

monarchy ['mɒnəki]

a monarch by divine right

sovereign ['sɒvrɪn]

aristocracy

oligarchy ['ɒlɪgɑ:kɪ]

la monarchie

un monarque de droit divin

souverain

l'aristocratie

oligarchie

Magna Carta (1215) is generally considered as the first step in England's long march towards modern democracy. When he signed this "Great Charter", King John agreed that his subjects had certain rights—not least (*en particulier*) the right not to be imprisoned without charge (*sans être inculpé*) which is usually referred to as Habeas Corpus—that even he could not violate. Thus, Magna Carta was a key victory in the struggle that led to the establishment of the rule of law (*état de droit*), that is to say the principle that no one, not even the monarch or any other ruler, is above (*au-dessus de*) the law and that everyone is therefore protected from arbitrary governance.

a dictator [dɪk'tetə]

dictatorship

authoritarian [ˌɔ:θərɪ'teəriən]

authoritarianism

totalitarian

totalitarianism

a tyrant, an autocrat

a despot

an enlightened despot

un dictateur

la dictature

autoritaire

l'autoritarisme

totalitaire

le totalitarisme

un tyran, un autocrate

un despote

un despote éclairé

The English **Bill of Rights** is an Act passed by the English Parliament in 1689, exactly one hundred years before the French Revolution, which sets out (*énonce*) certain basic rights of English citizens, in particular freedom of speech and the right to elect members of Parliament without interference from the sovereign. Its main objective was to limit the power of the monarch, who could no longer be a Roman Catholic, establish new courts or impose new taxes without the agreement of Parliament. Thus it helped make Britain a constitutional monarchy, in which political power lies mainly with Parliament.

a military junta ['dʒʌntə]

a coup [ku:], **a coup d'état**

a strongman

a regime [re'ʒi:m]

the Vichy / Pinochet regime

a repressive regime

une junte militaire

un coup d'État

un homme fort

un gouvernement autoritaire

le régime de Vichy / de Pinochet

un régime répressif

a political system
 to become more democratic
 to take, seize power
 to come to power
 to come into office
 to be in power
 to remain, stay in power
 to cling to power
 good governance
 to misrule, mismanage
 misrule
 mismanagement
 to hold a leader to account
 to be accountable to the electorate
 accountability
 corruption, sleaze [slɪz], bribery
 corrupt [kə'rʌpt]
 a bribe
 to bribe sb

un régime politique
 se démocratiser
 prendre le pouvoir, s'emparer du pouvoir
 arriver au pouvoir
 arriver au pouvoir (démocratiquement)
 être au pouvoir
 rester au pouvoir
 s'accrocher au pouvoir
 la bonne gouvernance
 mal administrer, mal gérer
 mauvaise administration
 mauvaise gestion
 tenir un dirigeant pour responsable
 être responsable devant les électeurs
 la responsabilité
 la corruption
 corrompu
 un pot-de-vin
 acheter, soudoyer qn

The notion of **accountability** is essential to modern democracy: it is the principle that elected leaders are accountable to (*responsable devant*) those who elected them (the electorate), in other words, that they must "account for" or justify the decisions they make, the policies they adopt because they are responsible for their consequences. The right of voters to hold their representatives to account means that they may be punished in case of misconduct (*mauvaise conduite, abus*). In parliamentary systems such as Britain's or France's, the leaders of the executive (the government) are accountable to the assemblies that brought them to power, which means that the assemblies can vote a motion of no confidence (*motion de censure*) and thus remove them from power.

the rule of law
 multi-party system
 single-party system
 free and fair elections
 vote rigging, ballot rigging,
 electoral fraud
 the election was rigged
 a political opponent [ə'pəʊnənt]
 a dissident
 to gag / muzzle the press / the opposition
 to declare a state of emergency
 to trample the constitution
 to censor ['sensə]
 censorship
 to block / restrict internet access
 to circumvent, bypass censorship

l'état de droit, le règne de la loi
 le multipartisme
 un système de parti unique
 des élections libres et régulières
 la fraude électorale
 l'élection était truquée
 un opposant politique
 un dissident
 bâillonner / museler la presse / l'opposition
 déclarer l'état d'urgence
 bafouer la constitution
 censurer
 la censure
 bloquer / restreindre l'accès à internet
 contourner la censure

Over the last 100 years, democracies have shown that they are better than dictatorships at dealing with the most serious crises that any political system has to face. Democracies win wars. They survive economic disasters. They adapt to meet environmental

challenges. Precisely because they are able to act decisively without having to square public opinion first, dictators are the ones who end up making the catastrophic mistakes. When dictators get things wrong, they can take the whole state over the cliff with them. When democratic leaders get things wrong, we kick them out before they can do terminal damage.

