

Teacher's Guide

What is Democracy? Why Democracy?

Part 2

Based on the NCERT Curriculum for Standard IX

JANAAGRAHA

JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Janaagraha's initiative to improve citizen engagement in India's democracy through their civic learning program Developed in collaboration with Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)

What is Democracy? Why Democracy? | Teacher's Guide (2/4) Part 2

Class IX

Board – CBSE

Subject – Social Science

Textbook – – Democratic Politics- I for class IX (NCERT)

Chapter 2 – What is democracy? Why democracy?

Number of parts – 04

Length – 55 minutes (estimated, for a class of 30-40 students)

Note: Teachers may divide the lesson plan into as many periods as they see fit

Section I – What are we going to learn and why is it important?

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Understand the features of a democracy through case studies of different countries.

Learning outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Appreciate the various aspects that democracy entails and thereby define democracy holistically.

Key Terms

Coup	Universal adult franchise
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Materials needed

- Projector to show videos
- Print-outs of case studies

Section II – How are we going to learn?

1. Case Studies on different countries

Time: 45 minutes

Materials Required: Prints of case studies

Facilitation notes:

Instructions for the facilitator

1. Divide the class into groups of 4-5 students each.
2. Give each group all the 4 case studies.
3. Facilitate the cases one by one with the class. Give 7-8 minutes per case study. For cases that have videos, show the videos before the group proceeds to the reading.
4. Ask each student to write the answers to the questions in the notebook.
5. After the case study, a group can be called to the front of the class to discuss the answers with the rest of the class. The class can participate in the discussion and the features related to the case study can be arrived at. The open discussion will bring out more depth in understanding each feature. Allowing for time, students can discuss one or more case studies.
6. After completing all the case studies, ask the students to write all the features in their notebook.

'As you remember, we saw a few examples of practices in different countries last time. Today, we are going to be looking at 4 specific cases in detail. At the end of every case there are questions which need to be answered. On doing that, we would be able to derive a feature that democracy needs to include. Before we start, I want you to remember the 4 questions you were supposed to think over as a part of your homework. Can you tell me what they were?' (Take a few answers and write them on the board.)

1. Who can be a ruler of a country?
2. What kind of election process should there be?
3. Who can vote?
4. What kind of powers does the ruler have?

Case Study 1:

The first case study deals with the first question of ‘Who can be a ruler of a country?’ This article is on Pakistan when it was under the rule of Mr. Parvez Musharraf.

- Ask students to read the case study and answer the questions

Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf came to power in a **bloodless military coup** in 1999 when he was chief of Pakistan's army. He overthrew the then Prime Minister – Nawaz Sharif, who was democratically elected by the people of Pakistan. Parvez Musharraf held power until the 2008 elections after, which he resigned. Since then, he has lived in self-imposed exile in London. In late 2010 he launched the All Pakistan Muslim League party with a view to run for office in 2013. Musharraf now says he plans to return to his home country sometime at the end of January.

How did Musharraf establish himself as a player in Pakistani politics?

In 1964, Musharraf was **commissioned** second lieutenant in an artillery regiment in the Pakistani Army.

His rise through the military would help cement his political power in Pakistan by gaining the backing of the country's armed forces. He was promoted to major general in 1991, appointed ‘Chief of Army Staff’, with the rank of ‘General’ in 1998, and then made ‘Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’ the following year.

How did Musharraf gain power in Pakistan?

It was during his **stint** as the country's military chief that there was an opening for Musharraf's political **ascendancy**, when in 1999, the then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (elected for the second term) dismissed him after the army's failed invasion in Kargil, in Indian-administered Kashmir. As Musharraf was returning from an overseas visit in October 1999, Sharif refused to allow the commercial airliner with 200 passengers on board to land. Within hours the army had **deposed** Sharif in a bloodless coup, and the plane was allowed to touch down with only 10 minutes of fuel left. In 2001 Musharraf appointed himself president of Pakistan while remaining the head of the army.

Musharraf's rule: Strengthening his grip on power

In April 2002, a **referendum** allowed Musharraf to hold office for a further five years. Four months later, Musharraf implemented 29 **amendments** to the constitution, granting himself the power to **dissolve** parliament and remove the prime minister. The work of the civilian cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council, which is dominated by military officers. After passing this law, elections were held to national and state assemblies. So, Pakistan has had elections, elected representatives have some powers. But the final power rests with military officers. In a televised address in December 2004, Musharraf announced that he would not step down as top military leader, even though he had previously agreed to give

up the position of the head of the army at the end of 2004. He said that he needed to maintain his position in order to watch over anti-terrorist operations.

Glossary:

1. **Bloodless military coup** – a ruler or a regime is overthrown without anyone being killed by the army
2. **Commissioned** - appoint (someone) to the rank of officer in an army, navy, or air force
3. **Stint** - a person's fixed or short period of work.
4. **Ascendancy** - occupation of a position of dominant power or influence.
5. **Deposed** - remove from office suddenly and forcefully.
6. **Referendum** - a general vote by the electorate or a public vote on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.
7. **Amendments** - a minor change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of legislation
8. **Dissolve** - close down or dismiss (an assembly or official body)

Answer the following questions based on the article.

