According to Huntington (1993), in 1973, the ratio of world's population living in free, democratic countries was recorded as 32%. While this figure of 32% rose to 39% in 1990 when the third wave of democracy was in full bloom. A later study claims that 58% of world's population was democratic during the said period which adds weight to the thesis of Huntington (Shin 1994). The study of Fukuyama (1992) showed that authoritarian regimes had increased their population, which gave birth to the complex issues and politicization in society. In such scenario the modern liberal democracy was the only feasible future (Fukuyama 1992).

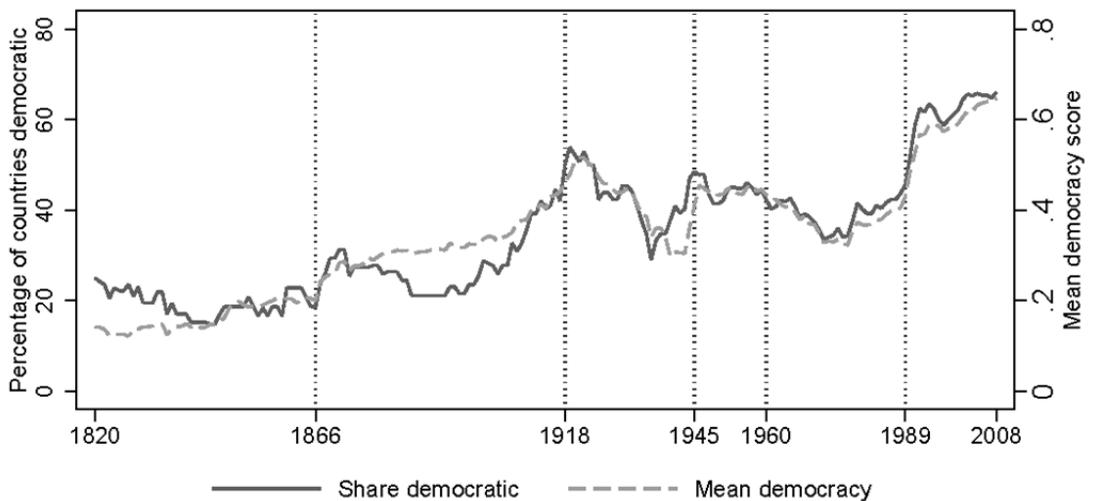
From 1974 till 1990, more than thirty countries of Latin America, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and East Asia have shifted from authoritarian form of government to democratic form of government. The trend of transformation from authoritarian regimes to democratic governmental setup remained very popular in the late 20th century. Samuel P. Huntington examines deeply about the nature and causes of this transition while describing his third wave of democracy. He evaluates the forecasts for stability in new democracies. He also believed that the phase of transition will not stop here but predicted the possibilities of conversion of many other states into democratic

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form of government. These transitions are considered as one of the major part of third wave of democracy in the modern world. Earlier both waves of democracy have produced reverse results as many states were shifted back to authoritarian regimes. Samuel P. Huntington have used concrete examples and empirical analysis, not to provide any theoretical framework but to explain why and how the third wave occurred.

There are many responsible factors those leads toward the process of democratization includes the legitimacy dilemma of authoritarian regimes, the changed role of Catholic Church, economic, social and political development, influential role of world major powers and 'snowballing' phenomenon: change in one country motivating change in others. The conduct of regular elections, consensus building and nonviolent methods to deal with the complex issues are central themes of democracy. There are many new survival challenges for new democracies. New democracies needs to develop a systematic arrangement to deal with praetorian problems and must develop strong democratic institutions, values and processes. (Huntington, 1993) He concludes his analysis with the argument that the future and success of democracy is linked with the management of the political, economic, and cultural factors.

**Figure 1:**



Source: <https://havardhegre.net/2014/01/09/why-does-democratization-occur-in-waves/>

### **Dahl's theory of modern democracy**

In the verge of Robert Dahl, democracy consist of following three elements,

1. Significant and extensive competition among individuals and organized groups (especially political parties) for all effective positions of government power, at regular intervals excluding the use of force. (Dahl, 2000)
2. A highly inclusive level of political participation in the selection of leaders and policies, at least through regular and fair elections, such that no major (adult) social group is excluded. (Dahl, 2000)
3. A level of civil and political liberties - freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom to form and join organizations - sufficient to ensure the integrity of political competition and participation (Diamond et al. 1988) and (Dahl, 2000).

In this part the structural defects of democracy are being evaluated. These factors are as:

#### **Structural Flaws in Democracy**

Ever evolving national and international landscape across globe some structural issues have been noticed which have contributed to plaguing the practice of democratic values. These factors include cost of well-informed voting, free rider problem and influence of elite minority.