David Runciman, *The Guardian*, November 8, 2013

human rights
human rights abuses, violations
a crime against humanity
the duty to interfere, to intervene

[ˌɪntəˈvɪːn]

human-rights lobby

China's human rights record

les droits de l'homme
des atteintes aux droits de l'homme
un crime contre l'humanité
le devoir d'ingérence

association de défense des droits
de l'homme

le passé de la Chine en matière
de droits de l'homme

The **Arab Spring** was a wave of protest movements across the Arab world, from Tunisia where it began in December 2010 to the Middle East. These revolts are said to have resulted from the rise in food prices, growing inequalities and high rates of unemployment but also from the frustration generated among young people in particular by the corruption of these regimes. Insurgencies brought about the ousting of autocrats such as Ben Ali in Tunisia, Gaddafi in Libya, Mubarak in Egypt but also caused serious unrest in Yemen, Bahrein and even Saudi Arabia. A civil war pitting (*opposant*) Bashar al-Assad against various so-called "rebel" groups, including Islamic State (called Daesh in Arabic), has been devastating Syria since 2011, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths. So far Tunisia is the only country where the uprising has led to constitutional democratic governance.

discontent
to spark unrest
turmoil ['tɜːmɔɪl]
an upheaval [ʌpˈhiːvəl]
to stir [stɜː(r)] up trouble
an insurgent
an insurgency
a demonstration, a protest march
a demonstrator, a protester
to hold / attend a rally
a riot ['raɪət]
a rioter
riots broke out
anti-riot police
a petrol bomb, a Molotov cocktail
tear gas ['tɪə ɡæs]
a clash
a skirmish ['skɜːmɪʃ]
a curfew

mécontentement, malaise
provoquer des troubles
de l'agitation
un bouleversement
fomenteur des troubles
un insurgé
une insurrection
une manifestation
un manifestant
organiser / participer à un rassemblement
une émeute
un émeutier, un casseur
des émeutes ont éclaté
les CRS
un cocktail Molotov
du gaz lacrymogène
un heurt, un affrontement
une échauffourée
un couvre-feu

Is democracy under attack? The election of many authoritarian leaders across the world from the Philippines to Hungary to Brazil and Turkey is largely attributed to the growing gap between ordinary citizens and the ruling elite. It seems that this disconnect stems from the feeling many people have that the political system is rigged (*truqué*) and that elected politicians don't represent them. People take to the streets (*descendre dans la rue*) to voice their frustration. It accounts to a significant extent for the rise of far-right parties in many EU countries from Austria, Italy and Spain to France, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, for instance. On January 6, 2021, a mob (*foule déchaînée*) of Trump supporters stormed (*prendre d'assaut*) the Capitol Building in Washington (the place where Congress meets) in an attempt to overturn the result of the presidential election which Trump had lost a few months before. This violent **attack on the Capitol** lasted several hours during which the rioters occupied and vandalized the building, forcing lawmakers to flee. The riot had been instigated by President Trump himself at a meeting hours before the onslaught. A bipartisan select committee of congressmen is investigating the incident, the most serious attack on US democratic institutions ever.

a plot	un complot
a plotter	un comploteur
to revolt	se révolter
to rebel [<i>ri'bel</i>]	se rebeller
a rebel [<i>'rebl</i>]	un rebelle
a rebellion	une rébellion, une révolte
to defy the authorities	défier les autorités
an uprising	un soulèvement
to rise up against	se soulever contre
to overthrow, to topple a dictator	renverser un dictateur
to oust a dictator	évincer un dictateur
the overthrow of a dictator	le renversement d'un dictateur
to depose a ruler	déposer un dirigeant
to collapse	s'effondrer
to restore democracy	restaurer la démocratie
the downfall of a government	la chute d'un gouvernement

This year's UN Human Development Report states that "advancing human development requires (*nécessite*) governance that is democratic in both form and substance". The report spells out (*explique en détail*) what this means: representation, fair elections, **checks and balances** (*l'équilibre des pouvoirs*), and freedom of expression... Complaints about states that have emerged from dictatorship but have not effectively democratized lack perspective. It took American democracy 86 years to abolish slavery, 144 years to enfranchise women and 189 to assure black people the vote.

