

# Chapter-1

## Democracy in the Contemporary World

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### 1 marks Questions

**1. Who was Salvador Allende?**

**Ans.** He was the president of Chile. He was the founder leader of the Socialist party of Chile.

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**2. Who was Alberto Bechelet?**

**Ans.** He was the General of the Chilean Air Force, who refused to join military coup.

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**3. Who was Michelle Bachelet?**

**Ans.** She was elected President of Chile in January 2006.

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**4. Which party was ruling in Poland in 1980?**

**Ans.** The Polish United Workers Party was ruling over Poland. It was a Communist Party.

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**5. What was Solidarity?**

**Ans.** It was a trade union. It was the first time an independent trade union was formed in any of the communist state.

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**6. What was the result of 1990 elections of Poland?**

**Ans.** Poland had the first presidential elections in which more than one party could contest. Walesa was elected as president in 1990 elections.

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**7. Who ruled over Ghana?**



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**Ans.** Britishers.

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**8. Who was Kwame Nkrumah?**

**Ans.** Kwame Nkrumah was the son of a gold smith and actively participated in the independence struggle of his country, Ghana.

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**9. When was Soviet Union Disintegrated?**

**Ans.** 1991.

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**10. Into how many republics Soviet Union disintegrated?**

**Ans.** 15 Republics.

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**11. When did democratic rule end in Myanmar?**

**Ans.** 1962.

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**12. Who was Aung San Suu Kyi?**

**Ans.** Aung San Suu Kyi is a democratic leader of Myanmar who led the National League for Democracy.

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**13. What is the role of UN Security Council?**

**Ans.** It is an organ of United Nation, is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries.

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**14. Name the five Permanent members of the Security Council.**

**Ans.** United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China.

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**15. What is veto?**



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**Ans.** The right of a person, party or nation to stop a certain decision or law.

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**16. When did Iraq become independent form colonial rule?**

**Ans.** 1932.

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**17. In which country of Africa democracy was replaced by military regime in 1966?**

**Ans.** Ghana.

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**18. Why did the strike begin in the ship yard of Gdansk City in Poland?**

**Ans.** The strike begun in the shipyard of Gdansk city of Poland because the government unjustly dismissed a woman who was a crane operator.

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**19. Who said that US was on Iraq was illegal?**

**Ans.** The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

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**20. When did Saddam Hussein come into power?**

**Ans.** 1979.



### 3 marks Questions

**1. Can you think of reasons why people liked to have change in the doctoral regimes?**

**Ans.** It was because of the people had no right to freedom of speech. The people had no right to form associations or trade unions. The people had no right to cast vote. People gave no right to elect their representatives. Due to the above reasons people want to change doctoral regimes.

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**2. List any three examples of what makes the army rule in Myanmar undemocratic.**

**Ans.** An elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi was not recognized by the military ruler.

(i) He refused to step down.

(ii) The military put the elected pro democracy leader, including Suu Kyi, under house arrest.

(iii) Political activists accused of even the most trivial offences have been jailed.

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**3. What are the difficulties people face in a non democratic country?**

**Ans.** In non-democratic country the people are not allowed to criticize the government policies.

The rule of the dictator or the so called military rule prevails and the question of elections does not arise.

In non democratic countries, no opposition is tolerated so the question of political parties, especially, the opposition parties does not arise.

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**4. Identify the different reasons for the adoption of democracies in newly independent countries.**



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**Ans.** Democracy is the best form of Government.

In democracy freedom of speech is given to the people.

People are free to elect their government and they are free to change it.

People have right to cast their vote.

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### **5. What were the main features of Allende's government?**

**Ans.** The government reforms in the educational system.

Government provided free milk to the poor children and redistributed land to the land less farmers.

The government opposed the idea of foreign companies taking away natural resources of the country.

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### **6. How did Pinochet establish military rule in Chile?**

**Ans.** He killed President Allende in a military attack.

Pinochet declared himself the President of the country.

His government tortured and killed several of those who supported Allende and those who wanted democracy to be restored.

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### **7. How was democracy restored in Chile?**

**Ans.** Pinochet's military dictatorship came to an end after he decided to hold a referendum in 1988.

He felt confident that in this referendum, the people would say yes to his continuing in power.

