

DOWNLOAD PDF ELUSIVE DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE SECULAR REPUBLIC

Chapter 1 : India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic? – A reality check - www.nxgvision.com

Democratization definition, to make or become democratic. See more.

It was a tough time for the whole region: The British, victorious out of the First World War, was gradually penetrating into the region. Different ethnic groups and political movements were struggling over each village. Interestingly enough, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was proclaimed by the National Council in Tiflis Tbilisi , the capital of another newborn state, Georgia. To cover its sovereignty over the entire Azerbaijan, the founding fathers not only built a new army but also requested military aid from the Ottoman Empire. Terribly defeated Ottomans with their resources exhausted, however, managed to dispatch an army to the Caucasus, which, during the entire summer of liberated the Azerbaijani lands from different political groups Bolsheviks , ultranationalistic movements Dashnaks and various gangs, finally victoriously entering Baku in September. Within short time, the main state institutions were built and divided into three branches of governance. Six months into the independence, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic also celebrated a parliament which reflected all ethnic and religious groups in the country 80 seats to the titular ethnic group, Azerbaijanis, 21 – Armenians, 10 – Russians, 1 – Germans, 1- Jews, 1 – Georgians, 1 to Poles. The newly-formed republic faced challenges almost in all spheres. A national army was set up for protecting the territorial integrity, a task which it fulfilled by restoring sovereignty in a number of territories, including Karabakh. Education was paid big attention to, with old schools were being modernized or replaced by new ones. An important milestone became the opening of Baku State University in , making it the first modern university in the territory of Azerbaijan. Despite hardships and financial shortages, the Azerbaijani authorities sent young people to various educational institutions in Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom. A big achievement in democratization process was the abolition of censorship, a remnant of czarist period. Another big achievement, which laid foundation of a democratic and secular statehood in Azerbaijan, was women suffrage. By granting women the right to vote in , the same year as Poland did, Azerbaijan, however, pioneered the universal suffrage before the Benelux countries , the United States , France and Italy From the very outset, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic conducted an active foreign policy. Besides building bilateral relations with a number of countries, establishing and hosting numerous diplomatic missions, the Azerbaijani government also sought international recognition at the highest level. A delegation sent to the Paris Peace Conference met with world leaders, including Woodrow Wilson, who initiated the first discussion of the Azerbaijani question at the Council of the Four in May Although Wilson, who had presented the concept of self-determination for ethnic groups from former empires, failed to proceed with the Azerbaijani issue, he himself later recounted his meeting with Azerbaijani delegates. In his September speech in San Francisco, Wilson outlined his positive impression of Azerbaijani delegation: Well, one day there came in a very dignified and interesting group of gentlemen who were from Azerbaijan. But I did find this out immediately: At the initiative of the British side, the Paris Peace Conference issued a resolution of de facto recognition of the Azerbaijani government by the Allies and the Entente in January This recognition, historic, albeit came very late. Despite the fall, the national idea that bore during the month independence survived and revived the independent Azerbaijan towards the end of the 20th century. Having restored its independence in , the Azerbaijan Republic declared herself a successor state of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Under circumstances when the South Caucasus became a scene confrontation among the various powers, both dying and triumphing in the world war, and when the Azerbaijani people became subject to ethnic cleansing by neighboring nationalists, a bunch of progressive, Western-minded people proclaimed the first parliamentary republic in the Muslim East. Thus, 28 May is not only an Azerbaijani date; it should be an important date throughout the whole Orient as it celebrated democratic and republican values. And these values will be a guiding star for many peoples into the 21st century.

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Chapter 2 : The Elusive Republic : The Pensive Quill

The Elusive Republic Wednesday, August 27, 4 comments Guest writer Liam O'Ruairc with a piece that takes a critical look at the concept of republicanism.