1. Nawaz Sharif was an elected Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1999. True/False?
2. Parvez Musharraf was an elected representative of Pakistan. True/False?
3. The people of Pakistan were ruled by a person they had voted into power from 2001 to 2008. True/False? Which line in the article supports your answer?

Answer Key for Case Study 1

1. True
2. False
3. False. In 2001 Musharraf appointed himself president of Pakistan, while remaining the head of the army.

Conclusion: In 1999, General Parvez Musharraf, through the Pakistan army, overthrew the government and declared himself as the head of the state. The decision-making power of who should rule the country was not in the hands of the people of Pakistan. The self-declaration of

presidency by Parvez Musharraf showed that the head of state of Pakistan was not elected by the people of Pakistan. The major decisions of the country were being taken by someone who was not an elected leader. The first feature - **In a democracy, the final decision-making power should rest with those elected by the people.**

Case Study 2:

The 2nd case study is related to the question - What kind of election process should there be? And we are going to be looking at Mexico, China and North Korea.

- Ask the students to read the Case Study and answer the questions

Case Study 2 – Elections in Mexico, China and North Korea

Elections in Mexico

Source: *Mexico's Ruling Party Loses Presidency in Historic Election* - by **MARY BETH SHERIDAN**

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2000-jul-03-mn-47440-story.html>

Since its independence in 1930, Mexico has held elections after every 6 years to elect its president. The country has never been under a military or dictator's rule. But until 2000, every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). It was the first time in 71 years that a ruling Mexican president had announced that he was turning over the powerful office to another party. The PRI **reign** was so long--and the party so **omnipresent**--that many Mexicans seemed to think it would be in power forever.

Opposition parties always contested elections but never managed to win before. The ruling party's (PRI) loss spelled the end of a political regime that influenced nearly all aspects of Mexican life in the 20th century. The Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, created a system based on a virtual one-party rule that modernized Mexico and brought it remarkable political stability. But the party had come under increasing attack in recent years for economic mismanagement and corruption. The PRI was known to use many dirty tricks to win elections. All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings. Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for PRI. Media largely ignored the activities of the opposition political parties except to criticize them. Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.

The election in 2000 was preceded by a campaign that was more equitable than any in modern Mexican history. Due to the country's increasing democracy and electoral reforms, the PRI lost such traditional advantages as one-sided media coverage and **lopsided** campaign financing. The **balloting** was overseen for the first time by an independent authority, the Federal Electoral Institute, the showpiece of sweeping legal reforms instituted in the last few years.

Elections in China

Source - *Communist Party Congress: How China picks its leaders*, BBC News

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-41250273>

Nothing sensational can be expected to come off the largely ritualistic parliament elections in North Korea.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/03/n-korea-elections-an-empty-show-20143610403802843.html>

In China, elections are regularly held after every 5 years for electing the country's parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Diabiao Dahui (National People's Congress). The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country. It has nearly 3000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the army. Before contesting the elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese Communist Party. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or 8 smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-03.

Behind closed doors, the elected Chinese Communist Party delegates elect the powerful Central Committee, which has about 200 members. This committee, in turn, elects the **Politburo** and from that, the Standing Committee is chosen. Those are China's real decision-making bodies. The Politburo currently has 24 members, while the Standing Committee has seven, although these numbers have varied over the years.

While there is a vote, in reality, the current leadership has already handpicked the people, and the committee just approves their **edict**.

The Central Committee also elects the Party's top leader - the general secretary - who becomes the country's president. The government is always formed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Similarly, the elections in North Korea has only candidates that are pre-approved by the ruling party. There is only one candidate in every electoral district, thus the success of a given candidate is **preordained**. The party bureaucracy decides the names of the candidates well before the elections are held. Each ballot has only one candidate, even though the voter has the theoretical option of voting against the candidate.

Glossary

1. **Lopsided** - Unequal; more beneficial to one more than others
2. **Balloting** - Voting
3. **Culmination** - End, especially to reach a final stage
4. **Reign** - Rule
5. **Omnipresent** - Being present everywhere at once
6. **Politburo** - the principal policymaking committee of a communist party
7. **Edict** - An official order

8. **Preordained** - Decided beforehand

Answer the following questions

1. The people of China can vote for people from different political parties. True/False?
2. Mexico never allowed opposition parties to stand for elections. True/False?
3. In 2000, the elections in Mexico were considered fairer than ever before. True/False?
4. In Mexico before the 2000 elections and in China, the people in power had a strong chance of losing the elections. True/False?
5. What similarities do you notice in the election process of China, Mexico, and North Korea?

