

Spatial Wide Spread of Democracy Phenomenon in the World

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Abstract

Nowadays, democracy has become one of the concerns of different governments and people in the world. In this case, some countries have managed to provide this kind of government in its best form for the people residing within their border. Such countries have also managed to provide high levels of security in social, political and economic arenas for their people by securing speech and press freedom and also other rights expected by democracy.

Moving toward democracy was followed more strongly by coup d'etat in 1970s in a way that waves of democratization permeated most parts of the world and also today, governments have done their best to reach this lofty cause by establishing institutions.

The writers of this article intend to specify the formation of this phenomenon in the world and familiarize the readers with the kinds and forms of ruling political systems in different regions by looking in to data of the Economist's index rating the (world) countries regarding democracy in 2008.

Keywords: Democracy, Democratization, Economist's index, Political Regime, Democracy Assessment.

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Introduction

Democracy, undoubtedly, should lead to progress in benefiting from freedom and should clarify covert decision-making process of autocratic regimes more frequently and compel political decision-makers to report their activities to people (Armeh, 1997: 28).

Boutros Ghali, The former UN secretary general – in his message on the occasion of the day of human rights on 10 Dec 1993–said that the complete dignity of man is not just being free from torture but it is also being free from starvation. In his view, the full dignity of man is not just the right of voting and the right of free expression, but also the right to education, hygiene and welfare. In fact, the divinity of man means having all the rights and being away from any kind of discrimination and true development needs a strong base of democracy and public cooperation (United Nation, 1993: 28).

So far, various measures have been taken to assess democracy in the world and to this aim, different scientists and institution have designed some indices to assess democracy such as the index in Gaseyorski regime change or Perzurski democracy index; these two indices are of discrete kind. Also, examples of continuant indices are Gour democracy institution, political rights index and Gastill civil freedom and liberal democracy index.

Each of the four mentioned indices has some certain advantages and some short comings. Bolen index is theoretically more coherent than others but it's not so and it is more comprehensive and it doesn't cover assessment is carried out just once and in few countries but the period in which political structures' of countries were changed. This factor limits the application of Gour index a lot. Political rights index and civil freedom overwhelm 201 countries but is limited in history and does not include the events before 1972. More over these indices cover just one aspect of democracy.

The noticeable thing about the democracy index of the Economist is classifying these indices in five subcategories which can be a reflection of political and civil freedom in the first subcategory the process of election and pluralism is included. In the second subcategory, civil freedoms are assessed and in the next level, the performance of the government determines some scores in the democracy index. Political cooperation and culture are other subcategories which are subject to assessment. Each country in the world is placed in one of these subcategories and the final score is calculated. The democracy index in 2006 and 2008 has compared 165 and 167 autonomous states in the world with each other respectively (campabell, 2008: 14) those interested can visit “ecomonist.com” to get the details.

Needless to say that this article is composed in an explanatory – analytical mannered the data are collected through library, studying case. Considering the aforementioned, the composers of this article are seeking the answer to whether the phenomenon of democracy is the same in all regions of the world or overwhelmed places. Therefore, this research is based upon this hypothesis and it is but in this way: it seems that there is lots of dissimilarity in geographical scattering of democracy, phenomenon in the world. And few countries which are lowly populated have complete democracy.

What is “Democracy”?

Democracy is composed of two Greek words: Demos meaning people and Keratein meaning (Ezzati, 2007: 99): to rule” which came into English language through the French word “democratic”(Held,1990:14). Democracy is a form of government that all adult citizens of a society have an equal part in each aspect of government affair or have at least equal legal right to it. The health of each democratic system is in fact contingent upon the majority that hold the last word in any democratic society and can not be held responsible for other sections (Lipset,2004:96), It is also worth noting that democracy is a special way of political life which can be realized in any kind of ruling system. To live democratically is to life scientifically but indiscriminately in non-democratic societies. Democracy is to live scientifically and having calculated materialistic programs in life (Mojtahedzadeh, 2005:4).

Jose Saraney ex-Brazilian President once said satirically: “Democracy has been a system which has allowed the bags to be packed sooner.” And it means that dictatorships do not allow even this time to their enemies. In other word democracy should not secure the physical and spiritual security of the officials or the senior figures. But its daily justification requires that attentions be paid to maintaining the collective security in a way that the poor feel the respect and the security as well and have faith in their coming days without having the fear that their rights will be breached or threatened frequently. The regimes which enjoy full order are not dictatorship but they are democratic (Arneh,1997: 33).