But the people of Chile had not forgotten their democratic traditions.

Their vote was a decisive 'no' to Pinochet. This led to Pinochet losing first his political and then his military powers.

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### **8. How was the government of Poland run 1980?**

**Ans.** In 1980 Poland was ruled by the Polish United Worker's party.

This was one of the many communist parties that rules in several countries of east Europe at



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that time.

The people could not freely choose the leaders of the communist party or the government. Those who spoke against the leader or the party or the government were put in prison.

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### **9. Explain the role of Solidarity in the establishment of democracy in Poland?**

**Ans.** After the Gdansk agreement was signed, a new trade union called Solidarity was formed. It was the first time an independent trade union was formed in any of the communist states. Within a year Solidarity swept across Poland and had about one crore members.

Revelations of widespread corruption and mismanagement in the government made matters worse for the rulers.

The government grew anxious and imposed martial law. Thousands of Solidarity members were put in prison.

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### **10. How was military rule established in Myanmar and who made an effort to introduce democracy in the country?**

**Ans.** Myanmar gained independence in 1948 and became a democratic country. But in 1962 democracy ended with a military coup.

In 1990 Elections were held for the first time after thirty years. The national League for democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi won the elections.

An elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi was not recognized by the military ruler. He refused to step down.

The military put the elected pro democracy leader, including Suu Kyi, under house arrest. Even during her house arrest she campaign for democracy and does so till today.

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### **11. What major changes took place in India's neighboring countries, Nepal and Pakistan in 1990s?**

**Ans.** In Nepal, the king gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional Monarch to be guided by elected leaders. In 2005, the new king of Nepal dismissed the elected government and took back political freedom that people had won in the previous decade.

In 1999, General Parvej Musharraf brought back army rule in Pakistan. He declares himself



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President of the country.

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**12. How are powerful countries like USA promoting democracy in the world?**

**Ans.** US have taken on the task of democracy promotion in the rest of the world.

They said that propagating the values of democracy is not enough.

Existing democracies should directly intervene in the countries that are non democratic to establish democracy there.

In some cases powerful countries have launched a armed attack on non democratic countries.

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**13. What were the common features between Poland and Chile under doctorial rule?**

**Ans.** The people of both the countries could not choose or change their rulers.

The people don't have real freedom to express their opinion.

People were not allowed to form political associations and organize protests against government.

People were not allowed to take political action against the government.

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**14. Give any three features of democracy?**

**Ans.** Democracy is the form of government that allows people to choose their representatives.

Leaders elected by the voters are supposed to rule the country.

People have the freedom to express their views.

They have freedom to organize or associate.

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**15. How was the end of colonialism lead way to democracy?**

**Ans.** People of the colonized country had to wage struggles to achieve independence.

They not only wanted to get rid of their colonial masters, but also wished to choose their future leaders.

Our country was one of the few colonies where people carried a nationalist struggle to liberate the country from the colonial rule.



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Many of these countries became democracies immediately after the end of the Second World War in 1945.

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**16. Who was Michelle Bachelet?**

**Ans.** Michelle Bachelet was the daughter of General Bachelet and remained imprisoned for several years.

Michelle Bachelet was elected president of Chile in January 2006.

She was a medical Doctor and moderate socialist.

She became first women to be a defense minister Latin America.

In the presidential elections she defeated one of Chile's richest men.

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**17. How were the supporters of democracy treated by Pinochet?**

**Ans.** Pinochet's government tortured and killed several of those who supported Allende and those who wanted democracy to be restored.

These included General Alberto Bachelet of the Chilean air force and many other officers who refused to join the coup.

General Bechelet's wife and daughter were put in prison and tortured.

More than 3000 people were killed by the military.

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**18. Why were the rich and landlords oppose the policies of Allende?**

**Ans.** Because Allende gave too much support to the poor people.

He redistributed land to the landless farmers. He took some steps to reform education.

He was opposed to foreign companies taking away natural resources like copper from the country.

The landlords, the rich and the Church opposed his policies.

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**19. Describe any three features of the communist party rule in Poland.**

**Ans.** No other political party was allowed to function.

The people were not allowed to choose their representatives.

Those who criticize government policies were put in prison.