Answer Key for Case Study 2

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. In all the 3 countries, the ruling party is taking steps to ensure that no other party comes into power – either through illegal or undemocratic means.

Conclusion: Although Mexico held elections regularly, with opposition candidates standing for elections, for 71 years no other party was able to come to power. In China and North Korea, the candidates themselves are predetermined and pre-approved. The ruling party could never lose such an election. This brings us to the second feature of a democracy - **the elections need to offer a choice and a fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.**

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

Case Study 3:

The 3rd case study is related to the question - Who can vote? This case is an extension of the example already discussed in the previous class about Saudi Arabia.

Case Study 3

Saudi Arabia elects up to 17 female councilors in historic election

In first poll in which women can vote and be candidates, female winners are declared across the conservative kingdom

Source - Ian Black, Middle East editor, The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/13/saudi-arabia-elects-up-to-17-female-councillors-in-historic-election>)

Sun 13 Dec 2015

Saudi Arabia has elected its first female local **councilors** in a historic step for a country where women are banned from driving and face routine discrimination.

Results from Saturday's municipal council elections indicated there were about 17 female winners. These included four in Jeddah, one near Mecca – home to Islam's holiest site – and others in Tabuk, Ahsaa and Qatif. Several more, reported by al-Sabq online newspaper, were expected to be confirmed later.

Rasha Hefzi, a **prominent** businesswoman who won a seat in Jeddah, thanked all those who supported her campaign and trusted her, **pledging**: "What we have started, we will continue." Hefzi and other candidates used social media to contact voters because of restrictions on women meeting men and bans on both sexes using photographs.

The **turnout**, estimate to be about 25%, was low, as was registration. Only 1.32 million men and 130,000 women out of a population of 20 million voted – figures that highlight the unfamiliarity of the democratic process of election in the absolute monarchy.

But there was surprise at the number of women who took seats. "I think it's great that several women won in different regions of Saudi Arabia," said writer Maha Akeel. "It shows how much Saudi society has progressed on the issue of not only accepting, but actually supporting women in public office, and this could mean that more change is to come. I'm surprised. We expected maybe one or two women would win."

Local elections were held in 2005 and 2011, but this was the first time that women were allowed to take part. The powers of municipal councils are limited to advising local government and helping oversee budgets, but the election has still been hailed by women activists as a crucial first step towards achieving wider rights and broadening the understanding of civic engagement.

“I don’t consider winning to be the ultimate goal,” said the Riyadh-based historian Hatoon al-Fassi, coordinator for the grassroots Saudi Baladi initiative, which worked to raise voter awareness and increase female participation. “But it is the right of being a citizen that I concentrate on and I consider this a turning point.”

Similarly, in Estonia, the citizenship rules were made in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority found it difficult to get the right to vote. In Fiji, the electoral system was such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji had more value than that of an Indian Fiji.

Glossary

1. **Councillors** - a member of a council.
2. **Prominent** - important; famous.
3. **Pledging** - commit by a solemn promise.
4. **Voter Turnout** - The number of people who voted as a percentage of total registered voters.

Answer the following questions based on the article

1. The 2015 election in Saudi Arabia was historic because it was the first time that women were allowed to vote and stand for elections. True/False?
2.
 - a. Saudi Arabia is a democracy. True/False?
 - b. Which statement in the article supports your answer?
3. The 2015 election in Saudi Arabia showed that men and women had equal choice and opportunity in electing the government. True/False?

Answer Key for Case Study 3

1. True
2.
 - a. False
 - b. '..... figures that highlight the unfamiliarity of the democratic process of election in the **absolute monarchy**.'
3. True

Conclusion: If any election has to be democratic then **each adult should have one vote and each vote must have one value**. This forms the 3rd feature of democracy which is Universal Adult Franchise - means that the right to vote should be given to all adult citizens without the discrimination of caste, class, colour, religion or gender. It is based on equality, which is a basic principle of democracy. Although Saudi Arabia is not a democracy and nor does it claim to be, every country has had a history of not allowing women to vote. Currently, nations are deciding what rights will be given to migrant refugees who have left their country and moved to their country.

Case Study 4:

This case study about Zimbabwe answers the 4th question - what kind of powers does a ruler have?

- Show video



Source: [YouTube](#)

- Ask students to read the case study and answer the questions

Case Study 4:

After leading Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980, Robert Mugabe has formally stepped down as the country's president, according to the speaker of parliament. Mugabe submitted his resignation on Tuesday, Jacob Mudenda, the speaker said, just hours after parliament started an **impeachment** process against the 93-year-old leader - previously, the world's oldest sitting head of state. Scenes of jubilation quickly unfolded on the streets of Harare, the capital, as residents cheered the news of Mugabe's resignation.

Political tensions had been running high in Zimbabwe after fears of an attempted **coup** on November 15, which was denied by the military, against Mugabe's government. Zimbabwe's army seized the headquarters of the state broadcaster ZBC in Harare and blocked off access to government offices. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets over the last week to demand Mugabe step down.