Democracy should be considered the fruit of deep social and economic changes and also the achievements of mental and cultural evolutions. Economically, such evolutions should be considered in the trade growth, economic sovereignty of the city, expanding the work between the city and the village and also expanding the work between city and others. Politically,

separation of state from government turned into an important improvement and per – condition of historical expansion of democracy expansion.

Separating the governing bodies secured the individual rights in society and law-making acceding to popular votes. Socially achieving democracy caused some changes in social structures meaning dividing the farmers into new strata in city and village. Cultural changes in the long-run, while having mutual impacts, paved the way to the creation of modern and civil society. In this trend irreconcilable differences with autocratic governments are inevitable.

Self-run movements such as the feminist movement, forming fledgling and professional unions in political battles and specially syndicate movements and labor parties to face the arrogance more than the work force which normally coincide with bloody clashes and lasted for years were the preambles to such changes. According the aforementioned, actives participation in the society became the factor for the fall of autocratic governments in most of the countries (Ahmadi, 2006: 233).

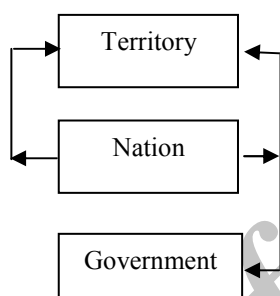
Gandhi considered democracy in its orderly and transparent status as the most beautiful thing in the world. In other words, it democracy is in line with self- governing and self-observation of the society, the consolidation of the civil society and the collective capabilities far the democratic government will be require mints of the democratic government .Therefore democracy and no-violence are inseparable and meshed and where ever democracy is established, human beings are praised far what they are (Jahanbeglou, 2002: 323).

Boutrous Ghali the former UN secretary General, who has taken so many steps to promote democracy in 1990s, defines democracy and democratization as the following: Democracy is a ruling system of different which types envisages power based on people and democrat s tacit ion is a process which leads the society toward openness, more cooperation and reduction of being power- oriented (Boutrous _ Ghali :1996:1), Observing others rights and procuring basic requirements of people in democratic government is the subject that Michel Saward points to it: Democracy should include rights such as equal right to education, equal right to medical care and an in come which can meet the basic needs of a civilized lifestyle (saward:1998:101).

Political Geography and Democracy

Democracy is a special way of governing whose philosophical aspect and other forms of government in political scientists are discussed and its structure is

related to Political Geography and in this science its function is regarded with respect to the concepts of "government"¹, and, "nation"². The study of the role of environment validates discussion about democracy which is related to the mutual impact of them and environment through geographical elections. On the other hand democracy and election is in the domain of geopolitics the reason that is the fact that Nation, "Government and territory"³ "are insuperable.



Insuperability principle of "Nation, Government and territory" stems from relation that transfers the nation's authority to the government to rule the territory. This relation relativizes this insuperability principle and strengthens it and the nation transfers its authority through elections to the government. If also realizes democracy to rule the territory.

In other words democracy and elections are the best means to realize nation's authority on how to run the government and this fact realizes a Geographical-political structure mechanism. Considering this mechanism and the insuperability principle, it can be said that boycotting elections will cripple democracy and such a measure are against the interests of a nation (Mojtahedzadeh, 2002: 80-90).

1 - In exerting the policies and decision by officials in a political system (Giddens, 2004:787) we should also distinguish by officials in a political system we should also distinguish state and government. Government can be define as: main political institution in one country that is responsible drawing up enforcing the law and the policies. States are in fact short-term means to realize long-term goals of governments. For this reason powerful states are at the disposal of governments. But states solely represent the governments and they can never replace governments for sovereignty is the right of government (Mir Heydar, 2007: 44).

2 - Is a group of people who have come together because they share the same history, culture, religion, language and ethnic? In fact nations are people who are defined by common characteristics and a sense of identity which distinguishes them from others who are outside the national realm (Heydri, 2005: 84).

3 - Territory is a part of the globe that has borders and is managed by a mighty actor known as government (Mir Heydar, 2006: 3).

Geographic- philosophical Concepts of Democracy

Hafeznia has some definitions in his book to define this concept which we will discuss. Man is a major element of Geographical place and atmosphere and forms it. Geographical place and atmosphere is composed of three elements man, environment and man-made structures which have on mutual relation and form geographical ecosystem that Man is part of it. Man is life in geographical place and atmosphere finds an ecologic concept. Man starts developing ecologic relation in his residence and reinforces his bond with it. Man is dependence forms an emotional relation and assigns value to it.

