

Essay

The Future of Democracy: Hopes and Concerns

Outline

I. Introduction

Thesis statement: There is a dichotomy about the future of democracy; there are multiple indicators that hint the progress of democracy; meanwhile, a regressive trend is also in sight.

II. Debunking the term 'democracy'

III. The Bright Future of Democracy

A. It has outlived all other forms of government

1. Case in point: 'The End of History', Francis Fukuyama.

B. Increasing number of democratic countries

1. Case study: South Sudan (2011).

C. The rising trust in democracy

1. Example: South Korean protest against coup (December 2024)

D. Democracy is irreplaceable

1. Case study: Bangladeshi military not taking over despite power vacuum.

use such living words more to make your writing more engaging and interesting good

E. Democracy is voluntary and ensures human liberty, thus lasting

1. Evidence: Social Contract Theory

IV. Concerns for the future of democracy

A. Democracy is being compromised

1. Example: Legislative resolutions and presidential ordinances.

B. Democracy is not for pre-political societies.

1. Case study: Montesquieu's 'Spirit of Laws'

C. The threat of martial law looms large.

good reflection of mature knowledge

1. Example: Turkey (2016), v/s Myanmar (2021).

D. The emergence of pseudo-democracies

1. Evidence: Democratic countries with extreme censorship - India under Modi

2. "How Democracies Die" - Levitsky and Ziblitt.

E. Challenges by other forms of government.

1. case in point: monarchy, authoritarianism.

V. Why democracies matter?

freedom of people; ensured human rights; a consequence of social evolution.

VI. Conclusion

The Future of Democracy: Hopes and Concerns

"Democracy is dead; long live democracy" seems to be the new motto of modern governance. However, there is a dichotomy about the future of democracy. There are indicators that hint the progress of democracy. Meanwhile, a regressive trend is also in sight. On one hand, the future of democracy seems bright. The sustainability as witnessed in the past projects the continuity of the newfound system. The stance is further substantiated by the growing number of democratic states. People show a rising trust in democracy and it is one system that is irreplaceable. Moreover, it is the only make-up that ensures human liberty and dignity. On the other hand, democracy seems to nose-dive towards its decline. The system is being compromised by its supervisors. It also appears inept for certain communities. Martial law, the anti-thesis to democracy, is always soaring over the people's choice. Furthermore, many states that claim to be democracies are more authoritarian in nature. To add to the uncertainty about the future of democracy, there are other

forms of ~~character~~ ^{governance} systems that have survived successfully for very long periods and continue to do so. Nonetheless, democracy appears to be survive more than perish. The appetite for non-democratic systems of governance seems to be shrinking rapidly, even in countries that have seen protracted periods of non-democratic rule. Political science suggests this may simply be a consequence of the process of social evolution.

There are high hopes for the future of democracy. Firstly, it has outlived all other forms of governments. Other systems such as monarchy, dictatorships and fascism have subsided with time. Democracy, since its inception in the eighteenth century, has held on to its roots. Francis Fukuyama, in 'The End of History' mentions that the epitome of governance is the Western liberal democracy. This is because all other forms have ended or are on a trajectory towards the end. The sustenance of democracy is a concrete reality. Every other system seems to fail in face of this system. Imperialists like the United Kingdom have if not left

monarchy but transformed it from a strict one to a combined system where the chief executive is elected by the people of the country. Thus, democracy appears to be the strongest amongst all forms of governments.

secondly, the increasing number of

natural transition from or passage to another one is fine
democratic countries indicate a hopeful future of the system. States are either switching to newer systems that is, democracy, or the newly-formed nation-states prefer to be democracies. The most recent example is South Sudan, which after its independence from Sudan in 2011, became a democratic state. Many countries exist that face the threat of secession; and many areas struggle to gain freedom for the preservation of liberty of their people. All these prospective future states are expected to be nations standing by democracy. The underlying reason, of course, for opting this system is the apparent success of other states. They see the precedent left by the developed West which remains the largest democratic

region.

Thirdly, there is a growing trust in democracy around the world. The appetite for non-democratic forces appear to shrink, even among states that have seen long periods of non-democratic rule. This was, recently, demonstrated by the people of South Korea when the president single-handedly announced martial law. Not only did the parliament block such a move, but also the people took the streets to protest in favor of democracy. A similar incident was witnessed in Turkey's 2016 attempted coup. As a result of social evolution, people have come to realize that nothing protects their rights more than a democratic system. Democracy is the only cure for autocratic systems. This ailment is seen in the form of compromised fundamental rights, heavy censorship on fundamental institutions, and unilateral decisions. Democracy, as people believe, ensures what other forms devour.

language command is fine good

Furthermore, it has now been established that democracy is irreplaceable. Even in case of power vacuums, no other system seems to fill that gap. The recent government fiasco in Bangladesh is such an example. When the student-led group toppled the Hasina government, the military could have come forward to take the seat. However, the generals have by now realized that a military rule has no more glory. Thus, the gulf was bridged by an civilian interim government. In case, a democratic regime is replaced by another form, the latter is often short-lived. This has been witnessed by the military interregnum in countries of Africa and South Asia. Thus, regimes come and go, but democracy holds the dominance linking a secured future for democracy.

