

# The relationship between democracy and socio-economic rights



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## Democracy

A wave of democratisation swept the world after the Cold War due to the collapse of the most prevalent alternative (Barry Gills and Joel Rocamora, 1992)



## Poverty/Socio-economic Rights

Outside of China, poverty in 2020 was at similar levels to 1990 (Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, 2020)

## Human Rights Implications

Evidence of a failure, on the part of states, to protect, respect, and fulfil socio-economic rights like the rights to an adequate standard of living and social security

Has the project of democratisation failed in this respect?

## Possible Solutions



### Participation?

Would empowering citizens result in better socio-economic rights protection?



### State provision?

Should the state provide socio-economic rights regardless of party policy?



### Social Democracy?

Would a fusion of socialism and democracy address the shortcomings of democracy



### International democracy?

Can national democracy ever adequately address the transnational causes of poverty?



### Radical Change?

Should democracy give way if it is incapable of protecting citizens?