This ecologic relation between man and place finds a strong philosophical base for citizenship rights and mounting political role in a democratic process. In political Geography, democracy and man is political structures and systems and its respective processes are a natural right that is based on man is ecologic relation in geographical place that Man inhabits it. According to this man is entitled to possess territory and house and vote in elections and participate in decision makings. They are also entitled to citizenship in the country and have a political role as a nation member. They are entitled to establish political regimes and systems and take part in democratic events such as parliamentary or presidential elections and blame the wrong doings of the government. They are entitled to demand their rights from judiciary, military, security.... Bodies and also demand security for their life, property, family and reputation. Therefore, analyzing ecologic relations between Man and geographical place and his political role in a democratic process assumes philosophical concept.

Therefore, people residing in a place form the philosophical base of government and political systems in the logic of political Geography. According to the mentioned logic, inhabitants of a place are in local and national scales and form a nation according to characteristics, ends and collective interests. They elect their political leaders and ruling board on a democratic processing order to protect their group and meet their collective needs. And pursue their common goals frequently and reach them and establish security for the people and other nations (Hafeznia, 2006: 172).

Space and spatial scattering

Spatial scattering is a process that's changed by people's behavior or perspectives which took root in a place before. In fact, spatial scattering is the expansion of a phenomenon from a hub among people who are open to welcome it. This expansion occurs during the time. Scattering process may

emerge right after the emergence of phenomenon or may be materialized during centuries (Shakuyi, 2007: 301).

Democratization

Democratization is a process which is experienced by different countries in a variety of manners. Some go along this path successfully and some are still in the beginning of this path. Obviously socio-political conditions of the current world have makes this phenomenon an auspicious event for all communities and theorist investigate wags which lead to democracy and some consider this phenomenon an inevitable process (Shahramnia, 2004: 95-6).

The word "democratization" refers to political changes which occur along the path to democracy. Democratization is a process which leads to an open, cooperative and less powerful community. Therefore, democratization requires a comprehensive strategy that not only discusses the conduct of fair and free elections but also considers the structure of democracy's political culture and also the process and maintenance of institutions which support the emotion of democratic policies. Democratization should seek to strike balance in civil societies and should be backed by Democratization in governments and international communities.

Waves of democracy

Wave of democracy is changes which occur in the world toward more democracy and when it reaches its pinnacle, stabilizes democracy in at least some countries. The expansion of democracy requires both time and space (Bashirieh, 2005: 452). The wave of democratization is a move from non-democratic regimes to democratic ones which have transpired in particular periods. This wave has made political systems liberal or at least democratic (Huntington, 2003: 18).

Democracy advances when a host of changes in the ruling regime happen in short intervals in a limited number of countries. All these changes are toward more democracy and affected by same events, finally less change is made and wave of change is subdued and some elements of established democracy remain (Lipset, 2004: 506).

Theories of waves of democracy

Most of the writers refer to the any of "development" while explaining democracy meaning that successful achievement of one country to democracy sets patters for others especially the neighboring countries won't be away from the wind of changes (Bashirieh, 2005: 543), The other theory in this case is "the driving force" according to this theory, when democracy develops in one state; the forces of international events are reinforced in this direction. The states, which join the wave of democracy late, are under more pressures are pay less for experiencing this and this in itself is an encouragement. One of the advantages of this theory is the emergence of some group supporting human and minority and democratic movements when the ware of democracy overwhelms in a country.

The theory of "logical selection" provides another explanation for democratization. According to this theory democracy emerges in a given time which requires two conditions. Firstly the downfall of totalitarian regime, secondly the oppositions to which the power is transferred are variant groups that have no dominate leader. If one group does not overcome the other, two situations may appear. Indefinite conflicts among equal forces and agreement to co-existence. The latter leads democracy.

Therefore, democracy is realized when variant groups that are political actors are willing to equally cooperate and co-existence. One of the ways which can avoid the re-establish Mont of non-democratic/ autocratic state is creating conditions which will prevent each of group from dominating the other (Bashirieh, 2005: 456).

