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THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Abstract: *The 90s of the 20th century were characterized by a significant increase in the number of regimes that conducted politics through specific elections. In 2009, electoral democracy was recorded in 116 countries; Significantly more than 20 years earlier, when there were a total of 69 such countries. It is true that specific electoral systems are necessary for democracy, but they are not sufficient. Many new democracies, while holding such elections, fail to create a representative government accountable to those under its jurisdiction. Such democratic systems lack the trust and love of the citizens, decisions are made by the elite under the pressure of a well-organized interest group.*

Electoral democracies can work to produce representative and sympathetic governments. To ask this question is to understand how people come together to define their interests and viewpoints, inform governments, hold them accountable, and engage in goal-oriented action for the good of society. Elections are necessary for institutions to function. Strong civil societies provide a context in which elections are conducted democratically; It is important that strong civil societies and functioning democracies interact so that they are mutually reinforcing.

Civil society is a sphere of purposeful, normatively based associations, so it is the foundation of democracy as well as competitive, fair, transparent, periodic elections.

Key words: *Civil society, democracy, direct democracy, representative democracy, citizen, elections.*

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Introduction

One of the most widespread definitions of civil society belongs to Larry Diamond. Civil society is a field of organized public life that is self-generating, self-developing, autonomous from the state and bound by a legislative order or a set of shared rules.

In addition, there are other definitions, although general; Civil society - this is a type of voluntary organization of society, where ordinary citizens are usually actively involved in public life. The activity does not include only one direction. The area of this activity is very wide and includes any problematic areas for the society, be it social, cultural, economic, environmental or other areas. Civil society is a field of human organization that gives wide scope to competition. At the same time, it implies the function

of initiation and control, and its competence does not and cannot include activities that are uniquely the duties of the state: legislation, judicial proceedings, defense, security and law and order, foreign affairs, relations or the implementation of executive power.

Civil society is not placed either in the private (family) sphere, nor in the business or state sectors. "It is an intermediate link between private interests, individuals or social strata on the one hand, and the state and its institutions on the other hand. It is because of this "intermediate link" that the civil society often has the so-called They are also considered to carry the function of a conductor, a mediator". [Burrows G, Dfa et al (2020), Democracy and Citizenship, Vol. p. 164]. The given role of the civil society is manifested in its function - to aggregate the impulses and demands

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from the society and to be able to bring the given demands to the authorities in an already established form.

"The potential role of civil society in enhancing democracy comes into focus when the institutional definition of democracy is subject to a normative conception of what democracy is supposed to achieve... The institutions, organizations, and practices that constitute democracy provide opportunities for those who have potential affect collective decisions to be affected by them" [Oxford Handbook of Civil Society, (2011), edited by Edwards M, tbv, p. 391].

In general, some of them are distinguished from the main factors of the existence of civil society. In particular, these factors are:

- Freedom and quality of association;
- developed and strong local governments;
- Decentralization of social or other

obligations.

Consider each of them:

1. People unite in different types of organizations on their own initiative. The state promotes this kind of association with relevant legal regulations. (meaning a democratic state). A state where human freedoms and duties are not only written on paper, but also implemented in real life. Democracy is based on people's rule and based on people's consent or consensus. The source of the government's legitimacy is the people. "Democracy is a simple idea with a strong appeal. Government should be based on the consent of the governed. [Branson M, Schechter S, Wonzi T. (2008), Research of Political Ideas, Vol., p.3]

Accordingly, it is in the interests of the democratic state itself to have a strong civil society. Despite the existing opinions that the modern type of civil society is the firstborn of the second half of the 20th century, it is a fact that various types of voluntary public associations appeared earlier in Europe and America. For example, voluntary associations in the Greco-Roman world even before BC. It can be found in the 6th century AD, from the period of Solomon, and it reached a special flowering period during the Hellenistic period. In the Greco-Roman world, there were different types of voluntary associations. Among them, we can single out: philosophical associations, public religious associations and others.

Similarly, similar types of civil associations and unions are widespread in medieval Europe - be they guilds, guilds, or other types of unions.

