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## 5 features of democracy

The features included in the combined model include: an individual mandate, insurance market reforms, premium subsidies for low-income populations, mandatory Section 125 plans, an employer mandate, and a creditable coverage requirement. Individual mandate. All individuals would be required to obtain health insurance coverage or pay a penalty equal to one half the cost of coverage (less any subsidy they could have received). The mandate would be enforced through automatic enrollment facilitated through the tax system, other income tested programs, and schools. Individuals in families with incomes between 300% and 600% FPL would be exempt from the mandate, and could elect to remain uninsured, if the cost of coverage exceeded a certain percentage of income, ranging from 5.5% for the lowest income families to 8.6% for higher income families. Insurance market reforms. The insurance market would be modified to assure that all individuals can obtain coverage. The reform would require guaranteed issue, so that no one could be turned down for coverage for any reason. Also, premiums could not be varied based on health status. These protections would ensure individuals could obtain the necessary coverage to meet the individual mandate requirements. Premium subsidies. Premium subsidies would be provided for individuals in families earning up to 300% FPL. Those with income below 150% FPL would receive fully subsidized premiums, while those with incomes between 150% and 300% FPL would receive a partial subsidy that decreases as income increases. The amount of the individual contribution to the premium would be equal to between 2 and 5 percent of income, with the remainder being covered by the subsidy. Mandatory Section 125 plans. Employers with 10 or more workers would be required to create Section 125 plans so that their employees could purchase health insurance coverage using pre-tax dollars. Employer mandate. Like the Massachusetts program, employers would be assessed a \$295 fair share contribution for each employee who does not have health insurance coverage. Firms are not assessed the fee if they offer coverage to all employees and pay at least 33% of the premium. Uninsured workers of firms who pay the assessment are not automatically enrolled into an alternate coverage program. The assessments would be used to fund, in part, the premium subsidies for low-income families (see above). Creditable coverage. The mandate for coverage includes a defined benefits package, which must be met to meet the coverage obligation and to receive the premium subsidy (for those eligible). The benefit package required to be eligible for the subsidy is modeled after the Massachusetts Commonwealth care plans, described in the Health Insurance Premium Subsidy Programs section. For those not eligible for the subsidy, creditable coverage would be a benefit package that is actuarially equivalent to the Federal employees' BlueCross Blue Shield standard plan. This is estimated to have an actuarial value at approximately the 60th percentile of employer health plans (Lewin, 2008). Excluded features. The features of the Massachusetts plan that were not included in our combined model consist of an expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), improved Medicaid and SCHIP provider payment rates, and the creation of a health insurance "connector" program. Alexander Hamilton, one of the framers of the U.S. Constitution, was far from comfortable at the thought of instituting a democracy. Democracy was, in Hamilton's opinion and those of many others at the time, tantamount to mob rule. The idea of a large, diverse group of people attempting to govern itself invoked images of gangs tarring and feathering the local tax collector. That's not government, went the argument. That's lawlessness.What Hamilton endorsed instead was a strong, centralized government run for the benefit of the whole by an elite ruling class [source: Wright and MacGregor]. That seems miles away from American democracy, though it's pretty much how the United States operates. The U.S. system of government is a republic, a type of democracy in which elected officials carry out the will of the people. These officials, called politicians, should know more about issues that face the society and how the government functions than the average citizen does. This means they're entrusted to speak on behalf of the people they represent. The citizens bestow their trust by voting officials into office.A true democracy is slightly different. In a democracy, the will of the people serves as the basis for collective decisions. It's also called self-governance. Each member of the population expresses his or her opinion on each issue through voting. Since all votes are equal, the opinion held by the most members is considered the will of the majority. That's what becomes law.In this sense, the U.S., which serves as the model for democracies around the world, can't use its 250 years of existence as proof that democracy works in practice. Also keeping the U.S. from serving as a true democratic model is the argument that it hasn't been even a republican democracy for more than a couple of decades.One of the tenets of a democracy is that all members of the society must be equal. For the democracy to function, this equality must be present in the individual vote. Author N.D. Jayaprakash points out that in the U.S., groups have been disenfranchised from the right to vote. Initially, only white men wealthy enough to own land could vote, then all white men, then African-American men. It wasn't until 1920 that women gained the right to vote, and because of post-Reconstruction Jim Crow laws, blacks were effectively barred from voting until the 1960s. Jayaprakash argues that it wasn't until the mid-1990s, when the National Voter Registration Act came into effect, that most Americans enjoyed wide access to exercise their right to vote [source: Jayaprakash].All of this is to say that the democratic experiments represented by nations like the U.S. and others don't necessarily serve as true examples of democracies. Those that do are still too young to act as any real proof of whether a true democracy works. But what about theoretically? Feature articles at TheBestSchools.org provide a window into the world of college and university education. These articles help you in figuring out how best to pursue your studies and get your degree. Which technology leaders are driving us toward a better digital future? These computer scientists are the ones you should know. Do you? 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Examples of Scope & Delimitation 1 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day: What Was the Armenian Genocide? 2 Life After COVID-19: What Will Summer Look Like? 3 What Are the Five Stages of Perception? 4 A Brief Guide to High Absolute Monocytos 5 Can You Have a Pet Raccoon — and Are Raccoons Good Pets? 1 What Are Athena's Personality Traits? 