
AUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY

The present terrible war, which has now involved either directly or indirectly every country in the world, is no doubt in its final analysis a development of the age long struggle between good and evil, but more immediately it had its origin and has its being in the never ceasing conflict between autocracy and democracy, which has waged since families first gathered together into tribes for mutual protection and advantage, and found it necessary or desirable to submit to some form of government. In some cases that government was by a chief, chosen by the people or self-elected, or by a governing body of similar origin, but in either case ruling as by right and with absolute or unlimited power. So autocracy had its beginning. In other cases the government was