**Determinants of Democracy:**

The word ‘democracy’ has its origins in the Greek language. It combines two shorter words: ‘demos’ meaning whole citizen living within a particular city or state and ‘kratos’ meaning power or rule. Thus it is a form of [government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government) in which [the people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People) or the citizen of the country  have the [authority](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority) to [deliberate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deliberate) and decide legislation, or to choose governing [officials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Officials) to do so. Although democracy is generally understood to be defined by voting, but democratic principles are reflected in all eligible citizens being [equal before the law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_before_the_law) and having equal access to legislative processes.

There are different socio-economic factors or determinants which influence the democratization. The different determinants of democracy are discussed below

**Modernization and Economic Development:**

Different scholars over the years have argued that there is a positive correlation between economic development and democratization. A higher gross domestic product correlates with democracy and wealthiest democracies have never been observed to fall into authoritarianism.

**Education:**

It has long been observed that education promotes stable and democratic societies.  Different research studies that have been carried out all over the world show that education leads to greater political tolerance, increases the likelihood of greater political awareness and participation and reduces inequality in the distribution of income and wealth. Increases in levels of education of the citizens of a country improve levels of democracy and this effect of education is more intense in poor countries.

**Culture:**

It has been claimed that certain cultures are simply more conducive to democratic values than others. It has been observed that the [western culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_culture) which is cited as "best suited" to democracy, with other cultures portrayed as containing values which make democracy difficult or undesirable. On the other hand, it has also been found in many research studies that religion is also related to democratic outcomes.

**International Institutions:**

Existence of strong and influential international institutions is also one of the important determinants of democracy. A number of studies have found that international institutions have helped facilitate democratization. Different international organizations including UNO support democracy by promoting human rights, development, and peace and security. These organizations promote good governance, monitors elections, support the civil society to strengthen democratic institutions and accountability and assist in the drafting of new constitutions in post conflict nations.

**Waves of Democracy:**

A [wave of democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waves_of_democracy) basically refers to a major surge of democracy in history. According to [Seva Gunitsky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seva_Gunitsky), these waves are caused by "abrupt shifts in the distribution of power among leading states create unique and powerful incentives for sweeping domestic reforms."9  [Samuel P. Huntington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_P._Huntington) defined three waves of democratization that have taken place in history. The first one brought democracy to Western Europe and Northern America in the 19th century. It was followed by a rise of dictatorships during the [Interwar period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interwar_period). The second wave began after [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), but lost steam between 1962 and the mid-1970s. The latest wave began in 1974 and is still ongoing. Democratization of [Latin America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_America) and the former [Eastern Bloc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Bloc) is part of this [third wave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waves_of_democracy#Third_wave).

**Protests and threat of civil conflict:**

Research indicates that democracy protests are associated with democratization. Different studies have found that about a quarter of all cases of democracy protests between 1989 and 2011 lead to democratization.

Research suggests that the threat of civil conflict encourages regimes to make democratic concessions. Drought-induced riots in Sub-Saharan Africa lead regimes, fearing conflict, to make democratic concessions.