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**20. Why did the people of Chile want to over throw Pinochet's rule?**

**Ans.** Pinochet's government tortured and killed several of those who supported Allende and those who wanted democracy to be restored. The leaders became arbitrary rulers and no one can question them. The people of Chile had not forgotten their democratic tradition. There was absence of political freedom.

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**21. Highlight any three main developments in Chile after the referendum held by Pinochet in 1988.**

**Ans.** After referendum Pinochet lost first his political and then his military powers. Political freedom was restored. Since then Chile has held for Presidential elections in which different political parties have participated. Slowly, the army's role in the country's government has been eliminated. The elected government that came to power ordered inquiries into Pinochet's rule.

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**22. Examine three reasons responsible for the success of the second strike against the communist rule in Poland.**

**Ans.** Organisation of Solidarity was the main reason of decline of the communist rule in Poland.

The Polish Government became very weaker and the support from Soviet Union uncertain. The economy was declined.

Negotiation with Walesa resulted in an agreement in April 1989 for free elections.

Solidarity contested all the hundred seats of the senate and won ninety nine of them.

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**23. State any three features of 21 point agreement signed by the striking workers in Poland?**

**Ans.** The Workers led by Walesa signed a twenty one point agreement with the government that ended their strike.

The government agreed to recognize the workers right to form independent trade unions.

According to this agreement workers got the right to strike. This agreement was also known as Gdansk Agreement.



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**24. Why were women given voting rights much later than man in most countries?**

**Ans.** Women were given voting rights much later than man in most countries because in these countries there were male dominant societies.

They considered women as physically and mentally inferior to men.

The conservative nature of the societies was also reason for it.

Lack of education and awareness was also responsible for gender discrimination.

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**25. Write the functions of IMF?**

**Ans.** The IMF is International Monetary Fund. It is a largest Money lender to the countries. It supervises and oversees those financial institutions and regulations that act at the international level.

It aims at promoting international monetary cooperation and the expansion of international trade and assisting in the removal of exchange restrictions.

The IMF makes its resources available under proper safeguard to its members to meet short term or medium term payment difficulties.

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**26. Do you think that the functioning of IMF is really democratic?**

**Ans.** The functioning of the IMF can be stated as non democratic. Its 185 member states do not have equal voting rights. The top ten countries have over fifty four percent of the voting power in the IMF. The remaining 175 countries have very little say in its functioning and decision making.

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**27. What are the functions of Security Council?**

**Ans.** The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries. If need arises it can put together an international army and take action against the wrong doer. Security Council is a very important organ of United Nations.

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**28. Write a short note on United Nations.**

**Ans.** The United Nations is a global association of nations of the world to help cooperation in international law.



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It also provides cooperation in security, economic development and social equity to the nations.

The UN Secretary General is its chief administrative officer.

The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security among countries.

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**29. List any three examples of what makes the army rule in Myanmar undemocratic.**

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The military put the elected pro democracy leader, including Suu Kyi, under house arrest. Political activists accused of even the most trivial offences have been jailed.

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**30. What major changes took place in India's neighboring countries, Nepal and Pakistan in 1990s?**

**Ans.** In Nepal, the king gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional Monarch to be guided by elected leaders. In 2005, the new king of Nepal dismissed the elected government and took back political freedom that people had won in the previous decade. In 1999, General Pervez Musharraf brought back army rule in Pakistan. He declares himself President of the country.



## 5 marks Questions

### 1. Describe the military coup of 1973 through which Salvador Allende was killed.

**Ans.** On the morning of 11 September 1973, the military took over the seaport. The Defense Minister was arrested by the military when he arrived at his office. The military commanders asked the President to resign. Allende refused to resign or leave the country. But realizing the danger to the country and to his life, he addressed the people on the radio. Then the military surrounded the President's house and started bombing it. President Allende died in the military attack.

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### 2. State the reforms undertaken by Allende after forming the government.

**Ans.** Allende was the founder leader of the Socialist Party of Chile and led the popular united coalition to victory in the presidential election in 1970. After being elected the President, Allende had taken several policy decisions to help the poor and the workers. These included reform of the educational system, free milk for children and redistribution of land to the landless farmers. He was opposed to foreign companies taking away natural resources like copper from the country. The landlords, the rich and the church opposed his policies.