First wave of democracy

The first waves have roots in U.S and French revolution. But the emergence of democratic national institutions is phenomenon of 19th century. During this century, democratic institutions were developing in most of the counties but despite this, It is had to determine the enact time that a political system became democratic and it is too private (Huntington, 2003: 19). Economic development, in detribalization, civilization, creation of the third class and its primary unions, gradual decline of economic inequality appear to have had a role in creating democratic movements in North European states in 19th century. Existences of the spirit of complaining and demanding rights Protestantism have urged democratization. There forts of states which have obtained democracy before 1900, considered religious meaning of protestant (Huntington, 2003: 46-7).

The early factors of wave of democracy should be sought in economic and social changes of British emigrants and collapse of empires in this continent. New wave of democratic demands emerged after the victory of Japan over Russia in 1905. The defeat of a European empire by a small Asian power delivered a message of hope to states being threatened by European imperialism including Iran, Turkey. In these states there were those who believed this victory followed the pattern of parliamentary constitutional government in England. Russia was a European power that followed traditional ways of authoritarian government. Therefore the message of this event seemed clear at that time. Accepting constitution and elected unions is path to innovation. A path that leads Western states to wealth and power. The victory of a democratic west over less democratic states in 1918 provided more evidence that democracy could lead one state to wealth if it is not attained it may at least malice the state powerful (Louis, 2007: 7).

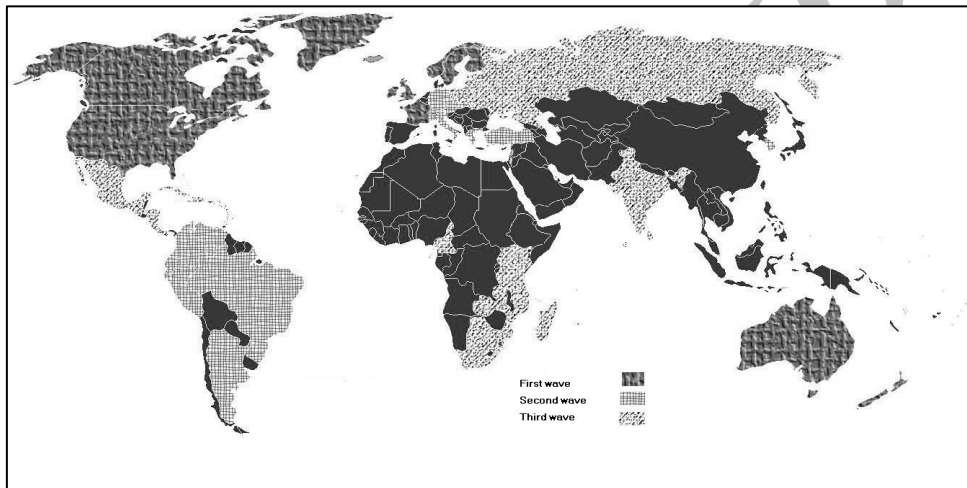
Second wave of democracy

Short wave of second democracy assumed importance with the outbreak of second world war. The occupation by alien forces increased democratic institutions in west Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan and Korea. While the pressure by Russia suffocated the sparks of democracy in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, Turkey and Greece inclined to democracy in late 1940s early 1950s. In Latin America Uruguay joined democracy during the war and Brazil and Costa Rica in late 1940 Chile colonized ruling was about to be over, numbers of new states emerged. There were no efforts to establish democratic institutions in some of them. In others democracy took roots. In few countries such as, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Israel, democracy lasted for to years and in 1960.

Democracy began in Nigeria. Military and political factors had great influences in second wave of democracy. Most of the countries which joined democracy by the influences of this wave is categorized in one the groups: West Germany, Italy, Japan, huge parts of Austria and South Korea. Some countries which accepted democracy because of the victory of the Western allies including Turkey, Greece, Brazil Argentina Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia (Huntington, 2003: 47).

The third democracy wave

This wave initiated with a coup in 25 April 1974 in Portugal, quite expectedly (Lipset, 2004: 506). The wave flew to Latin America in the late 1970s. People chose their non-military leaders in 1977 Ecuador, 1983 Argentina, 1984 Uruguay, and 1985 Guatemala. Democratic movement began to show up in Asia. In the early 1970s, the first democratic wave appeared in India, where occupation was in emergency levels.



Similarly, Turkish regime surrendered to civilians. Military in Pakistan came to an end in 1988, opposing won the electors and took the parliament under their control. At the end of the decade, the war embodied communist world. Movement towards democracy was limited in Africa and the Middle East in the 1980s, but the democratic movement was global. The democracy wave rushed in to all over southern Europe, flew to the Latin America, then turned to Asia, and disintegrated dictatorship in the Soviet block (Huntington, 2003: 25-9).

