

THE INSTITUTE FOR ANACYCLOSIS

THE DEFINITION OF DEMOCRACY

We understand “democracy” to be:

SOME FORM OF PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF A COMMUNITY BY SOME PART OF THE COMMON PEOPLE, JUSTIFIED BY AN INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THAT COMMUNITY, AND ENFORCED BY THE POWER TO WITHHOLD THAT CONTRIBUTION

Where:

1. *Democracy requires some form of participation in the government by the common people, although no particular form of participation is required.*
2. *The results of participation must be meaningful and effective in some way, or else the form of participation in the community would be mere ritual.*
3. *The number of the common people that participate in the government must be significant, or else only a few people would participate, which is oligarchy.*
4. *The right to participate must be conditioned upon the duty to contribute, or else beneficiaries could prevail over benefactors, which is oppression.*
5. *Democracy does not require that all people participate in the government, but only that the common people who contribute participate in the government.*
6. *The ability to make an indispensable contribution to the community requires some surplus wealth or income, which implies the necessity of a middle class.*
7. *The middle class must have the power to withhold its contribution, or else it would surrender the only power by which to guarantee redress of its grievances.*
8. *Participation in government by common people who are dependent upon government is not democracy but is demagarchy, even where democratic rituals continue.*

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