

# Robert Dahl- The Case

Emine Cambel

**Abstract**—This paper is describing a short view on the given case - *You are in a modern national state where you have the democratic power to suggest/ put forward that democracy and equality, OR democracy and freedom are the highest values and norms in your society (the group chooses which of the two alternatives you want to answer on). What would your arguments and examples be to people of your country?*

## I. THEORY OF DEMOCRACY

The etymological origin of the word democracy is based on the words "demos" (people) and "kratos" (sovereignty). In short, democracy means the people's sovereignty. The real owner of sovereignty in a democracy is the "individual" and finally, the folk/public which is living in a national state border. Democracy is a form of government where all members or citizens have the equal rights in shaping the organization or government policy. Although it is considered a form of state government, universities, employers and workers organizations and some other civil organizations and institutions can be managed with democracy. This is the part which is forming the active democratic process. There are different references to democracy

- the rule of the people's sovereignty
- guaranteeing the minority rights management
- Poor management
- management seeking to destroy social inequality
- Provide equal opportunity employee management
- Management based on public support to make the public service

In order to achieve democracy Dahl produces five criteria for a democratic process <sup>1</sup>

- 1) effective participation
- 2) equality in voting
- 3) gaining enlightened understanding (political information)
- 4) exercising final control over the agenda
- 5) Inclusion of adults

In this case, we claim that ideal "democracy provides an environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights" <sup>2</sup>. Freedom of thought, freedom of religion and conscience is given in an ideal democratic regime. This is a virtue regime that we all have to work on.

### A. Representative Democracy and Problems

Today, based on universal and equal voting "participation" and "representation" is one of the basic features of a modern

democracy. This representation is given the name of democracy. Second, modern democracies applies the "pluralism" principle. Pluralist democracy (pluralism) 'is the recognition and affirmation of diversity within a political body, which permits the peaceful coexistence of different interests, convictions and lifestyles' <sup>3</sup>. Thirdly, modern democracies, has essentially majoritarian democracy properties. "Majoritarianism is a traditional political philosophy or agenda that asserts that a majority (sometimes categorized by religion, language, social class, or some other identifying factor) of the population is entitled to a certain degree of primacy in society, and has the right to make decisions that affect the society."<sup>4</sup>. Finally, another important institution in the parliament is the principle of the rule of modern democracy. This is the last principle, it is called a parliamentary democracy.

Today, the representative democracies which are implemented in modern western democracies is not the real democracy. In the true democracy the people are the legitimate source of sovereignty. In today's representative democracy sovereignty and authority is transferred to the elected representatives of the nation. Thus, in representative democracies the elected political power are frequently talking about the "national will". In practice, the elected political power and serves see them as an institution representing the national will. They can use the power they have in the name of nation and authorities until the next election concerns in the period they have been selected. There are a few restrictions on that. The believe that the representation in a democracy is regarded as an institution representing the national will is a big mistake. Majoritarian democracy is because of political apathy, ignorance and political factors so - called political amnesia- extremely far from the true democracy.

Not everyone has to show interest in political decisions and practices in society. Because of the individual ignorance the state can sometimes keep citizen away from the political participation of citizens with the use of depoliticization politics.

Majoritarian democracy is also getting weak because of the political ignorance and less political information. Political parties, political manipulations (lie, promise, propaganda, etc.) can easily affect the interests of its own choice by taking advantage of the ignorance of the voters. In addition, other factors like political amnesia can trick in order to deceive voters by political manipulation in the previous elections.

In modern democracies unlimited political power is con-

<sup>1</sup>Dahl, 2000 On Democracy :p 38

<sup>2</sup>un.org

<sup>3</sup>Wikipedia: Pluralism (Political Philosophy)

<sup>4</sup>Wikipedia: Majoritarianism

cerned. the main source of unlimited democracy is based on Rousseau's theory of People's Sovereignty. Rousseau accepts the majority will choose the people's will and choice. True democracy is not majority rule, defends the people's sovereignty. True democracy advocated that there should be a government with unlimited powers of the majority. The case in modern democracies is that managers has got unlimited power and authority. For true democracy, power and authority of governing for the people of the state should be limited on the absolute rule of law. A restricted and connected with a rule of law state management is *demarchy or sortition*. "Sortition selects officers as a random sample from a larger pool of candidates" <sup>5</sup>

### B. Democracy and Human Rights

We claim that the following are the essential elements of democracy<sup>6</sup>

- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of expression and opinion
- Access to power and its exercise in accordance with the rule of law
- The holding of periodic free and fair elections by universal suffrage and by secret ballot as the expression of the will of the people
- A pluralistic system of political parties and organizations
- The separation of powers
- The independence of the judiciary
- Transparency and accountability in public administration
- Free, independent and pluralistic media

## II. FREEDOM IN ECONOMY

The concept of democracy is based on who has got the management in his/her hand, where liberalism is related to the scope of the government's economic power and authority. Democracy is not enough to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and security. The economic rights and freedoms of human is protected by the liberalism. In the liberal economic system, there is also free enterprise and freedom of choice for consumers. If the states economic power, authority is unlimited and it exists an excessive intervention by the government, we would have limited economic freedom of the individual as a result. The Independence and Freedom in the economy is the cornerstone of a liberal economic systems - the sine qua non.

Clearly, liberalism can not survive without democracy. Democratic and liberal society can only be achieved with democracy or constitutional liberal democracy. Liberal democracy, social reconciliation and text of the convention, which limited the government's power and authority is a form of government that guaranteed individual rights and freedoms.

## III. CONCLUSION

After all the researches about life and it several sense to different people we can say that it is still impossible to answer on the question "Why are we on earth?", apart from the fact that there is no well-defined answer for that right now. But we can individually assume some several answers for that for our own way of life.

In this case every one should be able to live the life on earth with an assumption or believe without fearing and terrifying, with feeling fully accepted and accepting, and being respected and respecting, with being loved and loving. In this case, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time" <sup>7</sup> and it is an active process where everyone has to work on.

<sup>5</sup>Wikipedia: Sortition

<sup>6</sup>un.org : Democracy and Human Rights

<sup>7</sup>Churhill