

KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER - 4



CLASS VI



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CLASS VI CH 4 KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT NCERT

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❖ Story of Africa

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❖ Story of Africa

- apartheid laws : Apartheid means separation on the basis of race.



- South African people were divided into white, black, Indian and colored races. According to the law, these races were not allowed to mingle with each other, to live near each other or even to use common facilities.
- Non-whites were not allowed to vote.
- Afrikaans language: language of white people in south Africa.

- Zulu : language of native south Africans.
- The African National Congress, a group of people who led the struggle against apartheid
- Finally, they succeeded and in 1994 South Africa became a democratic country in which people of all races were considered equal.



☐ Participation

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Through Voting

- People make the decisions in a democracy.
- Through voting in elections people elect leaders to represent them.
 - These representatives take decisions on behalf of the people.
 - it is assumed that they will keep in mind the voices and interests of the people.

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- In India government is elected for five years.
- If they want to continue to be in power then they have to be re-elected by the people.
- This is a moment when people can sense their power in a democracy and power of the government gets limited by regular elections.



❑ Other ways of participation

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☐ Other ways of participation

By taking an interest in the work of the government

- People participate by taking an interest in the working of the government and by criticizing it when required.
- They can express their views by organizing dharnas, rallies, strikes, signature campaigns etc.

- Newspapers, magazines and TV also play a role in discussing government issues and responsibilities.

By Social Movements

Another way for people to participate is by organizing themselves into social movements that seek to challenge the government and its functioning.



☐ Resolving Conflict

Conflicts occur when people of different cultures, religions, regions or economic backgrounds do not get along with each other, or when some among them feel they are being discriminated against.



- Religious processions and celebrations can sometimes lead to conflicts. For example, the route a procession takes may lead to a conflict.
- The government, particularly the police, play an important role in getting representatives of concerned communities to meet and try and arrive at a solution.
- At times there is fear that violence may erupt, with people throwing stones or trying to disrupt the procession.
- The police is responsible for ensuring that violence does not take place.

■ Rivers

- Rivers too can become a source of conflict between states.
- A river may begin in one state, flow through another and end in a third.
- The sharing of river water between different states that the river goes through is becoming an issue of conflict.

➤ **Cauvery water dispute**

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- Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ The water stored in Krishna Raja Sagara dam in Karnataka is used for irrigating a number of districts and for meeting the needs of the city of Bengaluru.
 - ✓ The water stored in Mettur dam in Tamil Nadu is used for crops grown in the delta region of that state.

- ✓ The downstream dam in Tamil Nadu can only be filled up if water is released from the upstream one located in Karnataka.
- ✓ Therefore, both states can't get as much water as they need for people in their states.
- ✓ The central government has to step in and see that a fair distribution is worked out for both states.

□ Equality and Justice

- Equality and justice are inseparable.
- The earlier practice of untouchability is now banned by law.
- The government makes special provisions for groups within society that are unequal.