**NAME: ISA EMMANUELLA ADA**

**MATRIC NUMBER: 17/SMS09/046**

**DEPARTMENT: IRD**

**COURSE: PCS 316**

**QUESTION;** Using special case studies in the South, discuss how democracy has led to development.

The word democracy can be loosely translated to mean “a government of the people, by the people and for the people”, a definition by former United States president Abraham Lincoln. According **to Britannica Democracy** means literal rule by the people. The term is derived from the [Greek](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Greek-language/The-Greek-alphabet" \l "ref74650)dēmokratiā, which was coined from dēmos meaning people and kratos meaning rule in the middle of the 5th century BCE to denote the [political systems](https://www.britannica.com/topic/political-system) then existing in some Greek [city-states](https://www.britannica.com/topic/city-state), notably [Athens](https://www.britannica.com/place/Athens) (Britannica, 2020).

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components.  The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment (Sid Israel, 2018).

Conflicts are generally defined as relational disputes between two or more parties. “ The clashing of opposed principles (Oxford Dictionary, 2020). According to the Cambridge English Dictionary, conflict is an active disagreement between people with opposing opinions or principles

There is a strong relationship between democracy and development, once people start to acquire higher levels of economic development and social maturity, they will begin to seek more accountability from their governments, thus achieving better development. An educated and growing middle class is more likely to demand an active role in the running of their country, to the extent that even repressive governments will have but little option to resist such demands and become more democratic. This assumption is maybe more visible in a country such as South Africa, where the fall of apartheid in 1991 and the subsequent attainment of independence in 1994 led to a growing middle class and educated black community, who now demand and expect more responsibility from their government (ACCORD, 2017). Democracy can determine how development and conflict resolution can be iimplementeted.

Currently the strategy for promoting internal peace favored by the international community is to promote democracy, the rationale being that democratic accountability lowers incentives for rebellion. Democracy also constrains the technical possibilities of government repression, and that this makes rebellion easier. Although the net effect of democracy is therefore ambiguous, the higher is income the more likely is it to be favorable. Empirically, in rich countries democracy makes countries safer, below an income threshold democracy increases proneness to political violence. These results hold for a wide variety of forms of political violence.

According to various research, civil wars are most likely to breakout in semi-democratic countries with low income (Hoeffler, 2004). Regarding democracy and conflict relations, democracies are much less likely to fight each other than are other types of regimes. Conflict may occurs when people of different cultures, religions, regions or economic backgrounds do not get along with each other, or when some among them feel they are being discriminated against. People may use violent means to settle their differences.

The level of a country's economic development mediates the relationship between political violence and political regime type (Collier and Rohner, 2008). Kenya has made more progress toward democracy, and democratization is associated with an increase in political violence and contestation in lower income countries (Collier and Rohner, 2008).

It is important to note that developments and democracy cannot coexist in a state of conflict. Using countries of Africa for instance, the Federal Republic of Nigeria for instance, were democracy and development a far fetched achieved goals. Which can be attributed to the increase rate off violence by Fulani herds men and Boko Haram terrorists. In contrast to the United States of America, where peace and security has been largely archived, democracy and development also have and are equally adequately sustained.

Using specific case studies, in 2019 democracy declined globally, on the African continent and more particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, the average score for the region fell from 4.36 in 2018 to 4.26 in 2019, the worst score since 2010. In 2018, only Mauritius ranks in the “Full Democracy" category, ahead of France and the United States (ACCORD, 2020). Using the state of the Republic of Mauritius, an [island nation](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island_nation) in the [Indian Ocean](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean) about 2,000 kilometers off the south-east coast of the [African](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa) continent, with its capital as Port Louis. Although some scholars have argue that democracy in Mauritius is an unfinished business it is still the leading most democratic country in Africa, and this status has relatively increase it’s developmental status. Other African countries such as Cape Verde, Botswana, South Africa, Ghana, Tunisia, Namibia, Zambia and Tanzania have equally attained a good level of democracy which as a result has began to increase the level of development in these various States.

**REFERENCE**

* Britannica (2020). Democracy- international system. Britannica Press.
* Cambridge dictionary (2020). Conflict. Cambridge University Press.
* Kizito Sikuka (2017). Is there a link between democracy and development? ACCORD.
* Researchgate(2008). Democracy, Development and Conflict. Journal of the European Economic Association.
* Sid Israel (2018). What is development?. Pears Foundation.