## Democracy versus Autocracy Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison Element</th>
<th>Democracy</th>
<th>Autocracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meaning of Term</strong></td>
<td>From Greek – Demos means “people” and Kratos means “power” or “authority”.</td>
<td>From Greek – Auto means “self” and Kratos means “power” or “authority”.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>The power and strength of the government are given to it by the people.</td>
<td>One person or group holds all the power, without the participation, or sometimes even the consent, of the people.</td>
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</tbody>
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| ** Freedoms & Rights** | Identified in country’s constitution and created by laws. | ▪ Determined by person or group in power  
▪ Often severely restrictive to suppress opponents.  
▪ Vary based on religion, sex, status etc.  
▪ Books, magazines censored by government  
▪ Ability to express one’s point of view, to assemble etc. often limited. |
| **Examples** | United States  
Iraq  
England  
Poland  
Italy | Cuba – dictatorship run by a single individual  
Denmark – monarchy run by a King  
Iran – dictatorship run by religious group  
China – dictatorship run by Communist party  
Venezuela – dictatorship run by a single individual |
| **Constitution** | Document that describes how a government is organized and the basic laws of the country. Usually requires a large majority of the people to change. | Similar but can be easily changed or simply ignored by those in power to suit their needs. |
| **How Leaders Come to Power** | Elected (by voting) by the people to hold office for a specific length of time. | Sometimes by force – one group overthrows another group.  
Sometimes leadership is “inherited” as in case of:  
▪ governments headed by king or queen and their sons or daughters become king or queen  
▪ dictatorship where dictator picks his successor – often a family member. |