An active civil society, that is, a society that is not focused on material gain and is not engaged in any kind of business or commercial activity, is one of the guarantees of public stability in a state where citizens have the right to freely express their interests and fight

to protect these interests within the law - the society is more harmonious, stable and balanced.

2. Citizens' involvement in public activities is largely determined by local self-government bodies. The existence of effective local bodies conditions the wide involvement of citizens at local levels - local councils, councils, elected bodies. Local government is the guarantor of legitimacy.

3. The state has certain duties before the society - be it social, economic, legislative or other types of duties. According to the liberal theory of the state, people create society for the purpose of fulfilling certain obligations and refuse the right to absolute freedom precisely because of the fulfillment of these obligations. However, in a democratic state, one of the characteristics of which is the existence of a strong civil society, the state delegates certain rights and obligations. "At least in theory, the state expresses the permanent interests of the society: that is, the common universal will." [Heywood E, (2008), Politics, University of Georgia, Herald of Georgia, Tbilisi, p. 16]: "It is clear that everyone aspires to some good. The best union, which includes everything, strives for the highest good, and this is the so-called State and State Union". [Brachuli I, et al., (2015), Introduction to Philosophy, Tbilisi, Meridian, p. 326].

What types of associations are considered in civil society? In order to answer the mentioned question, let's define the constituent areas of civil society:

1. Civil society includes those forms of activities and social relations that do not fit into the family sphere. Civil society is uniquely public space, therefore it goes beyond narrow close, friendly or family relations.

2. Civil society refers to the form of activities and social relations that do not belong to the sphere of business.

3. The activity of civil society and the form of social relations are beyond the competence of the state.

4. Although political parties are the type of associations whose main goal is to come to power, parties are also intermediate type of organizations, one of whose functions is to establish a connection between different segments of civil society.

5. Mass media. We mentioned above that the spheres of activity of business and the state are not among the spheres of activity of civil society. However, in modern reality, it is difficult to completely separate these areas. By their very nature, mass communication media are business groups, because they are profit-oriented, commercial benefit-oriented associations. Media is the field of activity that most mobilizes society around this or that problem. That is why mass media is often referred to as a constituent part of civil society (the fourth government).

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6. Trade unions. Like the media, trade unions are quite interesting associations within civil society of members of professions engaged in wage labor - regardless of whether the employer is a government or private business.

7. Associations, churches or groups based on religious beliefs. As free, voluntary and non-profit organizations united around their interests, they are clearly included in the broad spectrum of civil society, but their members themselves are less likely to think of themselves as a constituent part of civil society.

8. This category includes various private associations (for example, golf clubs, football clubs or other sports associations, clubs).

The concept of civil society, in general, arose in the liberal heart, therefore, liberal values are decisive in defining the concept of civil society.

In general, the democratic government creates normal conditions for the existence and functioning of civil society. Here it is legitimate, because the law does not prohibit it, but rather protects it. Although the government does not create and does not interfere in the activities of civil society organizations. But it establishes the legal framework within Romney's framework they operate independently and freely. The government does not manage, but regulates the activities of civil society. The basis of this regulation

is the Constitution and its corresponding legislative acts.

One of the important tasks of the civil society is to control the activities of the government. The fact is that the government often increases its authority, as a result of which there is an abuse of power. He fully uses his rights and, but cares less about the fulfillment of obligations. For example, the government is obliged to protect human rights, but often violates them; It is obliged to protect legality, but it itself commits illegality, it is obliged to fight corruption, but there are many bribers hiding in its structures, etc.

It is true that the civil society cannot change the government, it cannot fulfill its function, but it has the right to exercise control in order to influence its activities. "Exposure and criticism, recommendations and constructive cooperation, protest statements and peaceful demonstrations - these are the main means by which civil society can force the government to protect social justice and human rights. Of course, they will not be able to establish an ideal situation in the country with these means, but they will limit the state as a mechanism of coercion. [Mamukelashvili EL, Akhalmosulishvili T, (2010), Political Science, Vol. Universal, p. 324]

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