Republicanism is ideologically elusive – the Republic of Plato is not that of Philip Pettit and Irish republicanism is very different from republicanism in France for example. A leading republican once told me that if you asked the eight members of his cumann what the three cardinal principles of Irish republicanism were, the result would likely be 24 different answers. So what is this republic to which republicans in Ireland claim allegiance to? In the strict sense, an Irish Republican was one who gave allegiance to the County Republic of Easter and who denied the right of the British government to rule here. For the Republican Movement then, a Republican today is one who rejects the Partition Statelets in Ireland and gives his allegiance to and seeks to restore the County Republic of Easter Week. Sinn Fein, , 3 The Proclamation of the Irish Republic on 24 April thus is the foundation of the republican position. The Republic is a reality, not an aspiration. The all-island Irish Republic proclaimed in exists as of right, and that right can be "asserted in arms" until an independent government for the whole island is established – all this of course incompatible with the Belfast Agreement. Splits and splinters happened once some political actors decided to abandon the high ground of the Republic for the practical acceptance of partitionist institutions, dis-establishing the Republic in order to restore it. But what authorized the seven signatories? The seven signatories of the Proclamation were at the moment of signing not democratically authorized to play this role. What authority could possibly be claimed by the signatories? There is an indecidibility between the constative and the performative. All this can hold only in the act of the signature. The signatures invent the signer. The representatives sign on behalf of the people, but the people do not exist before the signature. The authority of the people is only conjured through a retroactive affirmation. The subject of the Proclamation is radically unstable. What applies to the American Declaration of Independence also applies to the Proclamation of the Republic: One can understand this Declaration as a vibrant act of faith, as an hypocrisy indispensable to any political, military, or economic coup de force, etc, or, more simply, more economically, as the deployment of a tautology: Such is the recourse to a "transcendental signified", a power that underwrites those signatures and gives them the force an authorizing word immune to the vagaries of historical circumstances. Questions of legitimacy are pushed out of sight by the mystique of origins. Also one must look at the legitimacy of the claim for the notion of "people" by a given political group. The philosopher Alain Badiou has examined the very grammar of the phrases that effectuates this claim. In other words, when the very notion of "people" is forbidden to those who claim it as in the case of colonisation for example. What are we to think for example of: In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.? Badiou thinks that the "people" always refer to a minority, not necessarily in terms of number, but rather in terms of relationships of power: La Fabrique, The claim that in the strict sense, an Irish Republican is one who gave allegiance to the County Republic of Easter can be challenged as a republican position can be derived from an alternative and far more radical source. The Proclamation was after all the second time an Irish Republic had been declared by the same organisation. God, invoked twice in is entirely absent. The references to the country are concrete: On the other hand, the Proclamation does mention certain things absent in The Proclamation resists ideas of either religious or ethnic solidarity as the basis for the Irish Republic. It is explicitly secular. On the other hand it claims a common cause with the English working class. It has been difficult to maintain an alternative legitimacy based on the Republic proclaimed in because the growing acceptance of the identification of the Republic with the County state. It is however a mistake to assume that the County state is a continuation of the Republic that was proclaimed in The founding act of the County state are two Acts of the Westminster parliament: Claiming that this was obvious on the facts, he observed

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trenchantly: The State is what it is, not what I say or think it is. We are a democracy with the ultimate sovereign power resting with the people – a representative democracy with the various organs of State functioning under a written Constitution, with the executive authority controlled by Parliament, with an independent judiciary functioning under the Constitution and the law, and with a Head of State directly elected by the people for a definite term of office. Ivana Bacik, Is Ireland really a republic? Irish Journal of Public Policy, 1: On 18 April the Republic of Ireland was proclaimed a third time in less than a century, this time officially. If the first Proclamation in can be read as a critique from the left of the Proclamation, the third Proclamation in can be read as a critique of it from the right. The whole business is bunkum pure and simple. The Republic of Ireland was proclaimed in arms on Easter Monday It has never since been disestablished; the Declaration of Independence has never been revoked! Why set up the scarecrow of a 26 Counties Republic decorated with bunting to make as many people as possible believe that it is what it seems to be? The difference between the de jure Republic and the de facto republic which has been central to the history of Irish republicanism over the last century has in fact become blurred in the eyes of the majority of the population. In legal terms, the Proclamation of and the Declaration of Independence have as much weight as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Finally, one must ask what the parameters of the debate are for Irish republicanism. Are they essentially between the County Republic of Easter and the Republic of Ireland proclaimed in or more fundamentally about the origin, nature, and exercise of authority and rights ; the polemic between Edmund Burke and Tom Paine?