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### 3. What was Gdansk Agreement?

**Ans.** On 14 August 1980, the workers of Lenin Shipyard in the city of Gdansk went on strike. The strike began with a demand to take back a crane operator, a women worker, who was unjustly dismissed from service. The movement became so popular that the government had to give in. The workers led by Walesa signed a 21 point agreement with the government that ended their strike. The government agreed to recognize the workers right to form independent trade unions and their right to strike. After the Gdansk agreement was signed, a trade union called Solidarity was formed.



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#### 4. Trace the Democratic Movement in Myanmar.

**Ans.** Myanmar an Asian country, previously known Burma. It gained freedom from colonial rule in 1948 and became a democracy. But the democratic rule ended in 1962 with a military coup. In 1990 elections were held for the first time after almost 30 years. The national league for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won the election. But the military leader of Myanmar refused to step down and did not recognize the elections results. Instead, the military put the elected pro-democracy leaders, including Suu Kyi, under house arrest.

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#### 5. Describe the progress of democracy in Britain.

**Ans.** In Britain, the progress towards democracy started much before the French Revolution. But the progress was very slow. Through the 18th and 19th century, series of political events reduced the power of monarchy and feudal lords. The Right to Vote was granted to more and more people. Around the same time as French Revolution, the British colonies in North America declared themselves independent in 1776.

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#### 6. Who was Kwame Nkrumah?

**Ans.** Kwame Nkrumah was son of a goldsmith and himself a teacher, was active in the independence struggle of his country Ghana. After Independence Nkrumah became the first prime Minister and then the President of Ghana. He was a friend of JawaharLal Nehru and an inspiration for democrats in Africa. But unlike Nehru, he got himself elected President for life. Soon after, in 1966, he was over thrown by military. Like Ghana most countries that became democracies after gaining independence had a mixed record.

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#### 7. Explain any five contributions of UN as a World Government.

**Ans.** The UN is not a parliament or government of the world. It cannot pass any law that will apply to all the people of the world. Even then, it makes law and rules that put some restrictions on what governments can do. The UN has evolved many conventions, for examples, governing the seas or controlling environmental degradation. As a global association, it provides help and cooperation in international law, security, economic development and social equality. The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining



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peace and security among countries. The IMF and the World Bank are the agencies of the UN. They provide loans to the governments in times of need.

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**8. Explain the factors that make the United Nations a Non-Democratic Organisation.**

**Ans.** Every one of the 193 member states of the UN has one vote in the General Assembly. In that sense the UN would appear to be a very democratic organization. But the General Assembly cannot take any decision about what action should be taken in a conflict between different countries. The fifteen members Security Council of the UN takes such Crucial Decisions. The council has five permanent members-US, Russia, UK, France and China. Each Permanent member has veto power. It means that the council cannot take a decision if any permanent member says no to that decision. This system has led more and more people and countries to protest and demand that the UN becomes more democratic.

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**9. How was the dictatorship established by Saddam Hussein in Iraq?**

**Ans.** Iraq is country in Western Asia. It became independent from British rule in 1932.

The decades later there were a series of coups by military officers. Since 1968, it was ruled by Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party. Saddam Hussein, a leading Ba'ath party leader played key role in the 1968 coup that brought the party to power. This government abolished traditional Islamic law and gave women the right to vote and several freedoms not granted in other west Asian countries. After becoming the president of Iraq in 1979, Saddam ran a dictatorial government and suppressed any dissent or opposition to his rule. He was known to have got a number of political opponents killed and persons of ethnic minorities massacred.

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**10. Explain the Recent Phase of establishment of democracies in the world.**

**Ans.** After 1980, as democracy was revived in several countries of Latin America. The disintegration of the Soviet Union accelerated this process from the story of Poland. We know that the then Soviet Union controlled many of its neighboring communist countries in Eastern Europe. Poland and several other countries became free from the control of the Soviet Union during 1989-90. They chose to become democracies.

Finally the Soviet Union itself broke down in 1991. The Soviet Union Comprised 15 republics.



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All the constituent republics emerged as independent countries. Most of them became democracies.

In this period Pakistan and Bangladesh made transition from army rule to democracy in 1990.

In Nepal, the king gave up many of his powers to become a constitutional monarch to be guided by elected leaders.

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