The former school teacher, with seven university degrees, Mugabe fought for the independence of Zimbabwe (known as Rhodesia before independence) against the colonial rulers. He came to power when Zimbabwe won independence in 1980 from a white-minority rule. The struggle for independence was spearheaded by a political party ZANU-PF of which Robert Mugabe was the party leader. The country held elections regularly, and always won by ZANU-PF. Mugabe's 37-year rule has been criticised for repression of dissent, election rigging, and for causing the country's economic collapse. In the early years of his rule, Mugabe was praised for expanding social services, including building schools and hospitals. However, he led a brutal crackdown on his political opposition led by the late nationalist politician Joshua Nkomo. Nkomo was the founding father of the nationalist struggle for independence in Zimbabwe. The violence claimed more than 20,000 lives, according to the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. Over the years, his government had changed the constitution several times to increase the power of the president. Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted.

There is a law that limits the rights to criticize the President. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal.

Television and radio were controlled by the government and gave only the ruling party's version. There were independent newspapers but the government harassed those journalists who went against it. The government ignored some court judgments that went against it and pressurised judges. He was forced out of office in 2017.?

Since 1987, he has won a series of controversial elections that critics claim he **rigged**, including one in 2008 which he lost to Morgan Tsvangirai, sparking political violence that human rights groups say claimed over 200 lives. His supporters say he spoke for the poor; his critics say he had become increasingly authoritarian.

(An Excerpt from 'Profile: Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe' and 'Democratic Politics I' NCERT textbook, grade 9)

Glossary

1. **Impeachment** – The process of charging them with a crime which makes them unfit for office.
2. **Coup** – a group of people seize power in a country.
3. **Repression** – the use of force to restrict and control a society or other group of people
4. **Dissent** – is strong disagreement or dissatisfaction with a decision or opinion
5. **Crackdown** – a series of severe measures to restrict people or behaviour
6. **Rigged** - manage or conduct (something) fraudulently so as to gain an advantage.

Answer the following questions based on the article and video

1. Robert Mugabe was a democratically elected leader. True/False?
2. Was the political opposition allowed to dissent against Mugabe's government?

3. Democracy needs to be defined keeping in mind, not only the process of election, but also the rights of citizens and political opposition after the elections. True/False?

Answer Key for Case Study 4

1. True
2. No
3. True

Conclusion: Although Robert Mugabe was someone who had struggled for Zimbabwe's independence, loved by his people and democratically elected as the head of his country, his rule was filled with undemocratic policies. Opposition parties did not have the right to dissent, the elections were said to be rigged, and many people lost their lives in violent protests. So, it is not only important for a person to come into power democratically, but also has to rule within limits set by constitutional law and citizen rights. The second feature is '**A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.**'

We can summarize the 4 features of a democracy as follows:

1. The rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions.
2. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
3. This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis.
4. The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizens' rights. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizens' rights.