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Chapter 3 : Republic | Define Republic at www.nxgvision.com

The Preamble says - "We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, SECULAR, DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC " Sovereign. 1. India is neither a dependency (colony) nor a dominion of any other nation. 2. It is free independent state and can conduct its internal and external affairs freely. 3.

Share via Email Eve, a rape survivor who has fought for justice in DRC, where thousands of girls and women are raped each year. As she made her way to her seat, they got up and stood in her path. They scratched her, yanked her long hair back, and hit her. That gave her courage. No sleep for Congolese mothers trying to save their girls from rape Read more The first time her father raped her she had not met him many times. Then, her father came back. They did it in front of me. When they finished, my father started touching me. I was very scared and felt weak. He made me lie on the bed and began doing that to me. Thousands of girls and women are raped each year in DRC. In the east, a region that has been at war on and off since , many of the rapists are armed rebels, soldiers and police officers, using sexual violence as a weapon to keep local communities subdued. Respect for elders, however, is still a cornerstone of Congolese society. So Eve was unusual in that she stood up to her father from the beginning. I told him I would tell [someone]. He ordered me not to, and he bought [me and Lydia] phones and clothes. Then, one day, he told Eve he was taking her back to his home to go to school. The rapes became much more frequent. When I refused he would beat me. People wondered why he beat me so much. Her father was raping another young relative, who told her family what had happened. Very often, rape survivors are abandoned by their families, which in the Congolese context of poverty and war, where family and community are the only support systems, means they are left to starve. A staff member at her school noticed her crying and, after years of abuse, Eve told someone her story. Her father was arrested and imprisoned and Eve had to decide whether to press charges. Despite getting no support from her family, she decided to take him to court. Officials are paid off, and a weak jail system means many prisoners escape or pay their way out. Successful prosecutions are few and far between. Mobile hearings, where a court visits a village for a few days to hear local cases out in the open " so that villagers see justice working in person and witness their neighbours being publicly punished " have been shown to work well. Moreover, because they are funded by NGOs and the UN rather than the government, they are not sustainable. Amid these obstacles to justice, impunity reigns. Eve was fortunate that the magistrate referred her to the ABA, which provided a lawyer. It has provided legal counsel to roughly 21, survivors , of whom about half have filed cases. Of these, about 2, have gone to trial, with 1, convictions so far. She felt sure she would win. She knew not to hope for reparations, as they are seldom paid in DRC. But she hoped to be able to get on with her life. She dreamed of training to be a lawyer, and helping other girls in her position. The trial proceedings ended, but there was no verdict. For months she heard nothing, and presumed her father was still in prison. She then got a phone call from her father. The ABA told her he had been acquitted. He may have paid off court officials. Instead of giving rights to the person who needs it, they give them to the person in the wrong " to the rapist. All this for money. A local organisation is considering giving her a bursary to study law. But I am still afraid that my father will come back and find me. The ABA will support me and it will end. I have confidence in the God I pray to.

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Chapter 4 : Muslim Reformers in Iran and Turkey : Gunes Murat Tezcur :

Moderation theory describes the process through which radical political actors develop commitments to electoral competition, political pluralism, human rights, and rule of law and come to prefer negotiation, reconciliation, and electoral politics over provocation, confrontation, and contentious action.

