Dictatorship Vs. Democracy
By Aastha Dogra

In the years following Arbenz's presidency in Guatemala, military dictators ruled the country. In contrast, the United States has maintained a system of democracy – representative democracy to be more specific. The following article deals with the dictatorship vs. democracy debate. Read on to know which is a better form of government and why.

When it comes to deciding which form of government is the most efficient, there is always a debate. Democracy is the form of government which is followed in countries like America and India. On the other hand, North Korea, Cuba and Zimbabwe are among the countries which have a dictatorship form of government. So which one is the better of the two? What is the difference between dictatorship and democracy? Scroll down for an in-depth analysis between the two.

Definition
Democracy is defined as a government of the people, for the people and by the people. Such a government is formed through elections in which the adult citizens of a county cast vote to elect their representatives. Thus, in a way, the government is ruled by the citizens of the country, in a democracy.

Dictatorship is a form of government in which a single individual or a group of individuals hold power and take all the decisions pertaining to running the country. There is complete centralization of power, with the dictator deciding what is expected of all the citizens of the country. Thus, in a dictatorship form of government, people have no say in how the country will function or how they will lead their lives.

Stability of the Government
If you compare between dictatorship and democracy, on how stable a government these can provide, then certainly dictatorship wins hands down. As there is no other alternative to the government in a dictatorship, combined with the people having no rights whatsoever to choose their leaders, problems such as re-elections or people revolting against the government do not ever arise.

Rights of the People
In terms of the power that people have, there is no doubt about the fact that democracy offers much wide avenues of freedom, liberty, equality and opportunities to the citizens. In a democracy, if people are unhappy, they can raise their voices through various platforms such as the media. However, such a thing would never be tolerated in the dictatorship form of government, where people are expected just to follow and never to question.

Efficiency
One of the advantages of dictatorship is that it is believed to be much more efficient than a democracy. Incidences of crime and corruption are much lesser as rules and regulations are much more stricter. As decision-making in dictatorship lies with just one or a small group of people, not much time is wasted in debating over passing regulations or making amendments in law. Also, proponents of dictatorship say that in case of an emergency such as a war, this form of government is better prepared to meet it as not much time is wasted in debating decisions.

Which is Better: Democracy or Dictatorship?
In today's world, democracy is considered to be the best form of government, reason being that people are treated equally and have full rights to live a life of their liking. Unlike in a dictatorship, where people are treated like cattle and are expected to simply obey and follow the government, democracy
contributes to development of the individuals as well as the society. Dictatorship has many wrongs such as there is ruthless oppression of people or there might be flawed decision-making, which may ultimately lead the country towards ruin. Looking at these disadvantages of democracy, many dictatorships today are contemplating to become democracies in future.

In the end, it can be rightly said that democracy is the ultimate winner. The picture becomes even more clearer, if you look at the track record and progress which democracies like USA and India have made in the past few decades!

http://www.buzzle.com/articles/dictatorship-vs-democracy.html

**Homework**

**Option One:** Read the article. Use the information from the article to make an argument as to why a democracy is better than a dictatorship. **Use all of the space below** or a separate sheet if needed.

**Option Two:** Read the article. Use the information from the article to make an argument as to why a dictatorship is better than a democracy. **Use all of the space below** or a separate sheet if needed.

**Option Three:** Read the article. Use the information from the article to help you compare and contrast the military dictatorships of Guatemala to the representative democracy of the United States. Be sure to include positive and negative elements of each system and use specific examples based on what you know about each country. **Use all of the space below** or a separate sheet if needed.

In all cases, think about what you & your classmates determined a government should and shouldn't do.

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6 – C1.1.1 Analyze competing ideas about the purposes government should serve in a democracy and in a dictatorship (e.g., protecting individual rights, promoting the common good, providing economic security, molding the character of citizens, or promoting a particular religion).

6 – C3.6.2 Compare and contrast a military dictatorship such as Cuba, a presidential system of representative democracy such as the United States, and a parliamentary system of representative democracy such as Canada.