2. Activity: Identify the feature of democracy

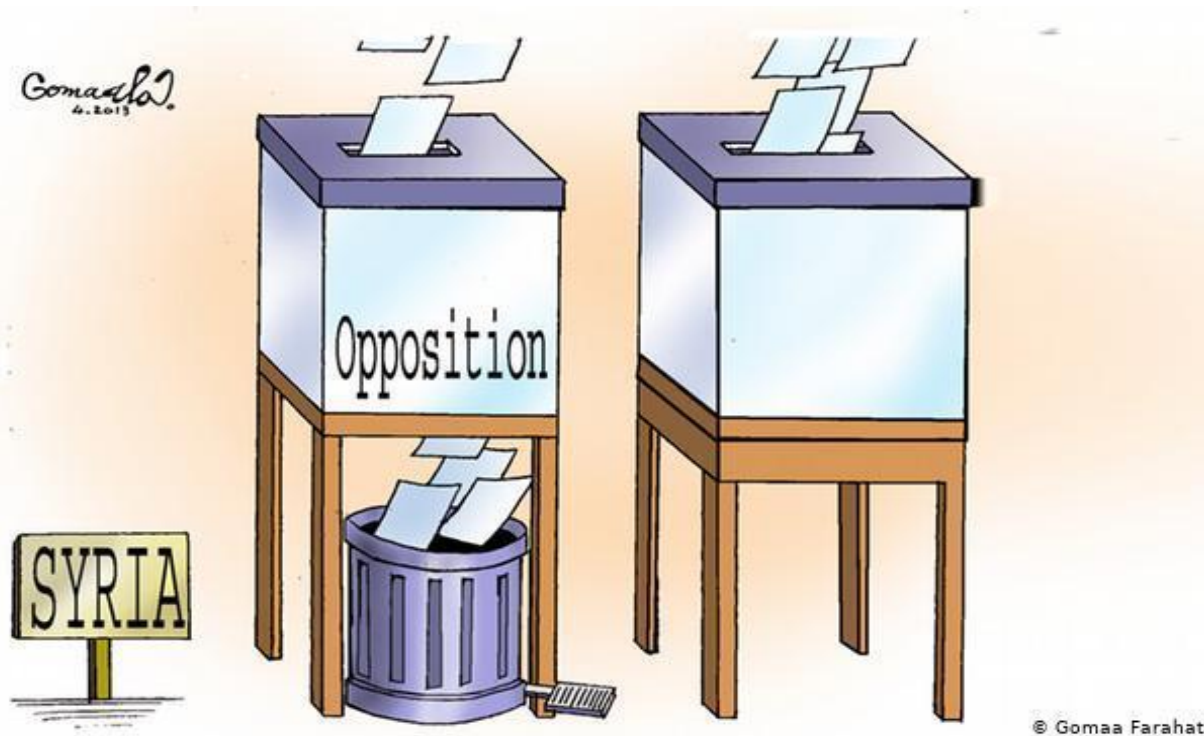
Time: 5 minutes

Facilitation notes:

Show the following cartoons to the students on the projector/print-outs and ask them to identify the feature of democracy it reflects. The 4 features are as below.

1. The rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions.
2. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
3. This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis. Each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
4. The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizen' rights. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizen rights

1.



Source: dw.com

2.



Source: otherwords.org

3.



Source: Democratic Politics- I for class IX (NCERT)

4.



Source: cartoonmovement.com

Answer Key

Image 1: Feature 2

Image 2: Feature 3

Image 3: Feature 1

Image 4: Feature 4

Section III - Assessment:

State whether the country is democratic or not and state which of the 4 features is being/not being followed.

1. Country R: The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring country.
2. Country S: The current ruling party has not held elections for 40 years.
3. In Country F the people held a nationwide protest against the government for not upholding its promises
4. Country G has one of the highest unsolved journalists murder cases in the world, where no culprits have been brought to justice.
5. In Country H, people of a certain race still find it difficult to vote because of the laws in the country.
6. Country J recently held elections, where voters could vote for only one candidate.

Answer Key

1. Country R - Not democratic. Does not follow feature 1 - The rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions.
2. Country S - Not democratic. Does not follow feature 2 - The elections need to offer a choice and a fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
3. Country F – Democratic. Upholds feature 2 - A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizen rights.
4. Country G – Not democratic. Does not follow feature 4 - A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizen rights.
5. Country H – Not democratic. Does not follow feature 3 - Every adult citizen should have the equal right and opportunity to vote and participate in the governance if the country.

6. Country J – Not democratic. Does not follow feature 2 - The elections need to offer a choice and a fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.

Section IV – Closure

We saw through the examples of Pakistan, China, Mexico, Zimbabwe and Saudi Arabia what the features of democracy are. To reiterate, the features are

1. The rulers elected by the people take all the major decisions.
2. Elections offer a choice and fair opportunity to the people to change the current rulers.
3. This choice and opportunity is available to all the people on an equal basis. Each adult citizen must have one vote and each vote must have one value.
4. The exercise of this choice leads to a government limited by basic rules of the constitution and citizen' rights. A democratic government rules within limits set by constitutional law and citizen rights.

As shown in the questions that we just did, it is usually more than just one feature that is not being followed. In reality, it is a combination of 2 or more and it is usually done in a manner that is not so obvious, which makes it tougher to spot.

Section V – Homework

Please state if the following countries are truly democratic or not, only on the basis of the information given below and justify your answer through the 4 features of democracy.

1. Country A has been ruled by the same person for the last 18 years with rigged elections and there are discussions of amending the constitution to increase the number of years.
2. In Country B, the cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council which was dominated by military officers.
3. Country C allows only candidates selected by the ruling party to stand for elections.
4. In Country D, women did not have the right to vote and stand for elections till 2015.
5. In Country T, the people of a particular religion were not allowed to stand for elections

6. In Country K, all independent newspapers were shut down and only media houses owned by the ruling party were allowed to continue.

Instructions for the facilitator

1. Provide the activity sheet to every student. It consists of some of statements that we dealt with in the previous class with a few minor changes.
2. Ask every student to write below the statement as to which feature did it follow or not follow and therefore can be named as democratic or not.