The New York Times, August 21, 2002.

ruthless [<i>'ru:θlis</i>] repression	répression brutale
to put down, to suppress a rebellion	réprimer une rébellion
to quell [<i>kwel</i>] the protests	réprimer, étouffer la contestation
crackdown, clampdown	des mesures de répression
to send people to prison	mettre les gens en prison
to beat sb up	passer qn à tabac

Traduire en français

1. The British Parliament is often described as the Mother of Parliaments because of the adoption of the Westminster Model by many countries of the former Empire.
2. The phrase "rule of law" means that no-one, not even political leaders, is above the law.
3. The US Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal and have certain inalienable rights such as liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
4. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights arose directly from the atrocities committed during WWII.
5. In a parliamentary democracy like Britain or France, the assembly that brings the government to power can also vote a motion of no confidence.
6. Though America lectures the rest of the globe on democracy, half its own population has so little interest in its supposedly democratic system that it does not bother to vote.
7. It took American democracy 86 years to abolish slavery and 144 years to enfranchise women.
8. Even though it holds regular elections, India, often described as the world's largest democracy, is bedevilled by corruption and injustice.
9. British Prime Ministers often leave office with their prestige lower than when they enter Downing Street.
10. Google got a lot of flak when it agreed to filter out politically sensitive information at the request of the Chinese authorities.

Traduire en anglais

1. On raconte que Winston Churchill aurait déclaré que la démocratie est le pire régime politique en dehors de tous les autres.
2. La deuxième moitié du vingtième siècle semble montrer que les régimes autoritaires finissent toujours par s'effondrer.
3. Le Pakistan a connu plusieurs coups d'État au cours des dernières décennies, en 1979 et à nouveau en 1999.
4. Presque tout le monde reconnaît que la démocratie a besoin d'une classe moyenne relativement stable pour prospérer.
5. Le président Lula, qui est arrivé au pouvoir au Brésil en 2003, n'a pas voulu que l'on modifie la constitution pour qu'il puisse se présenter à un troisième mandat.
6. L'idée de Fukuyama selon laquelle l'histoire aurait pris fin avec la chute du mur de Berlin a été très critiquée.
7. Les États-Unis ont toujours eu le sentiment qu'ils avaient pour mission de propager leurs idéaux démocratiques dans tous les pays du monde.
8. Le devoir d'ingérence est né de la nécessité de protéger des civils d'un État donné, même si cela signifie empiéter sur sa souveraineté.
9. La hausse des prix de la nourriture a suscité une vague de mécontentement et des troubles ont éclaté dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement.
10. Les autorités iraniennes ont sévèrement réprimé le mouvement et on dit même que plusieurs manifestants ont été passés à tabac par la police anti-émeutes.

Questions

Which country should be considered as the mother of modern democracy?

In what ways can economic development influence political institutions?

What could Western countries do to get authoritarian regimes such as Iran or China to become more democratic?

01. La traduction des mots suivants ne pose qu'un problème d'orthographe.

1. une junte • 2. le despotisme • 3. un complot • 4. un rebelle • 5. l'aristocratie • 6. la monarchie
7 une oligarchie 8 souverain (adj) 9 se révolter 10 déposer

02. Trouver le suffixe adéquat ou ne rien ajouter pour former des noms.

<i>un dictateur</i>	a dictator	.....	<i>une dictature</i>
<i>autorité</i>	authority	.....	<i>autoritaire</i>
<i>responsable</i>	accountable	.....	<i>responsabilité</i>
<i>mal gérer</i>	to mismanage	.....	<i>mauvaise gestion</i>
<i>gouverner</i>	to govern	.....	<i>gouvernance</i>
<i>censurer</i>	to censor	.....	<i>censure</i>
<i>totalitaire</i>	totalitarian	.....	<i>totalitarisme</i>
<i>manifeste</i>	to demonstrate	.....	<i>manifestant</i>
<i>renverser</i>	to overthrow	.....	<i>renversement</i>
<i>se soulever</i>	to rise up	.....	<i>un soulèvement</i>

03. Compléter les phrases avec la préposition ou particule adéquate.

- The three dissidents were accused of stirring trouble and sentenced to death.
- Riots broke all over the country as a result of severe food shortages.
- Prime Minister Blair had been power for three months when Princess Diana was killed in a car crash.
- The Social Democrats will come office if they win the election in June.
- Several protesters were beaten by plain-clothes policemen.

04. Faire correspondre ces noms: riot, unrest, discontent, demonstration, turmoil à leurs définitions.

- is a feeling of wanting better treatment or an improved situation.
- A is a noisy, violent and uncontrolled public meeting.
- is a political situation in which people protest or behave violently.
- There is a when a group of people march or stand together to show that they disagree with or support something or someone.
- is a state of great anxiety, confusion and disorder.

