

Democracy

Polyarchy is ... a convenient way of referring to a modern representative democracy with universal suffrage. ... [It] ... is different from representative democracy with restricted suffrage, as in the nineteenth century. It is also different from older democracies and republics that ... lacked many of the crucial characteristics of polyarchical democracy, such as political parties, rights to form political organization to influence or oppose the existing government, organized interest groups, and so on. ... Attached to the institutions of polyarchical democracy that help citizens to exercise influence over the conduct and decisions of the government is a nondemocratic process, *bargaining among political and bureaucratic elites.*

Robert A. Dahl, *On Democracy*