Answer Key for the homework

1. Not Democratic. Does not adhere to feature 2.
2. Not Democratic. Does not adhere to feature 1
3. Not democratic. Does not adhere to feature 2
4. Was not democratic. Did not adhere to feature 3
5. Not democratic. Does not adhere to feature 3
6. Not democratic. Does not adhere to feature 4

Section VI - Additional Resources

Resources for teachers

1. Article: History of US occupation of Iraq
This is another example of countries that do not have complete power in running their government. This article writes the complete history of US Iraq war.
Link: [New York Times](#)

Resources for students

1. Video: 2 Features of democracy with case studies
Link: [YouTube](#)
2. Video: The fight for the right to vote in the United States - Nicki Beaman Griffin
Link: [YouTube](#)

Annexure:**Activity 1: Case Studies**

Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf came to power in a **bloodless military coup** in 1999 when he was chief of Pakistan's army. He overthrew the then Prime Minister – Nawaz Sharif, who was democratically elected by the people of Pakistan. Parvez Musharraf held power until the 2008 elections after which he resigned. Since then he has lived in self-imposed exile in London. In late 2010 he launched the All Pakistan Muslim League party with a view to running for office in 2013. Musharraf now says he plans to return to his home country sometime at the end of January.

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<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2000-jul-03-mn-47440-story.html>

Since its independence in 1930, Mexico has held elections after every 6 years to elect its president. The country has never been under a military or dictator's rule. But until 2000, every election was won by a party called PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party). It was the first time in 71 years that a ruling Mexican president had announced that he was turning over the powerful office to another party. The PRI **reign** was so long--and the party so **omnipresent**--that many Mexicans seemed to think it would be in power forever.

Opposition parties always contested elections but never managed to win before. The ruling party's (PRI) loss spelled the end of a political regime that influenced nearly all aspects of Mexican life in the 20th century. The Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, created a system based on a virtual one-party rule that modernized Mexico and brought it remarkable political stability. But the party had come under increasing attack in recent years for economic mismanagement and corruption. The PRI was known to use many dirty tricks to win elections. All those who were employed in government offices had to attend its party meetings. Teachers of government schools used to force parents to vote for PRI. Media largely ignored the activities of the opposition political parties except to criticize them. Sometimes the polling booths were shifted from one place to another in the last minute, which made it difficult for people to cast their votes.

The election in 2000 was preceded by a campaign that was more equitable than any in modern Mexican history. Due to the country's increasing democracy and electoral reforms, the PRI lost such traditional advantages as one-sided media coverage and **lopsided** campaign financing. The **balloting** was overseen for the first time by an independent authority, the Federal Electoral Institute, the showpiece of sweeping legal reforms instituted in the last few years.

Elections in China

Source - *Communist Party Congress: How China picks its leaders*, BBC News
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-41250273>

Nothing sensational can be expected to come off the largely ritualistic parliament elections in North Korea.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2014/03/n-korea-elections-an-empty-show-20143610403802843.html>

In China, elections are regularly held after every 5 years for electing the country's parliament, called Quanguo Renmin Diabiao Dahui (National People's Congress). The National People's Congress has the power to appoint the President of the country. It has nearly 3000 members elected from all over China. Some members are elected by the army. Before contesting the elections, a candidate needs the approval of the Chinese

Communist Party. Only those who are members of the Chinese Communist Party or 8 smaller parties allied to it were allowed to contest elections held in 2002-03.

Behind closed doors, the elected Chinese Communist Party delegates elect the powerful Central Committee, which has about 200 members. This committee, in turn, elects the **Politburo** and from that, the Standing Committee is chosen. Those are China's real decision-making bodies. The Politburo currently has 24 members, while the Standing Committee has seven, although these numbers have varied over the years.

While there is a vote, in reality, the current leadership has already handpicked the people, and the committee just approves their **edict**. The Central Committee also elects the Party's top leader - the general secretary - who becomes the country's president. The government is always formed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Similarly, the elections in North Korea have only candidates that are pre-approved by the ruling party. There is only one candidate in every electoral district, thus the success of a given candidate is **preordained**. The party bureaucracy decides the names of the candidates well before the elections are held. Each ballot has only one candidate, even though the voter has the theoretical option of voting against the candidate.

Glossary

1. **Lopsided** - Unequal; more beneficial to one more than others
2. **Balloting** - Voting
3. **Culmination** - End, especially to reach a final stage
4. **Reign** - Rule
5. **Omnipresent** - Being present everywhere at once
6. **Politburo** - the principal policymaking committee of a communist party
7. **Edict** - An official order
8. **Preordained** - Decided beforehand



Answer the following questions

1. The people of China can vote for people from different political parties. True/False
2. Mexico never allowed opposition parties to stand for elections. True/False
3. In 2000, the elections in Mexico were considered fairer than ever before. True/False
4. In Mexico before the 2000 elections and in China, the people in power had a strong chance of losing the elections. True/False
5. What similarities do you notice in the election process of China, Mexico, and North Korea?

Case Study 3

Saudi Arabia elects up to 17 female councillors in historic election

In first poll in which women can vote and be candidates, female winners are declared across the conservative kingdom

Source - Ian Black, Middle East editor, The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/13/saudi-arabia-elects-up-to-17-female-councillors-in-historic-election>)

Sun 13 Dec 2015

Saudi Arabia has elected its first female local **councillors** in a historic step for a country where women are banned from driving and face routine discrimination.

