

Is Democracy Panacea of all social and political evils? economic

Outline

(a) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: If true democracy is practiced in its essence, it holds the unique ability to eradicate all political and economic injustices.

(B) ~~What is~~ ~~democracy~~

(B) What (B) Features of true democracy

(C) Why democracy is panacea of all ~~so~~ political and economic evils?

(1) Political lens.

(i) Opposition plays a crucial role in maintaining check and balance on government.

(ii) Free media dispense information of governmental policies to public. (Watergate scandal)

(iii) Allows people to demand their due rights.

(iv) $\rightarrow$ American Civil rights movements

(iv) Empowers people to steer the political evolution in accordance to their own will

(v) Ensures peaceful ^{political} co-existence $\rightarrow$ Suffrage

$\rightarrow$ Tunisia's Case study in Arab's springs

(vi) Do not grant absolute power to the rulers

(2) Economic lens

(i) Forges inclusive institution for economic equality.

(ii) ~~Economic policies are people centric not~~
~~go ruler centric~~

(iii) Ensures circulation of wealth.

↳ Luxury taxes and case study of Sweden.

(iv) Guarantees to safeguard property.

↳ Singur land lease, India.

(v) Representation of impoverished and middle class in the law and policy making process.

↳ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, India

(vi) Ensures accountability of rulers.

↳ Right to Information Act, 2017, Pakistan.

3) Comparison of democracy with other governance model.

(i) Democracy vs Communism.

(ii) Democracy vs Autocracy

(iii) ~~Democracy vs Dictatorship.~~

4) Conclusion

The Essay

In the 1700s, Europe was marred by widespread injustices, with monarchs wielding absolute and divine powers. Political and economic evils were prevalent across the continent. In the face of these adversities, the marginalised segment mustered the courage to defy the unjust governance and enact an egalitarian governance model. Following years hardships and struggles, the hoi polloi succeeded in enacting a governance model that was crafted to be governed by people and for the people, known as democracy. In a short period of time, this governance model got widespread acceptance from the people across the globe. This is because this system promise to eradicate political and economic vices from the society. While viewing through political lens, the democratic system ensures public scrutiny of the government through opposition and media. Moreover, it allows people to resist oppression and steer the helm of political evolution according to their own will. Additionally, democracy ensures peaceful co-existence and does not grant absolute powers to the rulers. Not only this, but on the economic side, democracy safeguard economic rights by forging inclusive institutions, ensuring circulation of wealth, and protecting the right of property. Moreover, it gives representation to the poor in governance and ensures accountability of leaders to diminish economic injustices. Therefore, if true democracy is practiced in its essence, it holds the unique ability to eradicate political and economic injustices.

To begin with the features of true democracy, the concept of democratic governance rests on the principle that sovereignty belongs to people, making them the ultimate source of political power. People exercise their political power by electing representatives through free and fair elections, who then elect the state's executives. However, the executive is not granted absolute power. Powers are divided among three branches of government: the judiciary, the parliament and the executive. These bodies exercise their powers and coordinate with each other under the aegis of constitution, which is crafted by the parliament. Moreover, free media, right of peaceful assembly, opposition and accountability are some other prominent features of true democracy. All these evils ensure the protection of rights and help mitigate political and economic evils.

On the political grounds, opposition in democratic governance plays a crucial role in maintaining checks and balance over the government's use of power. Without this check and balance, there is a high likelihood that executives may use force, coercion and unfair tactics to their rule. For instance, China has one party system of governance, which lacks an independent opposition. Such governance setup has allowed provided an open ground to President Xi to remove term limits for the presidency from the constitution, enabling him to rule indefinitely. Moreover, all political dissents are treated with disdain and brutality with no political voice. Also, they have no political voice than, can highlight their grievances. A prime example of this

is Xinjiang province. Thus, independent opposition maintains proper checks and balances over the exercise of power in favor of political rights of people.

To add to this, free media dispenses government information about government's policies and action to the public as, which allows people to scrutinize it. To eradicate political injustices, it is crucial that public is informed with unbiased information about government policies and actions, allowing them to question unjust rulers. To illustrate, The Washington Post uncovered the Watergate scandal, which involved illegal surveillance and political sabotage linked to President Nixon's administration. The free press played a pivotal role in exposing the cover-up, which eventually led to Nixon's resignation. Without independent journalism, public would have never been apprised of Nixon's illegal activities. Therefore, by providing unbiased information to the public, free media ensures the eradication of political injustices.