There has been a surge in economic growth and soaring land prices but poverty still lingers in the background. There are million jobs being created each day as tons of projects are being outsourced, but then we also have people who make less than INR a month. Time for some trivia, although India obtained its independence on August 15, , the Constitution of India came into effect only on January 26, The Republic Day of India therefore marks the adoption of the Constitution of India and the transition of India from a British Dominion to a democratic republic. On this august occasion we had the father of the Indian Constitution Dr. OK I apologize that sounds like a line out of a zombie movie. Oh yea your constitution, we love it so much that we take great pride in breaking every rule in it. Remember a constitution never ages, it just undergoes a make over with the changing times. Oh we shall get to the interesting parts pretty soon, but lets see you make a scorecard of how successfully the constitution has been adopted. So how sovereign do you think we are today? Do you feel that we are free from the control of any foreign power and internally? One should however not forget that we have a free government which is directly elected by the people and the laws govern our people. Spoken like a true jurist, but what would you say about being socialist? Social and economic equality have quite sadly not been implemented as well as we would have wished to. We would like everyone to have equal status and rights but we still see discrimination based on caste, sex, religion and language as well. We have however tried to make an effort for economic equality and every citizen has the right to improve their condition based on merit. Times were bad then and if you would remember I was denied a decent cremation owing to my caste. Hence the proposal was to give people from lower castes a better shot to improve their life and benefit the community. It was supposed to be like your introductory offers that has been renewed and extended every time. Not the reference that I was looking for, though the analogy of a physically abused whore would seem more pertinent. What would you have to say about being secular then do you see religious equality? Officially we have no state religion and every person has the right to preach, practice and propagate any religion they choose. However all citizens irrespective of religion are still equal in the eyes of law. You might however be happy that we are atleast a democratic state and the largest democracy int the world. You might be happy about India being a republic as well though people hate to let go of power till their legs give way. This prevents the youth from entering politics and leaves many disillusioned. Would you still see it as a reason to celebrate or just as a holiday and a reason for people abroad to bring out their ethnic wear and some good food? Baba my friend, you grilled me on many things but seemed to shy away from the most important of them all. You see the power is clearly with the people and the constitution is just to help serve them. You need people to stand against the oppression, you need leaders whom the people can believe in. We need a leader full of youth and exuberance who exudes confidence and make people believe once again. The youth need to be encouraged for only they can clean the quagmire that we are in today. Ah Ambedkarji you have earned new respect from us. We shall all look forward with renewed faith as we hope to rise once again from the ashes. Indian Army â€” Madras regiment, Courtesy:

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Chapter 5 : Democratization | Define Democratization at www.nxgvision.com

Muslim Reformers in Iran and Turkey TezcÅ¼r, GÅ¼nes Murat Published by University of Texas Press TezcÅ¼r, Murat. *Muslim Reformers in Iran and Turkey: The Paradox of Moderation*.

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Islamist politicians often pursued pragmatic policies at the expense of ideological consistency and integrity. They entered into coalitions and electoral alliances with parties they had previously condemned in the s and s. As strategic actors seeking votes and political office, Muslim politicians faced the dilemma of challenging the legitimacy of the secular regime while acting under legal constraints. From a comparative perspective, the authoritarian conditions that played into the hands of radical Islamists in the late s in Iran were absent in Turkey. Islamists failed to mobilize a broad coalition against the secular regime in the pluralistic and highly competitive Turkish political environment. A primary reason for this failure was the diversity of Muslim responses to Turkish secularist modernization, ranging from enthusiastic acceptance to passive resistance, from pragmatic accommodation to outright opposition. Islamists had to contend with this diversity, which often favored center-right parties, to mobilize a sustained and direct challenge to the modernity project by the republic. They had to constantly negotiate with popular Sufi sheiks and brotherhoods and state-appointed clergy in their quest for popular support. The fact that popular and Sufi religious identities did not always overlap with political identities propagated by the Islamists limited the appeal of Islamist political parties. Besides , a full understanding of the evolution of Islamic politics requires a focus on center-right parties in Turkish politics. Center-right parties contributed to the development of a competitive and pluralistic political environment in two ways. First, they were instrumental in the integration of marginalized conservative and pious citizens into the legal and electoral system in the s and s. Second, they limited the appeal of Islamists. The Pivotal Player in Turkish Politics According to an influential paradigm, the prevailing cleavage in Turkish politics was the struggle between center and periphery at least until the s. In contrast, the periphery, which was led by elites who had defected from the RPP and represented rural peasants and nascent commercial and industrialist classes, had a more lax understanding of secularism and was more receptive to popular demands and tolerant toward religion. The Democratic Party DP , representing the periphery and supported by the Turkish bourgeoisie, came to power in and won three consecutive elections before being overthrown by a military coup in These freedoms include, among others, the unfettered dissemination of religious knowledge. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

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Chapter 6 : Project MUSE - Muslim Reformers in Iran and Turkey

Democratic Republic: A republic is a country where the head of the state (the President in our case) is elected to a term of office and not appointed to life based on birthright. A democracy is a political system where power rests with the people.