Results from Saturday's municipal council elections indicated there were about 17 female winners. These included four in Jeddah, one near Mecca – home to Islam's holiest site – and others in Tabuk, Ahsaa and Qatif. Several more, reported by al-Sabq online newspaper, were expected to be confirmed later.

Rasha Hefzi, a **prominent** businesswoman who won a seat in Jeddah, thanked all those who supported her campaign and trusted her, **pledging**: "What we have started, we will continue." Hefzi and other candidates used social media to contact voters because of restrictions on women meeting men and bans on both sexes using photographs.

The **turnout**, estimate to be about 25%, was low, as was registration. Only 1.32 million men and 130,000 women out of a population of 20 million voted – figures that highlight the unfamiliarity of the democratic process of election in the absolute monarchy.

But there was surprise at the number of women who took seats. "I think it's great that several women won in different regions of Saudi Arabia," said writer Maha Akeel. "It shows how much Saudi society has progressed on the issue of not only accepting, but actually supporting women in public office, and this could mean that more change is to come. I'm surprised. We expected maybe one or two women would win."

Local elections were held in 2005 and 2011, but this was the first time that women were allowed to take part. The powers of municipal councils are limited to advising local government and helping oversee budgets, but the election has still been hailed by women activists as a crucial first step towards achieving wider rights and broadening the understanding of civic engagement.

“I don’t consider winning to be the ultimate goal,” said the Riyadh-based historian Hatoon al-Fassi, coordinator for the grassroots Saudi Baladi initiative, which worked to raise voter awareness and increase female participation. “But it is the right of being a citizen that I concentrate on and I consider this a turning point.”

Similarly, in Estonia, the citizenship rules were made in such a way that people belonging to Russian minority find it difficult to get the right to vote. In Fiji, the electoral system was such that the vote of an indigenous Fiji had more value than that of an Indian Fiji.

Glossary

1. **Councillors** - a member of a council.
2. **Prominent** - important; famous.
3. **Pledging** - commit by a solemn promise.
4. **Voter Turnout** - The number of people who voted as a percentage of total registered voters.

Answer the following questions based on the article

1. The 2015 election in Saudi Arabia was historic because it was the first time that women were allowed to vote and stand for elections. True/False?
2.
 - a. Saudi Arabia is a democracy. True/False?
 - b. Which statement in the article supports your answer?
3. The 2015 election in Saudi Arabia showed that men and women had equal choice and opportunity in electing the government. True/False

Case Study 4:

After leading Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980, Robert Mugabe has formally stepped down as the country's president, according to the speaker of parliament. Mugabe submitted his resignation on Tuesday, Jacob Mudenda, the speaker said, just hours after parliament started an **impeachment** process against the 93-year-old leader - previously, the world's oldest sitting head of state. Scenes of jubilation quickly unfolded on the streets of Harare, the capital, as residents cheered the news of Mugabe's resignation.

Political tensions had been running high in Zimbabwe after fears of an attempted **coup** on November 15, which was denied by the military, against Mugabe's government. Zimbabwe's army seized the headquarters of the state broadcaster ZBC in Harare and blocked off access to government offices. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets over the last week to demand Mugabe step down.

The former school teacher, with seven university degrees, Mugabe fought for the independence of Zimbabwe (known as Rhodesia before independence) against the colonial rulers. He came to power when Zimbabwe won independence in 1980 from a white-minority rule. The struggle for independence was spearheaded by a political party ZANU-PF of which Robert Mugabe was the party leader. The country held elections regularly, and always won by ZANU-PF. Mugabe's 37-year rule has been criticised for repression of dissent, election rigging, and for causing the country's economic collapse. In the early years of his rule, Mugabe was praised for expanding social services, including building schools and hospitals. However, he led a brutal crackdown on his political opposition led by the late nationalist politician Joshua Nkomo. Nkomo was the founding father of the nationalist struggle for independence in Zimbabwe. The violence claimed more than 20,000 lives, according to the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace. Over the years his government had changed the constitution several times to increase the power of the president. Opposition party workers were harassed and their meeting disrupted.

There is a law that limits the rights to criticize the President. Public protests and demonstrations against the government are declared illegal. Television and radio were controlled by the government and gave only the ruling party's version. There were independent newspapers but the government harassed those journalists who went against it. The government ignored some court judgments that went against it and pressurised judges. He was forced out of office in 2017.

Since 1987, he has won a series of controversial elections that critics claim he **rigged**, including one in 2008 which he lost to Morgan Tsvangirai, sparking political violence that human rights groups say claimed over 200 lives. His supporters say he spoke for the poor; his critics say he had become increasingly authoritarian.

Glossary

1. **Impeachment** – The process of charging them with a crime which makes them unfit for office.
2. **Coup** – a group of people seize power in a country.
3. **Repression** – the use of force to restrict and control a society or other group of people
4. **Dissent** – is strong disagreement or dissatisfaction with a decision or opinion
5. **Crackdown** – a series of severe measures to restrict people or behaviour
6. **Rigged** - manage or conduct (something) fraudulently so as to gain an advantage.



