

**Handout**

# Definition of "Democracy" from *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*

The following is the *Merriam-Webster's* online dictionary definition of *democracy*.<sup>1</sup>

## **Democracy** (noun)

de·moc·ra·cy

- 1 **a:** government by the people  
*especially* : rule of the majority  
  
**b:** a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections
- 2 : a political unit that has a democratic government
- 3 **capitalized** : the principles and policies of the Democratic party in the U.S. from emancipation Republicanism to New Deal Democracy  
—C. M. Roberts
- 4 : the common people especially when constituting the source of political authority
- 5 : the absence of hereditary or arbitrary class distinctions or privileges

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<sup>1</sup> "Democracy," *Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary*.