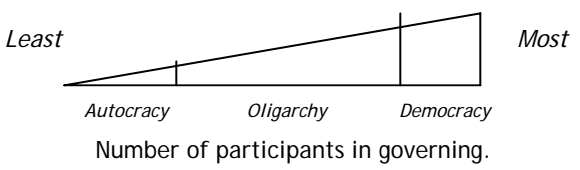


# Government AP

## Chapter 2 Vocabulary

A Meridian® Study Guide by John Ho

Chapter II: Majoritarian or Pluralist Government?	
<b>Autocracy</b>	A system of government in which the <i>power to govern is concentrated in the hands of one individual.</i>
<b>Oligarchy</b>	A system of government in which <i>power is concentrated in the hands of a few people.</i>
<b>Democracy</b>	A system of government in which, in theory, <i>the people rule either directly or indirectly.</i>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Number of participants in governing.</p>	
<b>Procedural Democratic Theory</b>	The view of democracy as being embodied in decision-making process that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Participation</li> <li>• Political Equality</li> <li>• Majority Rule</li> <li>• Responsiveness</li> </ul> Differs from substantive democratic theory.
<b>Universal Participation</b>	The concept that <i>everyone in a democracy should participate</i> in governmental decision-making. This is usually accomplished by voting.
<b>Political Equality</b>	<i>Equality in political decision making.</i> Usually attained by giving one vote per person, all votes being equal.
<b>Majority Rule</b>	The principle in procedural theory that <i>the decision of a group must reflect the preference of more than half of those participating</i> (simple majority).
<b>Participatory Democracy</b>	A system of government where <i>rank-and-file citizens rule themselves</i> rather than elected officials.
<b>Responsiveness</b>	A decision-making principle, needed by a representative government, that implies that <i>elected officials should do what the majority wants.</i>
<b>Substantive Democratic Theory</b>	The view that <i>democracy is embodied in the substance of government policies</i> rather than the procedure of policy-making. Differs from procedural theory in that the results, not the process, determines whether or not a system is democratic.
<b>Minority Rights</b>	The <i>benefits of the government that cannot be denied</i> to any citizen by majority decisions.
<b>Majoritarian Model of Democracy</b>	The classical theory of democracy in which government by the people is interpreted as <i>government by the majority of the people.</i>
<b>Interest Group</b>	An organized <i>group of individuals that seeks to influence public policy.</i> Also called a lobby.
<b>Pluralist Model of Democracy</b>	An interpretation of democracy where the people is taken to mean <i>government by the people operating through special interest groups.</i>
<b>Elite Theory</b>	The view that a <i>small group of people actually make most of the important government decisions.</i>
<b>Democratization</b>	A process of transition as a <i>country attempts to move from an authoritarian form of government to a democratic one.</i>
<b>Representative Democracy</b>	A system of government where <i>citizens elect officials on their behalf.</i>