Besides this, democracy provides people with the legal and political space to actively claim, defend and expand their rights. It allows people to publicly express their views, protest injustice and exercise their voting power to influence government decisions. When these methods fall short, an independent judiciary steps in to make sure that concerns are addressed fairly and effectively. For instance, judiciary played a crucial role in the success of the American civil rights movement. In the landmark *Brown vs Board of Education* case, the U.S Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, marking a significant victory for civil rights activists. This ruling highlighted how democratic framework allowed marginalised groups, such as Black Americans, to challenge ^{oppression} and demand justice. Thus, democracy not only facilitates the demand for rights but also actively works to dismantle systems of oppression.

Another point is that is that democracy allows people to shape political evolution in accordance with their own will. History shows that political evolution of a thriving democracy around establishing more equitable and just societies. This is because the role of people is pivotal in shaping this evolution. For instance, in its earlier phase, democracy did not allow women to participate in elections or cast their votes. However, when women like Georgia Ann Thompson, Susan B. Anthony, and Emmeline Pankhurst highlighted this issue, the people recognised that women must be

allowed to take part in the process to address their gender-specific concerns. Over time, democratic evolution has shaped the societies in such a way that today, many examples can be found of women attaining the highest positions in governance and politics. It was democracy that allowed women from being politically disconnected to attaining major role in governance and politics. Hence, political evolution within a democracy tends to foster more equitable and just societies.

Equally important is mentioning democracy's role in ensuring peaceful political co-existence. Political discords are ~~present~~ present in every corner of the world. However, this discord can turn into violence and hatred if one faction becomes skeptical about the dominance of its competitor's political influence. To avert this, democracy plays a crucial role by allowing space for dialogue and cooperation through its institutions such as parliament. To illustrate, following the Arab Spring, Tunisia was cited as its only success story, incorporated democracy to avoid political turmoil. After the removal of Ben Ali, two staunchly opposing political groups—secular and Islamic—agreed to utilize democratic platforms to resolve their issues. Through deliberations and discussions in the parliament, both groups agreed upon a constitution that was accepted by all. Moreover, when tensions again peaked in 2013, the National Dialogue Quartet, made up of democratic institutions (lawyers, unions and human rights groups), mediated between conflicting political forces, thus averting political crisis. Democracy was a pivotal tool that allowed Tunisia to become only successful case study of Arab Spring. Therefore, consultation and

dialogue, two key aspects of democracy, forge a conducive environment for peaceful political coexistence.

Most importantly, democracy does not grant absolute powers to the rulers. Absolute Rulers having absolute power is the root cause of all political evils such as tyranny, oppression and corruption. As Lord Acton has aptly said, "Absolute power tends to corrupt". Yet, democracy ensures that powers are not concentrated in a single branch of government. Power is divided among the executive, judiciary and the legislature. These three institutions not only resonate with each other, but also maintain a proper check and balance on each other. For example, in 2025, when South Korean president declared martial law over the country, the parliament, in not time, declared the move unconstitutional and played a crucial role in halting the process before its initiation. This example highlights why the separation of powers is essential to maintain a check and balance on rulers. Therefore, democracy not only allows injustices to be highlighted but also grants power to its branches to act against them.

As democracy is crucial for addressing the political concerns of the people, its role in eradicating economic evils is equally important.

Firstly, democracy forges inclusive institutions that ensure people are granted equal economic opportunities. Checks and balances on rulers and participation of people in governance empower democratic governments to enact policies that address the economic concerns of the people. Without this, rulers may enact policies that fulfill their own economic interests. As the author of the book *Why Nations Fail* has argued, "Poor nations remain poor because those who have power make choices that create poverty". To illustrate this, one can analyse the example of Mauritius. Despite being a small island nation, it is ranked as the top performing economy with highest Human Development Index and GDP per capita in the whole African continent. Democracy is a key factor in the economic success of Mauritius, as it has been ranked a top performing democracy in Africa, according to Economist Intelligence Unit's report. A strong democratic institutions has fostered conducive environment for businesses with equal opportunities by diminishing corruption, reducing red tape and fostering strong governance system. This underpins the role of democracy in the economic success of Mauritius. Hence, checks and balances and the role of people in governance empower ^{inclusive} democratic institutions that are pivotal in uplifting the economic conditions of the people.

In addition to this, democracy ensures the circulation of wealth. In a democratic government, economic policies are people centric not ruler centric, as law makers and executive rely on people's vote to remain in power. For instance, Sweden, one of the top ranking democracy, imposes luxury taxes on the wealthy. Those with higher incomes, such as individuals earning over 5,500 SEK, are required to pay additional taxes. Furthermore, extra taxes are also levied on buying and selling expensive property. This taxation system has helped shrink Sweden's economic gap, making it one of the smallest among OECD countries. Therefore, by implementing policies focused on the people, democracy ensures wealth is distributed across all social classes.