1. The British Parliament is often described as the Mother of Parliaments because of the adoption of the Westminster Model by many countries of the former Empire. **On dit que le Parlement britannique est la « mère des parlements » parce que le Modèle de Westminster a été adopté par de nombreux pays ayant appartenu à l'Empire.**
2. The phrase "rule of law" means that no-one, not even political leaders, is above the law. **L'expression « état de droit » signifie que personne, pas même les dirigeants politiques, n'est au-dessus de la loi.**
3. The US Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal and have certain inalienable rights such as liberty and the pursuit of happiness. **La Déclaration d'indépendance américaine affirme que tous les hommes sont nés égaux et possèdent certains droits inaliénables comme la liberté et la recherche du bonheur.**
4. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights arose directly from the atrocities committed during WWII. **La Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme est directement issue des atrocités commises pendant la seconde guerre mondiale.**
5. In a parliamentary democracy like Britain or France, the assembly that brings the government to power can also vote a motion of no confidence. **Dans une démocratie parlementaire comme la Grande-Bretagne ou la France, l'assemblée qui porte le gouvernement au pouvoir peut aussi voter une motion de censure.**
6. Though America lectures the rest of the globe on democracy, half its own population has so little interest in its supposedly democratic system that it does not bother to vote. **Bien que l'Amérique donne des leçons de démocratie au reste de la planète, la moitié de ses propres citoyens s'intéressent si peu à ses institutions soi-disant démocratiques qu'ils ne se donnent pas la peine de voter.**
7. It took American democracy 86 years to abolish slavery and 144 years to enfranchise women. **Il a fallu 86 ans à la démocratie américaine pour abolir l'esclavage et 144 ans pour donner le droit de vote aux femmes.**
8. Even though it holds regular elections, India, often described as the world's largest democracy, is bedevilled by corruption and injustice. **Même si des élections y sont régulièrement organisées, l'Inde, que l'on appelle souvent la plus grande démocratie au monde, est minée par la corruption et l'injustice.**
9. British Prime Ministers often leave office with their prestige lower than when they enter Downing Street. **Les premiers ministres britanniques quittent souvent le pouvoir avec un prestige moindre que lorsqu'ils arrivent à Downing Street.**
10. Google got a lot of flak when it agreed to filter out politically sensitive information at the request of the Chinese authorities. **Google a été très critiqué quand il a accepté de filtrer les informations politiquement sensibles à la demande des autorités chinoises.**

1. On raconte que Winston Churchill aurait déclaré que la démocratie est le pire régime politique en dehors de tous les autres. **Winston Churchill is rumoured to have declared that democracy is the worst political system except all the others.**
2. La deuxième moitié du vingtième siècle semble montrer que les régimes autoritaires finissent toujours par s'effondrer. **The second half of the twentieth century suggests that all authoritarian regimes finally collapse.**
3. Le Pakistan a connu plusieurs coups d'État au cours des dernières décennies, en 1979 et à nouveau en 1999. **Pakistan went through several coups in the past few decades, in 1979 and then again in 1999.**
4. Presque tout le monde reconnaît que la démocratie a besoin d'une classe moyenne relativement stable pour prospérer. **Nearly everyone admits that democracy requires a relatively stable middle class to prosper.**
5. Le président Lula, qui est arrivé au pouvoir au Brésil en 2003, n'a pas voulu que l'on modifie la constitution pour qu'il puisse se présenter à un troisième mandat. **President Lula, who came to power in Brazil in 2003, did not want the constitution to be modified so that he could run for a third term.**
6. L'idée de Fukuyama selon laquelle l'histoire aurait pris fin avec la chute du mur de Berlin a été très critiquée. **Fukuyama's idea that history came to an end with the fall of the Berlin Wall has been widely criticized.**
7. Les États-Unis ont toujours eu le sentiment qu'ils avaient pour mission de propager leurs idéaux démocratiques dans tous les pays du monde. **The United States has always felt it had a mission to spread its democratic ideals in every country in the world.**
8. Le devoir d'ingérence est né de la nécessité de protéger des civils d'un État donné, même si cela signifie empiéter sur sa souveraineté. **The duty to interfere was born out of the necessity to protect civilians in a given state, even if this means eroding its sovereignty.**
9. La hausse des prix de la nourriture a suscité une vague de mécontentement et des troubles ont éclaté dans plusieurs pays en voie de développement. **The rise in food prices sparked a wave of discontent and troubles broke out in several developing countries.**
10. Les autorités iraniennes ont sévèrement réprimé le mouvement et on dit même que plusieurs manifestants ont été passés à tabac par la police anti-émeutes. **The Iranian authorities ruthlessly suppressed the movement and it is even said that several protesters were beaten up by anti-riot police.**