Economist Democracy index

Recently, Economist.Com has initiated an innovative model to develop and apply a democracy index. The Democracy index suggests that freedom should not be used as an equivalent to democracy. Yet, freedom and democracy are usually used interchangeably, but they are not equivalent. The Democracy index insists to use a much broader meaning for

democracy: the Democracy index (DI) compiled by the Economist intelligence unit, which measures the state at democracy based on its own observations, rather than a reflection of political liberties, but it is not strong enough.

These data do not embrace all aspects sufficiently or do not show some basic characteristics or the quality of democracy. Liberty is a key element in the following categories:

- Electoral process and Pluralism;
- Civil Liberties;
- Fractioning at Government;
- Political Participation;
- Political Culture.

Each of the world's countries falls under each category and category and the terminal score is calculated. In 2008, the DI compared 167 independent countries. Based on the scores obtained from the DI, countries fall under the following political regimes:

- Full democracy (scored between 8 to 10);
- Flawed democracy (scored between 6 to 7.9);
- Hybrid regimes (scored between 4 to 5.9);
- Authoritarian regimes (scored under 4).

In 2008, Sweden scored 9.88 and took the first rank, and North Korea fell to last rank with a 0.86 score. Also in this year, about 14.4 percent of world population lived in full democracy, and 34.9 percent in authoritarian countries (Campbell, 2008:14).

Research findings

What is implied by the DI is the inadequate state of democracy in a wide range of countries. According to the data obtained from the 2008 study, only 30 countries out of 167 have full democracy that include 14.4 percent of world population. Willingness to live in favorable conditions is not limited to a certain area or region, rather it is a global desire. Most of the countries which had democracy before the first democracy wave, scored highest: North America, Scandinavian countries, Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. All of these countries possess long-time democratic institutions. The mentioned countries have good conditions regarding economic and political issues.

What is note worthy about these 30 countries, is the presence of some countries with a short history of democracy in the presence of some countries Germany, Italy, Japan, Austria, south Korea, Greece, and Ecuador. These countries chose democratic regimes in the second wave of democracy from 1943 to 1962, and joined the full democracy category within a 50 year period.

Portugal, which is known as the origin of the third democracy wave in 1974, and once its regime was considered as one of the terrible one in Europe, today has made his way through developing the level at democracy.

The second type of democracy in the DI is flawed democracy, in which the countries with the score of between 6to 7.9 one present. 50 countries out of 167 have this kind of democracy which contains 35.5 at the world populations in them. Most of these countries are those which found democracy in the third wave of democratization.

The vast majority of Latin America and southern America countries, Eastern European, southern African countries, Namibia, and Nigeria are to be mentioned here. East Asian countries moving towards democracy in the late 20th century, has made countries with flowed democracy from them. There, mentioning two Islamic countries, Malaysia and Indonesia, is necessary. Establishing a balance between material and spiritual needs, and preventing divine issues from interfering with peoples everyday life, may be one of the reasons these two countries established a democratic regime. India, too, as the world's number one populated democratic country, started its way towards democracy in the late 1970s, and today, it can be a good pattern for developing countries seeking democracy.

The only Middle Eastern country which is considered to have democracy is Israel, which was tending to democracy in the second democracy wave. What is to be mentioned about geographic location of these countries and Democratization is being in the vicinity of big democracies in the world. Of course, there are exceptions. Geographic connection between Latin and southern America with the U.S, social, political, and economical interaction with the United States may be one of the reasons these countries moved towards democracy. As for the Eastern Europe, the "situation factor" and proximity to western European countries is the reason they have achieved democracy in an accelerated matter. Though, most of these countries were traditionally in the communist front, but with major changes as a result at a collapsed communist regime and capitalism taking its place, their regimes showed their tendency to democracy and sought to separate from

communism. In the Eastern Asian countries, Japan and South Korea's presence as samples of full democracy, industrial dominance of the two countries and exporting technology countries, may be one of the reasons these two countries developed democracy. In addition to this, being near Australia could not be ignored.

As for South Africa and India, in addition to liberty seeking movement, we can indicate their nature of colonial legacy. Britain's legacy of colonial policy which, all in all, has been suppressing, has provided a certain instructional fields for ten deny to democracy—specifically political stability and rule at law. Britain usually has given independency to its colonies without any armed revolution, and that helped the new country to be legitimate, and also prevented a national military conquer or to play a key political role in the new independent nation. These two countries were British colonies for long time, and they owe some of their democratic institutions to previous leaders, have done great in establishing democracy foundations.