Finally, democracy is voluntary. It is the choice of people, thus lasting. The system was chosen comprising people for people. In such a framework, because the system is the choice of people,

the liberty of people is ensured. What else would the ruled demand? Their rights are being secured, their liberty ensured and lives protected. This will be the very reason that people entered into this social contract. Since people have their trust in such a system, it is most likely to survive in times to come.

Despite the stronghold of democracy across the globe, this system faces some existential threats. The following paragraphs discuss the concerns regarding the future of democracy.

Even in democratic countries, democracy is being compromised in many ways. This is rampant particularly in parliamentary systems where one party rules as an executive and constitutes a majority in the legislature. The government then does as it wills, though legally this is manifested in the form of legislative resolutions and presidential ordinances. The majority party passes resolutions concerning its own

interest without taking considerations for the general public. In such a setup, it may amend the constitution to suit its ambitions. Moreover, they can pass bills to enact laws that curbs dissent to maintain its position. Countries around the world show such compromised makeups. Sheikh Hasina, for instance, 'ruled' Bangladesh for a decade consecutively, by suppressing dissent and making laws to ensure she holds power. Democracy is, thus, morphed by governments according to their will, threatening its existence at once.

Besides growing compromise of democracy, political scientists suggest that such a system is not suitable for every community. First highlighted by Aristotle and later by Montesquieu in 'The Spirit of Laws', they argued that democracy suits specific areas. This is, because, they say, the behaviour of people is highly affected by their geography. For instance, people living in vast areas such

Russia are better suited for absolute governments. Similarly, smaller areas or ones protected by mountains like ~~dem~~ Switzerland are better off with democracy. Therefore, states that have are dispersed or have large territories are at a risk of toppling ~~democracies~~ if they are already one.

Additionally, the threat of martial law continues to exist. Various countries in recent past have either witnessed a switch from democracy to military rule or an attempt to be replaced.

Military rule, which is often dubbed as dictatorship because it comes to power without the consent of people, is the anti-thesis to democracy. It is the only form which can overthrow a democratic regime overnight. The instance of the 2021 military coup in Myanmar proposes the decline of democracy. This stance is further augmented by the continuation of the rule in the country. As long as extra-constitutional recipes like martial or legal framework orders and

its like exist. the future of democracy remain uncertain and therefore, threatened.

Another concern for the future of democracy is the emergence of pseudo democracies. There are the states with nominal democracy where the rule is with the people in theory, however, in practice it is different. It is seen in hybrid government where the military or bureaucracy is directly involved in the matters of states. It is also evidenced where the government regulates the lives of citizens and everything is censored. India, Brazil, Hungary, and other states throughout the world in recent years showed the erosion of democracy as populist leaders tatter the essence of people rule. In this reference, Levitsky and Ziblitt write in "How Democracies Die", "most democracies die at the ballot box" exposing the reality of those countries that claim to be people-led, but in reality are autocratic in nature. The emergence of such states put the future of democracy at stake.

Finally, the future of democracy is threatened by the simultaneous existence of other forms of governments. Systems like monarchies and authoritarian states continue to exist, that too successfully. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are monarchies, but they have thrived for long and are among the most developed nations around the world. China, which Bloomberg predicts to be the largest economy by 2028, is an authoritarian state and its success is a challenge to democracy. The latter, as it claims to be the strongest form of government, is, therefore, not so strong after all. Moreover, among the most underdeveloped nations, majority are democracies. Had democracy been so effective, the least developed nations would have been other systems instead of democracies.

With the hopes and concerns of democracy discussed, a question arises: Why democracy matter? Democracy matters because it is the result of social evolution. It is not a system that emerged over-

night. It took centuries of trials and tribulations, various revolutions both bloody and blood-less, and multiple stages to come to this final form. Democracy is what the people, or at least most people around the world realized best suited them. In a democratic setup, the people elect those they trust would best serve them. They bind themselves, voluntarily, to the state through constitution. The rights, liberties and equality of the citizens are ensured. In case there are not delivered, the people have the right to demand them in the state courts and if still not guaranteed, they can replace the government either by vote of no confidence or by never again electing that party.

In conclusion, democracy is a novel but strong structure of governance. The future of democracy has both opportunities and challenges for its survival. It is hopeful because of its stronghold for over two centuries, the acceptances it continues to receive.

and it is the choice of people. The dark side of its future is a reflection of the compromise it faces, the ^{varying} nature of people around the world and the challenges by non-democratic forces from time to time. Nonetheless, democracy is of importance and ensures the freedom of people. It gives the rights that people have surrendered so that they are protected.

1700