Moreover, democracy guarantees to safeguard property. Unlike monarchs, where rulers hold absolute authority over property, democratic governments must follow due process. To acquire someone else's property, they must follow the guidelines set by the law, which is enacted by parliament with the people's mandate. For instance, in 2006, when West Bengal tried to take farmers' land for the Tata Nano project at a comparatively low price, the farmers sued the government in court. The court ordered the return of the land, as the action violated the law. Such examples of safeguards foster people's trust, leading to more trade, innovation, and investment. Therefore, democracy not only safeguards property but also fosters economic activities, resulting in the uplifting of economic conditions of people.

Besides that, democracy not only empowers impoverished populations by allowing them to exercise their right to vote, but also involves them in the decision making and policy-making process. In a democracy, anyone can contest in the elections, which allows people from marginalised segments to have their voices heard and echoed in the top echelon of decision making. For example, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian constitution, came from a Dalit family - historically considered untouchable. Despite belonging to a class that had been economically and socially oppressed for centuries, democracy empowered him to break free from the chains of economic and political subjugation imposed by upper-class Hindus. As a result, he was elected from Bombay presidency, he framed a constitution that postulates equal economic opportunities for all. Therefore, by involving underprivileged people in the decision-making, democracy empowers them to ~~oppose~~ challenge unjust economic policies by themselves.

Lastly, democracy allows people to hold their rulers accountable. In a democracy, the treasury of the government is the trust placed by the people in the rulers. They can only use this authority for the welfare of the public and to manage government affairs. However, if the public suspects any exploitation of this authority by rulers, they can hold their rulers accountable. For instance, the Right to Information Act 2017, allows public to demand permission regarding the spending of public funds from any governmental department. This act empowers anyone from the general public to hold the government accountable. In this way, democracy empowers public to oversee the government, ensuring transparency and helping to eliminate corruption.

Uptill now, it has been argued that democracy is pivotal in alleviating political and economic exisis. The next part of essay will explore how democracy addresses social and political evils more effectively than other forms of governments.

Starting with the a comparison between democracy and communism, although communism advocates for equal collective ownership of the means of production and abolition of class system, this concept is often impractical in the real world and ignores human nature. This system leads to less innovation, competition, and trade, while also subjugating individuals' political rights. For instance, when Lenin attempted to impose communism's rule in Russia, he and his successors engendered more political and economic evils than ever before. The one party system deprived people of their political rights voice, leaving them with no-one to highlight their grievances. Moreover, by focusing heavily on the industrial and military sectors, a shortage of consumer goods became prevalent. As a result, corruption and oppression flourished in the society. On the other hand, democracy, by safeguarding the right to property, fostering inclusive institution, ensuring strong opposition, and promoting independent media, is better equipped to address such evils. Therefore, democracy effectively addresses social and political evils more than communism.

Also, democracy more effectively addresses social and political issues than autocracy. In autocracy, one person holds absolute power over everything. This bypasses rulers from the checks and balances, allowing them to frame policies in alignment with their own interests. In contrast, in a democratic government, the government wields power from the people, which results in the government framing policies for the interests of the common people. The most clear example of this can be seen in the governments of North Korea and South Korea. Despite their shared cultural heritage and history, there are stark differences in the economic and political conditions of their citizens. On one side, Kim Jong-un's autocratic government has fostered extractive institutions that serve only his interests, leaving people in acute political and economic subjugation. On the other side, the democratic government of South Korea has fostered inclusive institutions that effectively address political and economic grievances of the people. As a result, South Korea is now ranked as one of the top-performing economies in all of Asia. Also, it is ranked as one of the freest countries in the region. Hence, democracy empowers people by giving them the power to vote, which allows them to uplift their economic and political conditions.

To conclude, true democracy holds the ability to eradicate all political and economic injustices. Politically, democracy allows people to maintain proper checks and balances on the rulers, which dissuade rulers from political subjugation. Moreover, by allowing people

to demand their rights, and steer the political evolution and according to their own will, democracy ensures the protection of political rights. Moreover, the concept of separation of powers ensures that the ultimate authority remains with the people, which politically empowers them more than the rulers.

Economically, democracy fosters inclusive institutions that create equal economic opportunities for all.

Furthermore, by ensuring circulation of wealth and safeguarding property, democracy protects economic rights of the people. Besides this, by empowering the impoverished class to enter the corridors of power, democracy allows them to frame policies that benefits their economic interests. Moreover, while comparing it with other forms of government, such as communism and autocracy, democracy stands out as the only viable solution to eradicate social and economic evils. For this reason, Francis Fukuyama has described democracy as the "end of history".