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Collaboration

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God's Will and The 21st Century Democratic Process

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Majority Mules v. Minority Rights

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Romans 13:1-7 (NLT)

¹Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ²So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

⁶Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Introduction

Democracy is a form of government in which all eligible citizens are meant to participate equally – either directly or, through elected representatives, indirectly – in the proposal, development and establishment of the laws by which their society is run.

In virtually all democratic governments throughout ancient and modern history, democratic citizenship consisted of an elite class until full enfranchisement was won for all adult citizens in most modern democracies through the suffrage movements of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Democracy contrasts with forms of government where power is either held by an individual, as in an absolute monarchy, or where power is held by a small number of individuals, as in an oligarchy.

Several variants of democracy exist, but there are two basic forms, both of which concern how the whole body of all eligible citizens executes its will. One form of democracy is direct democracy, in which all eligible citizens have direct and active participation in the political decision making.

Types of Democracy

Democracy has taken a number of forms, both in theory and practice. Some varieties of democracy provide better representation and more freedom for their citizens than others. Direct democracy is a political system where the citizens participate in the decision-making personally, contrary to relying on intermediaries or representatives. Direct democracy only exists in the Swiss cantons of Appenzell Innerrhoden and Glarus.

Modern Day Criticisms

Economists like Milton Friedman have strongly criticized the efficiency of democracy. They base this on their premise of the irrational voter. Their argument is that voters are highly uninformed about many political issues, especially relating to economics, and have a strong bias about the few issues on which they are fairly knowledgeable.

US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once professed,

"We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

Christian Democracy

Christian Democracy is a political ideology which emerged in nineteenth-century Europe under the influence of conservatism and Catholic social teaching. It was originally conceived as a combination of traditional Catholic beliefs and modern democratic ideas, but over time it grew to incorporate a variety of views from different Christian denominations and from different political thinkers. Christian democracy continues to be influential in Europe and Latin America, though in a number of countries its Christian ethos has been challenged by secularization.

Majority Rules v. Minority Rights

Majority Rule is a decision rule that selects alternatives which have a majority, that is, more than half the votes. It is the binary decision rule used most often in influential decision-making bodies, including the legislatures of democratic nations.

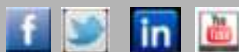
Another way to safeguard against tyranny of the majority, it is argued, is to guarantee certain rights. Inalienable rights, including who can vote, which cannot be transgressed by a majority.

[see The Advocate Magazine for References](#)
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Always feel welcome to contact us directly with any questions, comments, or great ideas!

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ADVOCACY



*Helping Individuals, Organizations & Communities
Achieve Their Full Potential*

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The Mission of The Advocacy Foundation
is Threefold:

To Rescue

Young persons from the prison pipeline
and help redirect and restore their lives;

To Teach

New and fledgling nonprofit organizations to become
fundable, to thrive, and to maintain compliance;

To Train

Qualified Juvenile Justice Professionals with a passion
for effective careers in the Juvenile Justice system.

PREPARING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS
& COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL