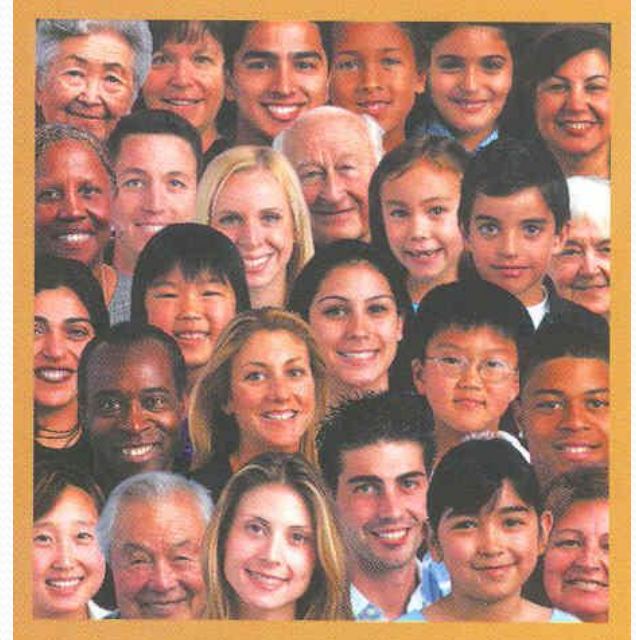


Democracy

Representative vs. Direct

What is democracy?

- A government **by the people**
 - **People have a voice in what happens**



Direct Democracy

- Aka- “Pure Democracy”, or “Athenian Democracy” because it was first used in Athens, Greece
- Definition: Individuals vote on every issue.
- Video clip:
 - [Direct Democracy](#)



- There are small towns who still operate like this
 - US
 - Sweden
 - Germany
 - Etc...

But no nations operate like this today...too many people

- Many countries that are representative democracies allow for three forms of political action that provide limited direct democracy:
 - Referenda-people vote, and can reject (veto) a current law
 - Initiatives-people vote, and create laws
 - Recalls-give people the right to remove elected officials from office before the end of their term, although this is very rare in modern democracies (Kwame Kilpatrick-Detroit Mayor).

Representative Democracy

- Aka- “Indirect Democracy”, because the people are indirectly involved
- Definition: Voters elect representatives who make decisions for everyone.
- Video clip:
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64zihFzj8Iw>
 - [Cognitive Media Representative Democracy](#)

Who has a representative democracy today?



- The United States (Congress, President)
- Canada (Parliament, Prime Minister)
- England (Parliament, Prime Minister)
- Germany (Chancellor, Bundestag)
- Etc...many more!

Why are we a RD?

- Our founding fathers insisted from the beginning that we be a RD.
- BUT-could we have a direct democracy today?
- Debate time!