#### **Cost of Well Informed Voting**

World Population is increasing day by day and owing to this issue, weightage of each vote is decreasing. According to the research, in United States one out of ten million voters is likely to be a decisive one in election. On the other hand, to be a well-informed voter, requires a lot of research and vigilance which is a lot of effort as compared to the benefits. A voter is likely to receive especially in developing nations where democracies are not stable and voters are convoluted in a vicious circle of earning a reasonable livelihood. This phenomenon is near to impossible.

#### **Free Rider's Problem**

This factor is connected to the previous issue of lack of well-informed voting when the people are aware that their vote is not going to create much difference in elections. So, they usually don't cast their vote. As a result, significant share of population do not vote regularly. For instance, if we look at the statistics of Pakistan in 2013 elections, winning party got only fifteen million votes out of the population of two hundred and twenty million which obviously does not represent the will of majority.

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### **Rule of Minority Elite**

The most common form of democracy prevalent in the world today is representative democracy in which people elect their representatives through elections and these representatives formulate policy for the masses. But in the contemporary era, the elections have become a complex procedure. Only people with affluent background or having the strong support from elite can contest elections. It is a known fact that large corporations and industries invest money in contesting candidates at a time of elections and in return reap the benefits during their tenure. Such type of support proves as a hurdle in the way of elected representatives to perform their real duties once they are in office. Their words and speeches becomes not something of their own rather are calculated rehearsed branded, marketed and ambiguous stuff which contains hollow promises and engaging chants for the enthusiastic public.

### **Globalization and Democracy**

Globalization is a process of hyper, social, political and economic integration around the globe. The objective of globalization is to create a border less world in which information, goods and services could flow conveniently in the minimum time. Due to increase in the process of globalization many other world actors have come into play. These include international regimes, international institutions, NGO's and other global and regional organizations.

### **International Institutions**

In the process of globalization, many international institutions have been developed. These institutions seek to bring the states together especially in the economic and political realms. Particularly, to create economic integration several monitoring institutions have been created and free trade agreement have been signed. These include IMF, World Bank, WTO etc. but all have affected the notion of public will and participated in a negative manner. As most of the institution are dominated and influenced by the developed nations like United States and Britain. So, these nations sometimes use such institutions to exert pressure on the developing countries to fulfill their own interest. Moreover, countries should comply with these institution in exchange for economic assistance. For instance, Pakistan had to remove the subsidies on energy consumptions for the public on the order of IMF against the will of the public.

### **Media and Democracy**

Media is attributed with spreading awareness and disseminating information to the lowest strata of society. It is believed that through the advent of media, notions like Human Rights, Democratic values and Public will have been strengthened. But from a

closer look one can observe that through media, public will is being more manipulated than strengthened. Different groups competing for power, use media outlets to let down their opponents and to present their fake saintly images to get public opinion in their favour. For instance, in the elections of 2016 in United States, what the public witnessed on media was a dirty battle between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump.

#### **DEMOCRATICIES AND PRACTICES IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**

Europe and America are considered chief emblem of democracy in the world. In this section it is tried to evaluate the democratic practices of the developed world.

### **USA**

United States consider itself the greatest democracy in the contemporary world. The fact is that the champion of democracy United States being the multi-party democratic state, only offers mainly two choices to public. The presidential elections 2014 showed that there were other 52 political parties as well contesting significantly. Major parties included were the Libertarian, Green, Constitution and Reform Parties as the Blue Enigma, Marijuana, and Sapient Parties. (Tormsen, 2015) In the presence of such vast range options, only the Democrats or the Republicans acquired the opportunity to win elections. American history have never seen the provision of an opportunity to elect from the third party candidate since the period of Abraham Lincoln, who defeated the candidates from Whigs and Democrats in 1860. In the history of America, third parties usually served as a distraught contribution as the involvement of third option decrease the vote of one party and give the advantage to the other party to win. This psychological belief was also prevailed in public that to cast vote to the third, means to waste their vote. Actually third parties usually systematized and worked for some specific issue or individual. Their narrow approach proves as a hurdle to achieve widespread popular support.

Some economic concerns also don't allow third parties to flourish at large scale. Third party cannot afford to spend much on election campaign. These parties are unable to avail finance from government until they secure a certain ratio of votes as representation in previous elections. Media pays less attention to these small political parties by considering them new innovations in political setup. This condition indicates that the champion of great democracy in contemporary world revolves around two choices between A and B.

### **Gerrymandering**

In the words of Tormsen (2015), Gerrymandering is the technique to redraw or redesign political constituencies in order to award numerical advantage to one party over the other. This practice can observe when one party get power in state legislature, that party tries to readjust the boundaries of constituencies to acquire success in maximum congressional districts. This practice creates unfair results. (Klaas, n.d.)

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In the process of gerrymandering, constituencies are planned in a way to create districts those voted constantly for a specific single party and constituents for the opposing party are divided and diluted between districts. This adjustment can award one party with more electoral seats even with numerical disadvantage over the other party in the population.

