



MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA

# Democracy and Political Representation

Jiří Baroš

# Democracy and Political Representation

- What is Democracy?
- Non-governmental Organizations vs. Political Parties

# Democracy and Political Representation

- **What is Democracy?**
- Non-governmental Organizations vs. Political Parties

# What is Democracy?

- Ideal vs. Reality
- Classical Conceptions of Democracy
- Two Contemporary Trends

# What is Democracy?

- **Ideal vs. Reality**
- Classical Conceptions of Democracy
- Two Contemporary Trends

# Ideal vs. Reality

- a love-hate relationship with democracy
- democracy as a political ideal

vs.

- democracy on the ground

# What is Democracy?

- Ideal vs. Reality
- Classical Conceptions of Democracy
- Two Contemporary Trends

# Classical Conceptions

- The *Aggregative View*
- Minimalism





# The Aggregative View

- **equal-vote majoritarianism:** each political actor gets exactly one vote, each vote is given equal weight, and the majority rules.
- mathematical task of counting up the votes

# Minimalism

- the ideal of **anti-tyranny** X it is too minimal to capture the ideal of self-government among equals (small ruling class, social hierarchy)
- **pluralism** X background culture of vast inequalities

# What is Democracy?

- Ideal vs. Reality
- Classical Conceptions of Democracy
- Two Contemporary Trends

# Two Trends

- Participationism
- Deliberativism

# Participationism

- a robust conception of citizenship
- equal-vote majoritarianism supplemented by broad social support for democratic activity
- little remedy if unequal social standing (due to the prevalence of bigotry, discrimination, and unjust bias in the background culture)

# Deliberativism I

- collective decision-making is responsive to citizen's reasons
- only reasons that the fellow citizens could adopt as their own = reason is shareable = **public reason**
- democratic deliberation gives due consideration to the public reasons and examines them

## Deliberativism II

- how to construe a distinction between public and non public reasons? The impossibility of the sociological criterion
- public reason when it is consistent with the freedom and equality of all citizens. Still, what is freedom and equality?

# Deliberativism III

- Deliberative Democracy requires too many meetings
- Are citizens willing to deliberate publicly?
- Is democracy a Philosophy classroom?
- Unjustly exclusionary communicative norms: It privileges the political view of the advantages social classes.



# Democracy and Political Representation

- What is Democracy?
- Non-governmental Organizations vs. Political Parties

# Representative Turn

- Constructing the Represented
- Creation of the Images of the People and Their Interests
- Representative Claims
- Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Movements

# Political Parties

- Non-Sovereignty
- Indifference towards Democracy
- Output-Oriented Legitimacy (Good Government)
- Constitutional versus Popular Democracy
- Democracy and Political Parties