Historic background[edit] The preamble is based on the Objectives which was drafted and moved in the Constituent Assembly by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December. Ambedkar said about the preamble: It was, indeed, a way of life, which recognizes liberty, equality, and fraternity as the principles of life and which cannot be divorced from each other: Liberty cannot be divorced from equality; equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity. Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty would kill individual initiative. Without fraternity, liberty and equality could not become a natural course of things. However, the same court, in the Kesavananda case, overruled earlier decisions and recognised that the preamble may be used to interpret ambiguous areas of the constitution where differing interpretations present themselves. As originally enacted the preamble described the state as a "sovereign democratic republic", to which the terms "Secular" and "Socialist" were later added by the 42nd Amendment. The calligraphy was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.

Sovereignty [edit] Sovereignty means the independent authority of a State. It means that it has the power to legislate on any subject; and that it is not subject to the control of any other State or external power. Sovereignty denotes supreme and ultimate power. It may be real or normal, legal or political, individual or pluralistic. In monarchies, sovereignty was vested in the person of monarchs. But in republican form of governments, which mostly prevail in the contemporary world, sovereignty is shifted to the elected representatives of the people. Sovereignty, in short, means the independent authority of a state. It has two aspects- external and internal. External sovereignty or sovereignty in international law means the independence of a state of the will of other states, in her conduct with other states in the committee of nations. Sovereign in its relation between states and among states signifies independence. The external sovereignty of India means that it can acquire foreign territory and also cede any part of the Indian territory, subject to limitations if any imposed by the constitution. On the other hand, internal sovereignty refers to the relationship between the states and the individuals within its territory. Internal sovereignty relates to internal and domestic affairs, and is divided into four organs, namely, the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the administrative. Though India became a sovereign country on 26 January, having equal status with the other members of the international community, she decided to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations. Her membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and that of the United Nations Organization do not affect her sovereignty to any extent. It is merely a voluntary association of India and it is open to India to cut off this association at her will, and that it has no constitutional significance.

Socialist [edit] Before the term was added by the 42nd Amendment in 1978, the Constitution had socialist content in the form of certain Directive Principles of State Policy. The term socialist as used here refers to democratic socialism, i.e. Essentially, it means that since wealth is generated socially wealth should be shared equally by society through distributive justice, not concentrated in the hands of few, and that the government should regulate the ownership of land and industry to reduce socio-economic inequalities.

Secular [edit] Secular means that the relationship between the government and religious groups are determined according to constitution and law. It separates the power of the state and religion. By the 42nd Amendment in 1978, the term "Secular" was also incorporated in the Preamble. There is no difference of religion in India. All the citizens of India are allowed to profess, practice and propagate any religion. Explaining the meaning of secularism as adopted by India, Alexander Owics has written, "Secularism is a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution and it means equal freedom and respect for all religions. Every citizen of India 18 years of age and above and not otherwise debarred by law is entitled to vote.