2 30 Animals on the Brink of Extinction 3 Why Is the United States Postal Service in So Much Debt? 4 What Does a Soft Shoulder Sign Mean? 5 What Is Delimitation in Research? Examples of Scope & Delimitation Autocracy vs. Dictatorship Autocracy and dictatorship were once used interchangeably to describe a form of government. However, many differences set these two forms of governing apart. Most autocratic regimes are viewed as being favorable. Dictatorships are always seen as being tyrannical and oppressive. In an autocracy, a single person makes all the decisions for a group of people. In a dictatorship, one person or a group of people may be responsible for making all actions. Autocratic forms of government are seen as being friendly and nonthreatening. Dictatorships are seen as being cult-like and often cruel in nature. How Is an Autocratic Leader Selected There are two main ways to achieve autocratic leadership. The first is to inherit the position. This often happens when an autocrat dies or is unable to fulfill their duties. The leader will pass the responsibilities and leadership role to a son or close relative. The second way to achieve autocratic leadership is to overthrow the government. This is very different than the democratic way of government in which the citizens hold an election and votes are cast to determine the officials that will hold the government seats. Strengths When structured properly, autocratic leadership has many benefits. These forms of government can make decisions quickly, even in stressful situations. This is due to them following the same guidelines without welcoming changes. There is always a clear chain of command. This prevents confusion and oversights when carrying out actions. The leadership is often seen as being strong and directive when necessary. Weaknesses While autocratic leadership does display many benefits, it can have its negative aspects as well. This form of government does not welcome group input. Many leaders view group members as not being trustworthy when carrying out duties and responsibilities. Some autocratic countries have seen impaired morale among the people. This results in resentment of the leader. Creative thinking and ideas are discouraged. This causes autocratic-led countries to lack in areas such as technology and education. Autocratic Countries Around the Globe There have been many autocratic led countries that have changed their form of government over the years. However, you will still find many countries that still honor this type of government system. Some modern autocratic countries seen around the world today include: Egypta North Korea Venezuela Oman Brunei United Arab Emirates Turkey Saudi Arabia Eswatini Cuba Turkey is a democracy with a tradition going back to 1945, when the authoritarian presidential regime set up by the founder of the modern Turkish state, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, gave place to a multi-party political system. A traditional ally of the U.S., Turkey, has one of the healthiest democratic systems in the Muslim world, although with considerable deficits on the issue of the protection of minorities, human rights, and the freedom of the press. The Republic of Turkey is a parliamentary democracy where political parties compete at elections every five years to form the government. The president is elected directly by the voters, but his position is largely ceremonial, with real power concentrated in the hands of the prime minister and his cabinet. Turkey has had a tumultuous, but for the most part, peaceful political history after World War II, marked with tensions between left and right-wing political groups, and more recently between the secular opposition and the ruling Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP, in power since 2002). Political divisions have led to bouts of unrest and army interventions over the past decades. Nevertheless, Turkey today is a fairly stable country, where the vast majority of political groups agree that political competition should stay within the framework of a democratic parliamentary system. The statues of Ataturk are ubiquitous in Turkey's public squares, and the man who in 1923 founded the Turkish Republic still bears a strong imprint on the country's politics and culture. Ataturk was a staunch secularist, and his quest for modernization of Turkey rested on a strict division of state and religion. The ban on women wearing the Islamic headscarf in public institutions remains the most visible legacy of Ataturk's reforms, and one of the main dividing lines in the cultural battle between secular and religiously conservative Turks. As an army officer, Ataturk awarded a strong role to the military which after his death became a self-styled guarantor of Turkey's stability and, above all, of the secular order. To this end, the generals launched three military coups (in 1960, 1971, 1980) to restore political stability, each time returning the government to civilian politicians after a period of interim military rule. However, this interventionist role awarded the military with the great political influence which eroded Turkey's democratic foundations. The military's privileged position began to diminish significantly after the coming of power of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2002. An Islamist politician armed with a firm electoral mandate, Erdogan pushed through ground-breaking reforms which asserted the predominance of civilian institutions of the state over the army. Despite decades of multi-party democracy, Turkey routinely attracts international attention for its poor human rights record and the denial of some of the basic cultural rights to its Kurdish minority (app. 15-20% of the population). Kurds: In 1984, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) launched an armed rebellion for an independent Kurdish homeland in Turkey's southeast. Over 30 000 were killed in the fighting, while thousands of Kurdish activists were tried for alleged crimes against the state. The Kurdish issue remains unresolved, but promising peace talks resulted in 2013 in a partial demobilization of the PKK. Human Rights: Draconian legislation used to bolster the fight against the Kurdish separatists has also been used to target journalists and human rights campaigners critical of the military and the state. Judges have used laws penalizing vaguely defined offenses, such as "denigrating Turkishness," to shut down dissent, while mistreatment in jail is common. The Rise of the Islamists: The AKP of Prime Minister Erdogan projects an image of a moderate Islamist party, socially conservative but tolerant, pro-business and open to the world. Erdogan embraced the Arab Spring protests in 2011, offering Turkey as a model of democratic development. However, many secular groups are feeling increasingly sidelined by the AKP, accusing Erdogan of amassing ever more power and using his parliamentary majority gradually to Islamize the society. In mid-2013, frustration with Erdogan's leadership style escalated into mass anti-government protests.

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