The third type of democracy index is hybrid democracy, which are present in 36 countries that contain 15.2 percent of world populations. Russia is the biggest country in this category and has a low rating in the hybrid type. Russia has scored 4.48 and placed 107 which is nearly an authoritarian country. Communist ideas central regimes persistence to territorial integrity has prevented the country to achieve a good place.

In Africa, some eastern countries like Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and... have this kind of hybrid regime, Mali, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone which are located in the west of this continent, are trying to establish democratic institutions in their countries, and of course the role of international institutions and IMF' could not be ignored. One of the major hurdles ahead of the above mentioned regimes is bad weather conditions and public poverty, which has posed serious problems with democracy development. Civil war and local poverty as a result of ethnic and tribal disputes should be mentioned as their key problems.

After separation from India, Pakistan established as an Islamic country and is highly influenced by its old neighbor. Pakistan faces great obstacles in achieving democracy like ethnic disputes, Islamic fundamentalism, and active presence of Taliban forces which are being funded both financially and mentally from some Arab countries. In the late 1990s, a military coup and army interference helped democracy development in their country, and paved the way to exchange power to civilians. In the Middle East, countries

like Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq are instances of hybrid democracy which have democracy in some areas.

Turkey started its way to democracy in the late 1940s. With the Ottoman Empire being defeated in World War I, and establishment of a Turkish nation, this country began to move towards modernism. Freedom of religion, gender equality, and non-religious education system, was the peaceable revolution Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was leading. Army interferences in 1960s and 1980s postponed liberty seeking movement, but at the end of the day, public opinion showed their absolute tendency to democracy in the 1980s, and prevented the army from interfering. Of the reasons consolidated democracy in this country was national identity stayed there in the 1920s. Turkey also despite other developing countries has an effective and neutral government and that's because the new republic follows most at the Ottoman Epirus educative and bureaucracy system. The other reason could be corporate bonds between Ankara and the other provinces which were expanded in Ataturk's authoritarian regime. These bonds have expanded in the 1950s due to party competitions, internal immigrations and macro- economic development.

International organizations such as U.N, Human Righty Watch, and the E.U.s pressures could not ignore. The counter's willingness to join E.U required it to follow human righty and democracy laws. With ethnic and religious diversity in Lebanon, they have been able to establish democracy and have a good place in the DI through multi-ethnic democracy Model and engaging all parties in power. Lebanon more than three decades from its independence in 1943 to civil system collapse in 1975–1976, was the only stable democracy in the Arab world. Of course, this country's democracy was not a complete one and has some deficiencies, but it could claim that it can hold orderly tree and competitive elections and have tree political discussions and activities. The destructive civil war that started in 1975 and took more than 100 thousand lives, ended in 1990, with return to old parliamentary system. The national reconciliation charter of Lebanon could solve the problems during the French mandate which had crippled the country's political at fairs. This charter caused Muslims to embrace the regime, and it did this through two procedures: first, allocating higher degrees to Muslims, in a fairer from, second, following a foreign policy which united Christian west with Arab–Muslims east in Lebanon.

According to this charter, the president will always be elected from Marinette Christians. The prime minister from Sunnis and the chair man of

National Assembly from Shiites. Also it has been ruled that executive and legislative officials be appointed from Christians and Muslims in a 6 to 5 proportion and the distribution of power between different sects should be fair.

Iraq is in the 116th place in 36 countries with a hybrid regime, which is experiencing a rise from an authoritarian to a hybrid regime, after Saddam Hussein's fall. In Iraq's political_ which was designed and led by Saddam Hussein– democratic institutions has no chance to appear. Saddam Hussein's Iraq was a good sample of an authoritarian regime. He was regarding the country as his own property. And with the help of a powerful intelligence agency, and being backed by a military consisting of his acquaints, he could establish a repressive atmosphere in the country. With the coalition forces' attack in 2003 and toppling the dictator, this country has been able to establish democratic institution and put federalism to work with the help of coalition forces and international organizations. All of this happened in a relatively short time and Iraq made its way from authoritarian regime to a new regime.

