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**COURSE CODE:PCS 316**

**COURSE TITLE: CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN THE SOUTH**

**Using specific case study(ies) in the South, discuss how democracy has led to development and conflict.**

What is Democracy ?

Democracy is a form of government in which the people exercise the authority of government. Who people are and how authority is shared among them are core issues for democratic theory, development and constitution. Some cornerstones of these issues are freedom of assembly and speech, inclusiveness and equality, membership, consent, voting, right to life and minority rights. Generally, there are two types of democracy: direct and representative - however, the noun "democracy" has, over time, been modified by more than 3,500 adjectives which suggests that it may have types that can elude and elide this duality. In a direct democracy, the people directly deliberate and decide on legislature. In a representative democracy, the people elect representatives to deliberate and decide on legislature, such as in parliamentary or presidential democracy. Liquid democracy combines elements of these two basic types. The most common decision making approach of democracies has been the majority rule. Others are supermajority and consensus.

What is development ?

Development is economic and social, and as a public sector term it is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region or local community are improved according to targeted goals and objectives. Specifically, economic development is a policy intervention endeavor aiming to improve the well-being of people and economic growth in which there is a phenomenon of market productivity and rise in GDP.

What is conflict ?

A conflict is a clash of interest. The basis of conflict may vary but, it is always a part of society. Basis of conflict may be personal, racial, class, caste, political and international. Conflict in groups often follows a specific course. Routine group interaction is first disrupted by an initial conflict, often caused by differences of opinion, disagreements between members, or scarcity of resources. At this point, the group is no longer united, and may split into coalitions. This period of conflict escalation in some cases gives way to a conflict resolution stage, after which the group can eventually return to routine group interaction.

Everyone is aware that democracy has led to development in America and that its democracy focuses on taking care of their people. Lincoln spoke about government “of the people, by the people and for the people.” Speaking about democracy, we often concentrate on government “of ... [and] by the people.” But Lincoln’s last clause – “for the people” – defines the difference between success and failure; between government and kleptocracies; between governments that get things done and governments that don't get things done. If a democratic government cannot take care of its people it has failed and their failure most times leads to conflict. But for America their democracy has developed them in a way that they are one of the world super powers today. They are socially, politically, culturally, religiously, economically and environmentally developed. America's democracy is very lucky to have elected officials who are dedicated to making the American people great. There are free and fair electoral processes, the respect of human rights as well as political and civil rights, universal adult suffrage and so on and so forth.

In *Democracy, Governance, and Economic Performance: Theory and Evidence*, Yi Feng (2003) also finds that democracy has a positive impact on economic and social development, though mostly through indirect channels. The channels the author describes include policy certainty, political stability, the establishment and enforcement of rules that protect property rights, the promotion of education, the ability to promote private capital, and the reduction of inequality. As we can see what's above it is one of the reasons why democracy has benefited America. A democratic regime is seen as vital in bringing about these indirect benefits because it is a system that provides for regular government change while inhibiting irregular/erratic/unconstitutional change. Yet, as the discussion on the 'development first' school above suggests and as many analysts have also shown (Leftwich 2005, Zakaria 2003, Haggard 1990), these indirect benefits are not the exclusive domain of democracies: (some) authoritarian regimes also seem quite capable of providing stability, the rule of law, the protection of property

rights, and basic social services.

In the Global south, democracy has led to conflict many many times. And one of the reasons is due to high level of corruption perpetuated by those in government.

Let's look at Laurent Gbagbo, a former president of Ivory Coast who didn't want to step down for the newly elected president of Ivory Coast Alassane Ouattara in 2011. He had to be violently challenged before he could step down. However he was arrested in the bunker of the presidential Palace in Abidjan on April 11th 2011.

Nineteen years ago in Angola, the United Nations sought to end a two-decade-long civil war through an election between the governing MPLA led by José Dos Santos and the rebel UNITA movement led by Jonas Savimbi. When UNITA did not win the election, Savimbi declared it flawed and unfair and went back to the bush to resume the war and his acquisition of diamonds. The civil war continued for another decade until Savimbi was killed in 2002.

Democracy has led to conflict a lot of times as a result of the opposition not accepting their loss after the election is over. In 2016 on the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania, the opposition Civic United Front urged its supporters to boycott the election and violent protests broke out. USAID had to cancel the US\$472 million in aid it had planned to give them. Presidents extend or overturn term limits. Laws ban opposition parties. Rival leaders are imprisoned. Voting rights are suppressed. Voting lists are inaccurate. Ruling parties dominate the airwaves. Free speech is muzzled. Thugs threaten voters. Money buys influence. Ballots are stuffed. Electoral officials favor the government. Dispute resolution mechanisms are broken. Rigged elections are important because they can reinforce the legitimacy of corrupt and repressive leaders and solidify their hold on power. And when they try to reinforce their legitimacy and the opposition cannot bear it it leads to war, violent protests, chaos and riots.

With the resource curse also known as the curse of natural resources. In the Global south it has caused so much conflict as a result of inequality in sharing the revenues. Also the powerful few who rigged their way to government want to control it the way they like.