Republic [edit] In a republican form of government, the head of state is elected and not a

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hereditary monarch. Thus, this word denotes a government where no one holds public power as proprietary right. As opposed to a monarchy, in which the head of state is appointed on a hereditary basis for life or at least until abdication, a democratic republic is an entity in which the head of state is elected, directly or indirectly, for a fixed tenure. Thus, India has a President who is elected and has a fixed term of office. India seeks to secure social, economic and political justice for its people. Social Justice means the absence of socially privileged classes in the society and no discrimination against any citizen on grounds of caste, creed, color, religion, gender or place of birth. India stands for eliminating all forms of exploitations from the society. Economic Justice means no discrimination between man and woman on the basis of income, wealth and economic status. It stands for equitable distribution of wealth, economic equality, the end of monopolistic control over means of production and distribution, decentralisation of economic resources, and the securing of adequate opportunities to all for earning their living. Political Justice means equal, free and fair opportunities to the people for participation in the political process. It stands for the grant of equal political rights to all the people without discrimination. The Constitution of India provides for a liberal democracy in which all the people have the right and freedom to participate. Liberty [edit] The idea of Liberty refers to the freedom on the activities of Indian nationals. This establishes that there are no unreasonable restrictions on Indian citizens in term of what they think, their manner of expressions and the way they wish to follow up their thoughts in action. However, liberty does not mean freedom to do anything, and it must be exercised within the constitutional limits.

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Chapter 7 : A Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic - Dappan Koothu

CHAPTER 7 Elusive Democratization in the Secular Republic (pp.) Islamic political movements in Turkey have been primarily organized as electoral parties.

License Raj was rampant. This left the general public disillusioned, especially after the global recession of the late s. Although there were some reforms initiated by the Rajiv Gandhi government in reducing the license raj, it was pretty much insignificant. A Balance of payment crisis pushed the country to near bankruptcy. In return for an IMF bailout, gold was transferred to London as collateral, the rupee devalued and economic reforms were forced upon India. Controls started to be dismantled, the tariffs, duties and taxes lowered, state monopolies were broken and the economy was open to trade and investment, private sector enterprises were encouraged and globalization was slowly embraced. The above summary clearly suggests that India is not really a socialist country and in the last 25 years, it has leaned more towards capitalism. Now, is this being followed in real? There are numerous instances of laws being made keeping religion in mind and I have listed some of them. The existence of various Personal laws like Indian Muslim Personal law which has elements of Sharia in it , Hindu Personal law and Christian Personal law go against the very concept of secularism. There are subsidies offered to Muslims for going to Haj, but no such subsidy if a Hindu wants to go to Amarnath yatra. Hindu temples are controlled by the government, but churches and mosques do not come under the purview of the government. All these examples clearly suggest that the political parties in India, specially the Congress, have thrown secularism to the dustbin and have adopted the concept of pseudo secularism, which in other words means minority appeasement. The current Home Minister Rajnath Singh very rightly said that secularism is the most abused words in India. Unless a Uniform Civil Code is brought in place and some of these discriminatory laws are done away with, India can never claim to be a secular country. A republic is a country where the head of the state the President in our case is elected to a term of office and not appointed to life based on birthright. A democracy is a political system where power rests with the people. People vote for leaders, who in turn are responsible for framing of policies. In India, we have two houses viz Lok Sabha or lower house, whose members directly get elected by the people and Rajya Sabha or upper house, whose members get elected by members of the Legislative Assembly of individual states. The institution of Rajya Sabha was created to ensure that states get enough representation and also to act as elders and make valuable suggestions to members of the Lok Sabha. In the recent years, we have witnessed many legislations getting stuck in the upper house due to petty politics. In other words, the members who are directly elected by the people are unable to pass a single bill in the parliament. This has led to a lot of people including me questioning the relevance of the Rajya Sabha today. So the states do get enough representation in the Lok Sabha. The behavior of some of the members like rushing to the well of the house needlessly and raising slogans is absolutely disgusting, to put it mildly. A lot of the members of the upper house are the ones who fund political parties and in addition, we have people like Sachin Tendulkar and Rekha, people who have excelled in their respective fields but have not an iota of clue on important legislations like GST. If India has to become a democracy in the real sense, the Rajya Sabha must be abolished or must be reformed to limit its powers looking at the current state of things, this seems next to impossible. The constitution requires big time reforms for India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic in the real sense and not just on paper.

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Chapter 8 : India is Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic & Republic

Republic- a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives. Secular- there is a clear demarcation between the State and Religion and state should be independent of any religion.