Finally, countries with a score lower than 4, are categorized as authoritarian. Of character is this of these countries, we can mention: being power in one person's hands or a small group, limited civil liberties, political opposition's suppressing, regime's lack of accountability to public opinion, lack of political parties or being weak, strict censorship of information and etc. Cuba is the only authoritarian regime in America. This country's regime is insisting on communist ideologies and Fidel Castro's 40-years ruling, and it has imposed strict limitations in expanding political patterns. Although, with Fidel Castro's stepping aside from power and his brother taking his place, some democracy indices have been improved. China, as the world's most populated country, has an authoritarian regime and communist ideas are dominant in the minds of its rulers. Conceptually, Chinese democracy tradition is different from a common western one. As western democracy values individual rights, Chinese form values people's welfare and their ability to deliver their needs to the leader immediately and coordinate the ruler and the ruled. China's eastern neighbor, North Korea, possesses one of the most closed regimes and doesn't allow its people to oppose. Living in repressive conditions, limited access to news, internal and international information, and strict media censorship, are the measures the country's regime is taking to prevent social movements from forming. At the other hand,

international sanctions to force the government discussing about its nuclear program has toughened living situation for its people. Government's persistence on not talking about nuclear program, and imposing sanctions, has not made North Korea's government to sit for discussion.

Eastern Asia, in the Soviet Union period was the poorest and the most conservative part of USSR. Although these countries achieved their independence after USSR's collapse, they are not democracy yet. Bad economic conditions after collapse, is the key obstacle towards democracy in the region. Severe class divide is a big problem for peace in these countries. Peace is a prerequisite to democracy.

Democracy conditions in Africa are so unfavorable. Almost 20 African countries have authoritarian regimes. Despite bad environmental and economic conditions, occasional coups, and instability of regimes in Central African countries, authoritarian regimes can be observed in northern parts of the continent, even in better condition. Despite vicinity to Europe and extensive communication with them, there is no sign of democracy in this area. Muslim countries like Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, etc. have not been able to achieve democracy despite being democrat colonies like France. Islamic fundamentalism and influential religious leaders, government's dominance on mass media, repressive internal security organizations, and in finite power of military organizations in these countries are the reasons they haven't been able to from democracy-seeking movements. Presence of deep social divisions which are the reasons for ethnic conflicts to raise, is a big hurdle to pass on towards democracy.

Finally we will discuss the most important region in the world, which is the Middle East. Region's which has been the door to human civilization and wisdom. Unfortunately, democracy in this region has been a big issue that international efforts have not made any progress in the issue. Islamic and Arab countries in this region have not been able to take a favorable place in the world's democracies. The Middle East has some unique characteristics that you cannot find it else where in the world. Six different races live in the region. It is the birthplace of three big religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, and its culture are based on Islam. Religion and politics are integrated in this region more than any other place in the world. In fact, the key leading internal and international policy is religion. Politics and political power in Iran, is based on religion. There is also a close bond between Saudi family and Wahhabi clerics in a way that Wahhabi clerics are idea logs of

Al-Saud. These conditions can be seen in the other countries of the region, as far as political discussions and power are legitimacy is based on religion in most countries in the region.

Although electoral campaign in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and yeoman has been done in different ways, but the government's lack of accountability and public votes are some big hurdles to democracy. It can be claimed that these countries ignored democracy mostly because of the place it emerged, not because of its own nature. There is no doubt that imperialisms impact on developing anti-western emotions was an important fact. Based on what has been agreed after World War I, France and Britain developed colonial ruling in the region, divided their territories to their wills and hindered political progress.

Cold War and fragment after U.S-USSR war, escalated polarization of opinions in the Middle East. Super powers competing in the region, political and military interventions, made matters worse. The role of military in political structures could not be ignored in a region which is full of weapons. Military coups and revolutions are an integral part of this region's political process, and due to this issue, military governments came on power in Syria because of this issue, military politicians or politician military man appeared. In the late 20 century, world witnessed a slow transition from military regimes to non – military ones. But despite this fundamental change in community's approach to this issue, this change didn't happen in the ME. Holiday believes that:"in the Middle East, relations between governments are based on distrust and suspicion and attitudes towards wars keep the memories alive. The economic benefit of oil and massive increase in its prices in the 1970s has had a low impact in democracy development.

On the other hand, the wealth generated from oil empowered regimes in Kuwait and some other in the Persian Gulf, and made them malevolent dictators which spent the wealth for public welfare. These renter countries' incomes are not form taxes and economic plans which are related to people's will for political reforms and rule of law, but from foreign resources like stocks, rents or oil exports. Wealthy oil-rich countries are not under pressure to be democrat at all. State distribution of goods and services (spending oil in come on public) is enough for pubic needs and because of this, people don't see the need to establish unions, political parties or any other economic and political organizations imagining the idea that the biggest hurdle to democracy are the people of authoritarian countries, is

irrational.

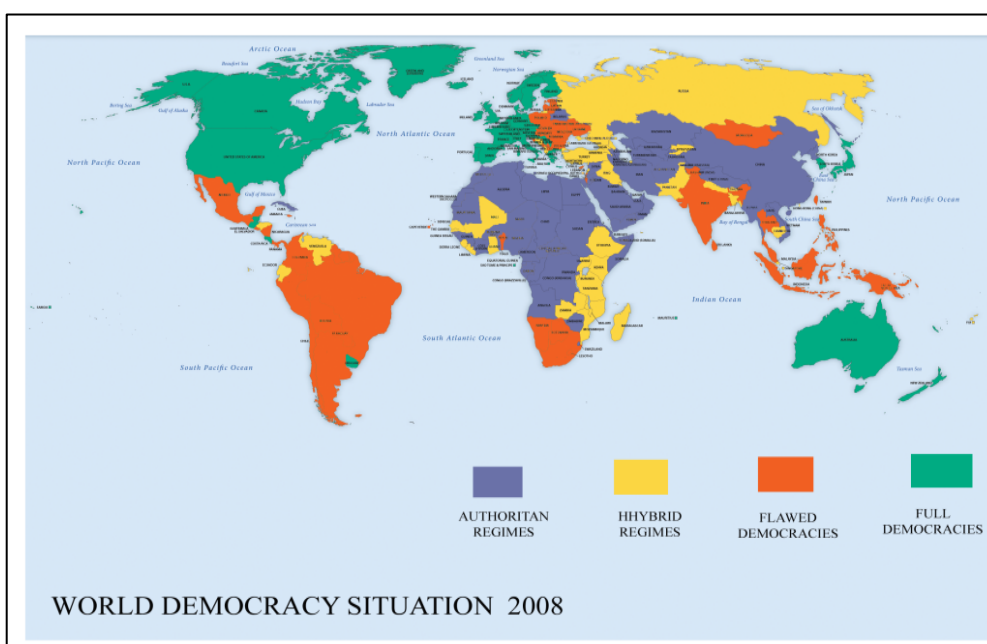
The problem is elite rulers in these countries. In the most of these regimes, the government is not thinking of improving people's welfare. They fund some small groups like military men, secret police, and backers of the only existing party, to stay in power. Bahrain, Oman, Qatar Saudi Arabia, and the UAE lack political parties. In Saudi Arabia, the king holds absolute power, and also in Bahrain, sheikh Issa bin Salman Al e Khalifa dissolved National assembly in 1975 to stop their interference in to his administration. Oman doesn't have any institution or modern judicial organization. The absolute legislation and administration power is in the king hands and all of the authorities are appointed by him. Qatar is a kind of absolute monarchy. The Amir is on the top, he appoints ministers and him, himself is the prime minister; he also has a consulting council but no legislative assembly. There is no sign of democratic political institutions in these countries. Although in the 1980s there were pressures from people inside to have democracy, this issue increased in importance after the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and the end of cold war. The change in world's political system, the collapse of USSR, and inefficient state run economies, caused some political reforms in some countries in the region, but not all.

Results

What can be inferred from issues discussed in the paper, as an answer to the hypothesis, are as below:

As the map of democracy in 2008 suggests, democracy has a wide distension around the world. Only 30 countries out of 167 have full democracy, which include Scandinavia, Western Europe, Northern America, Australia, and some exceptions. About 14.4 percent at world's population live in these 30 countries. However, 51 are being lead by authoritarian leaders and 35.9 percent of the world's populations are living in these countries. Spatial dispersion of authoritarian regimes has almost a specific pattern, and includes a wide are at Africa, Authoritarian regimes are easily identifiable in most countries in Asia. Almost all of Middle Eastern Arab countries, and also independent republics in central Asia, plus China Republic, all are categorized under this political system.

But what is hopeful, is world's countries rapid movement towards democracy, and this type of regime will be widespread in the world. It can be hoped that almost half of the countries with a flawed democracy will be joined to full democracy ones in the near future and this issue can be a guideline for other countries.



Map 1: Situation of Democracy in The World in 2008.

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