Overview

1. What is democracy?
2. Five questions
3. What, again?
4. Where?
5. Who?
6. Summing-up
Democracy

‘People power’, or ‘Rule by the people’

People
(‘dēmos’)

Power/Rule
(‘krάtos’)

Democracy
(‘demokratia’)

Democracy
Aristotle’s typology of constitutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many rule?</th>
<th>Is their rule good or bad?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- One -</td>
<td>- Good - Monarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bad - Tyranny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Some -</td>
<td>- Good - Aristocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bad - Oligarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Many -</td>
<td>- Good - ‘Polity’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Constitutional Govt.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Bad - Democracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Five questions

1. **What?**
2. **Where?**
3. **Who?**
4. **Why?**
5. **How?**
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Five questions

1. **What?**
   - Ideals v. institutions

2. **Where?**

3. **Who?**

4. **Why?**

5. **How?**
Ideal or institution?

Democracy as an ideal

Rule of the many
(not the few)

Democracy as an institutional arrangement

One person, one vote
Institutional arrangement

1. Voting, periodically and via secret ballot ...

2. ... for representatives ...

3. ... of a plurality of parties ...

4. ... in a plurality of geographically-bounded constituencies ...

5. ... to form a legislature for fixed terms ...

6. ... governed by majority rule and ...

7. ... limited by constitutional constraints
Elections

‘The people of England regards itself as free; but it is grossly mistaken; it is free only during the election of members of parliament. As soon as they are elected, slavery overtakes it, and it is nothing. The use it makes of the short moments of liberty it enjoys shows indeed that it deserves to lose them.’

– Rousseau, Social Contract, 3.15
‘it is thought to be democratic for the offices to be assigned by lot, oligarchic for them to be elected; and democratic for them not to have a property-qualification, oligarchic to have one; ... [the mixed constitution] take[s] one feature from one form and the other from the other, [e.g.] from oligarchy that offices are to be elected, and from democracy that this is not to be on a property-qualification.’

– Aristotle, Politics, 1294b
Ideal or institution?

**Democracy as an ideal**

Rule of the many  
(not the few)

**Democracy as an institutional arrangement**

One person, one vote

Voting, periodically and via secret ballot, for representatives of a plurality of parties in a plurality of geographically-bounded constituencies to form a legislature for fixed terms governed by majority rule and limited by constitutional constraints
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Where should democracy apply?

**Conventional view**
- Within the boundaries of the territorial nation-state

**Problems**

a) Supra-territorial issues
   - Migration, trade, environment, etc.

b) Sub-territorial issues
   - Family, workplace, etc.

c) Non-territorial issues
   - Class, gender, race, religion, etc.
Five questions

1. **What?**
   - Ideals v. institutions

2. **Where?**
   - Supra-national
     - e.g. regional, global
   - Sub-national
     - e.g. workplace, family

3. **Who?**

4. **Why?**

5. **How?**
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‘Strange as it may seem ... , how to decide who legitimately make up ‘the people’ and hence are entitled to govern themselves ... is a problem almost totally neglected by all the great political philosophers who write about democracy.’

– Dahl, After the Revolution, pp. 60-61
Who should rule?

Problem cases

1. Those that should **not** share in rule, but do
   - e.g. the incompetent; the immoral

2. Those that **should** share in rule, but don’t
   - e.g. children, resident non-citizens
Who should rule?

Solution?

- Enfranchising all affected interests

  ‘everyone who is affected by the decisions of a government should have the right to participate in that government’ (Dahl, *After the Revolution*, p. 64)

Problems

a) Modality – actually or potentially affected?

b) Extension – non-residents, non-agents?
Five questions

1. **What?**
   - Ideals v. institutions

2. **Where?**
   - Supra-national
     - e.g. regional, global
   - Sub-national
     - e.g. workplace, family

3. **Who?**
   - Those that should **not** share in rule, but **do**
   - Those that **should** share, but do **not**

4. **Why?**
5. **How?**
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Summing-up

What is democracy?
- Ideals v. institutions

Where?
- Only the nation-state?

Who?
- All affected interests?