**Chapter 2 Notes
(Chapter and notes are both online)**

**I. Terms**

**Autocracy**-a system of government in which one person has all the power to make decisions

**Oligarchy**-a system of government in which power is in the hands of the elite, or a select few

**Democracy** -a system government which is ruled by the people, either directly or indirectly

**II. Two different approaches to "democracy"**

Democracy as a FORM of government - how the government should be run **(PROCEDURAL)**

Democracy as a WAY to secure human rights- what the government should do **(SUBSTANTIVE)**

**A. Procedural Democracy-Focuses on process (rule by majority of people)**

 **(questions 1-3 for direct democracy, 1-4 for indirect)**

1. Who should participate in the government?

2. How much should each participant's vote count?

3. How many votes are needed to make a decision?

4. How would the government respond to public opinion?

**Problem:** in a majority situation, people can destroy other people's rights.

**B. Substantive Democracy-Focuses on Policy (rule for the good of all people)**

1. Protect civil liberties (the freedom "to's" speech/worship

2. Promote civil rights (the freedom "from's" want/fear

**Problem:** Are social rights the same as civil rights? (health care, housing, education)

**III. Ways to Implement Democracy**

**(A) Majoritarian Model-government by the majority if the people**

Popular election of government officials -citizens are expected to choose their representatives wisely and reelect according to the representatives' performance. This should motivate the elected to respond well to the needs of their constituents (the people thee represent).

**expectations/potential problems:** people need to be well informed, people must care about politics, people must actively vote, people should vote on principle not emotion

**(B) Pluralist democracy-People who gain power by uniting together**

Groups that share economic, religious, ethnic, or cultural interests form organizations to support or oppose public policy (interest groups/lobbyists/unions). NAACP, NEA

**expectations/potential problems:** groups respond to the needs of their members and seek to protect their interests through all branches of the government; depending on wealth, some groups may have unfair advantages over others

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**Undemocratic Model-elite Theory (Oligarchy)**

Government decisions are made by a powerful minority that share common characteristics, often wealth and business connections. This can be seen when government officials can be given elite jobs within special interest groups or vice versa-when policy is made based business connections. (Dick Cheny/Halliburton/Billy Tauzin)