Representation

Elected officials must be accountable to their constituents. This aspect of accountability buttresses the representative nature of the democratic system, as the mandate of politicians is ideally delegated by the citizenry. Different branches of government (such as Parliamentarians, Congress and Cabinet) are mutually accountable, therefore the process of policy-making and implementation must be reasonably transparent.

Professional Civil Service

Democracies require neutral and professional civil services. Enduring democratic institutions guarantee continuity and the eventual routinization of democracy. Civil servants must be paid a decent wage; if not, corruption becomes a subsidy for low wages. Public institutions should be seen as providing opportunity for social mobility with advancement by a merit based criteria. To maintain a legitimate democratic civil service, a generalized source of revenue maybe required. Tax revenue may be the most effective means of bringing in revenue; yet, in many new democracies, taxes are systematically evaded. Tax reform may thus be an important accompanying element in the establishment of a professional civil service and democratic institutions.

Political Parties/ Movements

Political parties channel and accomodate interests into political mandates. Democratic parties attract members from all areas of greater society, and provide them with a vehicle for representation. In so doing, political parties give individual preferences and corporate interests a stake in the policy-making process. Legitimate political parties in opposition serve to balance the power of Government's use (and abuse) of the state apparatus, particularly during elections.

Democratic Watchdogs: the Media

The role of the media in a democratic society reinforces both transparency and accountability on the part of governments and corporations to the public. Citizens must have access to communications and recourse through the media. In democratic countries, the media sees itself as a watchdog of government and a protector of the public interest and right to know.

Instruments of Force

(a) Civil-Military Relations

In a democracy, instruments of force must be under civilian control, as civilians are subject to constraints of accountability. A necessary component of this principle is the distribution of civilians throughout the military establishment. A civilian figurehead is often left out of the