American president Barack Obama and Tom DeLay, took advantage of gerrymandering in their political career. In the presence of constant desire to reshape the system into more transparent setup, the issues like gerrymandering are proving as a hurdle to achieve the target of fully transparent and fairer political system.

### **Lobbying**

Lobbying in US has been plaguing democratic practices from a very long time. Candidates who want to win elections require a huge support from corporate donations, political action committees and wealthy individuals. These all invest money on the candidates and reap benefits once their candidate is in office. (Drutman, 2015). According to a research by Center for responsive politics (CRP), in 2008, 93% of the members of House of Representatives and 94% of the members of Senate were those candidates who spend the most in elections. Moreover in 2004, 14800 lobbyists spend 3.3 billion dollars on 535 congress men. This practice is not limited to congressional elections rather it has a vital role in the presidential elections as well. Obama out spend all the candidates even McCain in 2008 presidential elections. In return, it has been observed that Obama administration has appointed many delegates as return of such monitoring favors. These appointments include, delegates in organization of American States, United Nations etc. All these statistics signifies that the representatives in US represents affluent class only and their democracy is flawed.

### **European Practices**

Europe is houses numerous developed democracies like France, Germany, and Britain. These countries are economically stable and democratically developed but after the formation of European Union the democratic values of Europe are dwindling. In United Kingdom, Euro-skeptics frequently disparage the lack of democratic values in the European Union. The notion behind this criticism is the monopolistic behavior of Brussels, who aims to establish the systematic setup with the traits of ‘federalism,’ which concentrates the power with continental technocrats and deprives the member states to take strong decisions. Andreas Gross, a Swiss political scientist tries to define such setup as, a process which guarantees unity in the presence of diversity and aims to balance power among different political mandates.

Dan Kelemen, a US political scientist believed that in today’s world democracy is hollowing out within individual states and EU is unable to settle such emerging issues. In this regard the most recent and evident example is in Hungary, where the government of Viktor Orbán Fidesz’s has been dismantling and damaging political

checks and balances in the political system.(longest serving prime minister) The lack of checks and balances have developed many collapsing trends in system as taking over the media, imposition of restrictions over the independence of judiciary, favoritism and support of Fidesz-friendly oligarchs in business community. This system is fundamentally a Putin-style government, where only one party is allowed to dominate over the political arena. This type of setup developing in the middle of European Union is an alarming sign towards the weakening of democratic trends.

There are many new challenges emerging in Europe now a days, as Europe is unable to regulate the respect of fundamental rights through its policies. It is well evident fact that the element of transparency is lacking in Euro group and powerful business lobbies are dominating through European institutions.

These all factors signify that European states are in a clear dilemma of whether to sustain their democracy or to sustain their integrity with other European nations.

### **Democracy in developing world**

Although, the wave of democracy has spread in almost all parts of the world but it is not being established completely. In the developing world, the system is facing a lot of problems includes poor economy, excessive western influence and large ethnic and other divisions.

**Table 1: Democratic and non-democratic features of developing nations**

States	Democratic features	Non-democratic practices
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Largest democracy with over 800 million registered voters.</li><li>• Regular elections since 1951.</li><li>• Autonomous federating units.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entrench culture of political corruption.</li><li>• Powerful dynastic elite</li><li>• Political parties with extremist tendencies</li><li>• Vertical cleavages</li></ul>
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitional democracy</li><li>• Regular elections since 2002.</li><li>• Multi-party system</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political landscape dominated by feudal and industrial elite.</li><li>• Nonexistent intra-party elections.</li><li>• Strong military bureaucratic alliance</li><li>• Excessive western influence</li></ul>

Source: compiled by the researcher

### **Conclusion**

We almost hear this phrase every day that the best form of government is democracy and countries could not opt democratic trends, experience failures. But then why we see states like china, Singapore and Malaysia developing so rapidly despite being

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notorious for non-democratic trends. Leaders like Mahathir Mohammad and Lee Kuan Yew made Malaysia and Singapore economically developed and stable in the matter of decades. Under the leadership of Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia became a fully industrialized nation from a backward agriculture state. (Dobell, 2010) Interestingly both of these leaders were not so democratic in their style of governance but still enjoys popular support. China who is the most developed non-democratic state is also doing quite well without democracy. This leaves us with the question that whether democracy is actually the best system of government?

### **Recommendations**

- There is a need to redefine democracy in the light of contemporary system where forces like globalization and information explosion are in order. The concept of democracy needs to be revisited and focus be put on the development of democratic behavior in the whole society rather than merely in the government.
- There is a need to develop equilibrium in the core democratic values and societal norms of any state. Democracy must not be imposed on the nation rather democratic practices must be improvised according to the normative orientation of the society. This is especially required in the young democracy.
- There is a need to think beyond democracy as well. In the contemporary world due to ever increasing population the conflict of interest has also been increased and intensified which can bring instability. So, there is a need to develop a system in which experts should represent the people.

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