The Kouroukan Fouga divided the Mali Empire into ruling clans lineages that were represented at a great assembly called the Gbara. However, the charter made Mali more similar to a constitutional monarchy than a democratic republic. However, the power to call parliament remained at the pleasure of the monarch. The English Civil War “ was fought between the King and an oligarchic but elected Parliament, [51] [52] during which the idea of a political party took form with groups debating rights to political representation during the Putney Debates of After the Glorious Revolution of , the Bill of Rights was enacted in which codified certain rights and liberties, and is still in effect. The Bill set out the requirement for regular elections, rules for freedom of speech in Parliament and limited the power of the monarch, ensuring that, unlike much of Europe at the time, royal absolutism would not prevail. In North America, representative government began in Jamestown, Virginia , with the election of the House of Burgesses forerunner of the Virginia General Assembly in English Puritans who migrated from established colonies in New England whose local governance was democratic and which contributed to the democratic development of the United States ; [56] although these local assemblies had some small amounts of devolved power, the ultimate authority was held by the Crown and the English Parliament. The Puritans Pilgrim Fathers , Baptists , and Quakers who founded these colonies applied the democratic organisation of their congregations also to the administration of their communities in worldly matters. The taxed peasantry was represented in parliament, although with little influence, but commoners without taxed property had no suffrage. The creation of the short-lived Corsican Republic in marked the first nation in modern history to adopt a democratic constitution all men and women above age of 25 could vote [62]. This Corsican Constitution was the first based on Enlightenment principles and included female suffrage , something that was not granted in most other democracies until the 20th century. In the American colonial period before , and for some time after, often only adult white male property owners could vote; enslaved Africans, most free black people and most women were not extended the franchise. Athena has been used as an international symbol of freedom and democracy since at least the late eighteenth century. This was particularly the case in the United States , and especially in the last fifteen slave states that kept slavery legal in the American South until the Civil War. A variety of organisations were established advocating the movement of black people from the United States to locations where they would enjoy greater freedom and equality. Universal male suffrage was established in France in March in the wake of the French Revolution of Fascism and dictatorships flourished in Nazi Germany , Italy , Spain and Portugal , as well as non-democratic governments in the Baltics , the Balkans , Brazil , Cuba , China , and Japan , among others. The democratisation of the American, British, and French sectors of occupied Germany disputed [82] , Austria, Italy, and the occupied Japan served as a model for the later theory of government change. However, most of Eastern Europe , including the Soviet sector of Germany fell into the non-democratic Soviet bloc. The war was followed by decolonisation , and again most of the new independent states had nominally democratic constitutions.

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Chapter 9 : Is America a Secular Nation? | Ben Witherington

A secular state is an idea pertaining to secularity, whereby a state is or purports to be officially neutral in matters of religion, supporting neither religion nor irreligion.