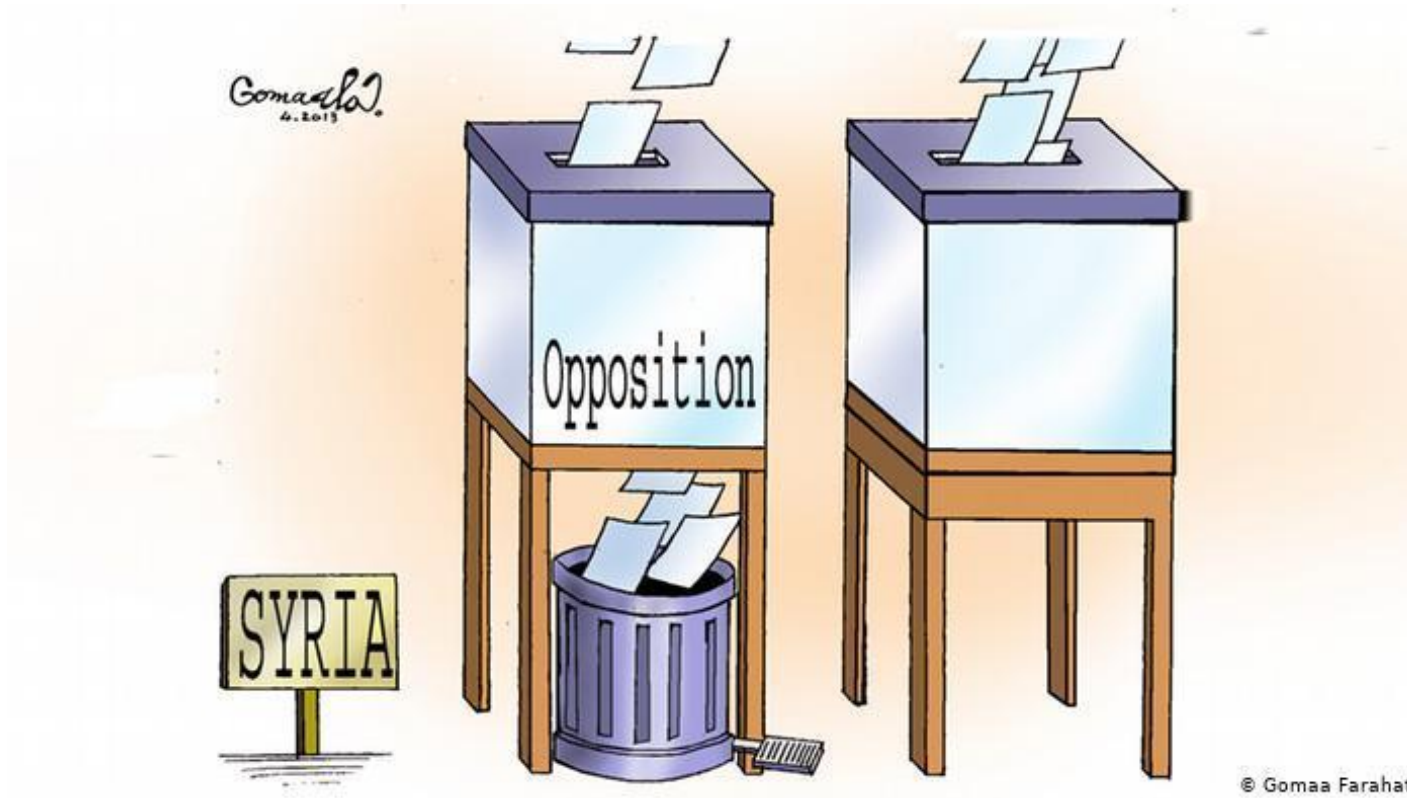
Answer the following questions based on the article and video

1. Robert Mugabe was a democratically elected leader. True/False?
2. Was the political opposition allowed to dissent against Mugabe's government?
3. Democracy needs to be defined keeping in mind, not only the process of election, but also the rights of citizens and political opposition after the elections. True/False?

Activity 2:

Look at the following cartoons and identify the feature of democracy that is being addressed through them.

1.



2.



3.



4.



Homework worksheet

Please state if the following countries are truly democratic or not only on the basis of the information given below and justify your answer through the 4 features of democracy.

1. Country A has been ruled by the same person for the last 18 years with rigged elections and there are discussions of amending the constitution to increase the number of years.
2. In Country B, the cabinet was supervised by a National Security Council which was dominated by military officers.
3. Country C allows only candidates selected by the ruling party to stand for elections.
4. In Country D, women did not have the right to vote and stand for elections till 2015.
5. Country T: The people of a particular religion were not allowed to stand for elections.
6. Country K: All independent newspapers were shut down and only media houses owned by the ruling party were allowed to continue.

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