

# Evolution of Democratic Government

Chapter 9: From the Rulers to the Ruled: Types of Governments · Topic 2

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## Key Concept

Ancient Athens in Greece is often credited with early democratic practices, where citizens (though limited to free men) could vote directly on issues affecting their city.

Over time, as populations grew too large for direct participation, representative democracy developed, where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.

Democratic movements expanded voting rights over centuries, gradually including groups that were initially excluded, like women and various minority communities.

Modern democracies, like India's, continue to evolve, working to ensure fair elections, protect rights, and improve citizen participation in governance.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Ancient Athens had early democratic practices.
- Athenian democracy was limited to free men initially.
- Representative democracy developed as populations grew.
- Citizens elect representatives to decide on their behalf.
- Voting rights expanded over centuries.
- Women and minorities gained voting rights gradually.
- Modern democracies continue to evolve.
- India's democracy works to ensure fair elections and rights.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Research ancient Athenian democracy.
- 2 Discuss why direct democracy became harder as populations grew.
- 3 Research when women gained voting rights in India.
- 4 Explain representative democracy in your own words.
- 5 Discuss how India's democracy continues to evolve.
- 6 Create a timeline of democracy's evolution.