Blogs and podcasts Azerbaijan Democratic Republic: The first democratic, parliamentary and secular republic in the Islamic East Closing in on the th anniversary of the end of the First World War, what did it mean for Azerbaijani statehood at the time? What does it mean for the Azerbaijan of today? Articles and Commentary Map of the territories claimed by the first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic Emin Bashirov cc wikimedia. The map gives a general understanding of the country in , when the borders between the three South Caucasian republics were vague and not clearly defined. The map itself points out disputed areas as well. This struggle culminated with the declaration of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on the 28th of May It was a tough time for the whole region “ despite internal disagreements and civil war, the Russians, both Whites and Reds, retained their claims over the South Caucasus. The British, coming victorious out of the First World War, were gradually introducing themselves into the region. Different ethnic groups and political movements were struggling over each village. Interestingly enough, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was proclaimed by the National Council in Tiflis Tbilisi , the capital of another newborn state, Georgia. In order to establish sovereignty over entire Azerbaijan, the founding fathers not only built a new army but also requested military aid from the collapsing Ottoman Empire. The defeated Ottomans with their resources nearly exhausted, managed to dispatch an army to the Caucasus, which, during the entire summer of liberated the Azerbaijani lands from different political groups Bolsheviks , ultra nationalist movements Dashnaks and various gangs, finally victoriously entering Baku in September of that year. Within a short time, the main state institutions were founded and divided into three branches of governance. Six months into the independence, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic also celebrated a parliament which reflected all ethnic and religious groups in the country. With 80 seats to the largest ethnic group “ Azerbaijanis, 21 “ Armenians, 10 “ Russians, 1 “ Germans, 1- Jews, 1 “ Georgians and 1 to Poles. The newly-formed republic faced challenges in almost all spheres. A national army was set up for protecting the territorial integrity, a task which it fulfilled by restoring sovereignty in a number of territories, including Karabakh. There was much attention paid towards education, with old schools being refurbished or replaced by new ones. An important milestone became the opening of Baku State University in , making it the first modern university in the territory of Azerbaijan. Despite hardships and financial shortages, the Azerbaijani authorities sent young people to various educational institutions in Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom. A big achievement in democratisation process was the abolition of censorship, a remnant of Tsarist period. Another significant achievement, which laid the foundations for democratic and secular statehood in Azerbaijan, was women suffrage. By granting women the right to vote in , the same year as Poland did. From the very outset, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic conducted an active foreign policy. Besides building bilateral relations with a number of countries, establishing and hosting numerous diplomatic missions, the Azerbaijani government also sought international recognition at the highest level. A delegation sent to the Paris Peace Conference met with world leaders, including Woodrow Wilson, who initiated the first discussion of the Azerbaijani question at the Council of the Big Four in May Although Wilson, who had presented the concept of self-determination for ethnic groups from former empires, failed to proceed with the Azerbaijani issue, President Wilson later recounted his meeting with Azerbaijani delegates in his speech in San Francisco in September , Wilson described his positive impression of Azerbaijani delegation: Well, one day there came in a very dignified and interesting group of gentlemen who were from Azerbaijan. But I did find this out immediately: A British initiative at the Paris Peace Conference ended with the issuing of a resolution of de facto recognition of the Azerbaijani government by the Allies and the Entente in January This recognition was historic, albeit very late. Having restored its independence in , the Azerbaijan Republic declared herself a successor state of the

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Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. With the South Caucasus becoming a scene for the confrontation between various powers both disappearing and triumphing in the world war, the Azerbaijani people were subject to ethnic cleansing by neighboring nationalists. At the same time a group of progressive, Western-minded people proclaimed the first parliamentary republic in the Muslim East. Thus, the 28th May is not only an Azerbaijani date; it should be an important date throughout the whole region as it celebrated democratic and republican values. Rusif Huseynov is the co-founder of the Topchubashov Center. His main interest is peace and conflict studies, while his focus area covers mainly Eastern Europe, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia. Elmira Hasanova is a research fellow of the Topchubashov Center. David Davidian If Azerbaijan was democratic years ago, today it is not. Today, the Armenian representation is zero. So much for Azerbaijani democracy. Yerevan, Armenia redusk I guess this is what the author also implied: As for the Armenian representation in parliament, you better re-calculate it: A relevant quote for Armenians in the Azerbaijani parliament will be restored after Azerbaijan restores its jurisdiction over the occupied territories. The local communities to live there, both Azerbaijani and Armenian, would benefit from that too much. Punk Rock Imports To the ethnic Armenians, or the Azeris that will be forced to relocate there after an ethnic cleansing campaign of the Armenians is completed, like in Nakhchivan? Horace Lacondeta Azerbaijan shall better concentrate in pouring money in Azerbaijan first. Now the little cash left is flowing in London or Panama. Horace Lacondeta Better to keep the status quo to avoid huge headache to Alyiev clan. The poor guy will not be able to handle k Armenians from Karabakh and k displaced from the rest of Azerbaijan on his back. First thing they will want is his head. Tey There were hundreds of thousands Azeris in what is today Armenia years ago during first Armenian republic “ how many representatives were Azeri in its parliament? Let me guess “ zero. Contrast that with the first Azerbaijani republic. How many Azeris are in modern Armenia and in occupied Karabakh? Specifically the ones in a town called Sumgait? And this deportation had in fact three phases you can also check on the internet: