DEMONCRACY:
A COMPARATIVE STUDIES BETWEEN LIBERAL
DEMOCRACY AND ISLAMIC POLITICAL SYSTEM

LUKMAN THAIB
BHARUDDIN CHE PA & MOHD ZAIDI ABD RAHMAN

DEPARTMENT OF SIASAH SYAR'IIYYAH
ACADEMY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
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**FOREWORD**

*Democracy* is a form of government in which all eligible citizens participate equally – either directly or through elected representatives – in the proposal, development, and creation of laws. It encompasses social, economic and cultural conditions that enable the free and equal practice of political self-determination.

Several variants democracy exist, but there are two basic forms, both of which concern how the whole body of all eligible citizens executes its will. One form of democracy is direct democracy, in which all eligible citizens have direct and active participation in the decision making of the government. In most modern democracies, the whole body of all eligible citizens remain the sovereign power but political power is exercised indirectly through elected representatives; this is called representative democracy. The concept of representative democracy arose largely from ideas and institutions that developed during the Europeans Middle Ages, the Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, and the American and French Revolutions.

In contemporary usage, the term democracy refers to a government chosen by the people, whether it is direct or representative. The term republic has many meanings, but today often refers to a representatives democracy with an elected head of state, such as a president, serving for a limited term, in contrast to states with hereditary monarch as head of state, even if these states also are representative democracies with an elected or appointed head of government such as prime minister.

In terms of democratic practice, the term *democracy* has acquired at least two different interpretations. The first is a 'popular participatory system', which was applied in ancient times, the people governing themselves directly by the restoration of governing office among citizens. In ancient times democracy was in fact practised in a very simple and small society and its main mechanism were also very simple. Direct participation and the used of lots (as a procedure for selecting officials in public office) were the mains tools of participatory democracy in ancient times. The second interpretation of democracy is a 'liberal system', which is the political system of government in all Western countries in modern times.
Liberal democracy, also known as constitutional democracy, is a common form of representative democracy in which elected representatives who hold power are limited by a constitution that emphasizes protecting individual liberties, equality and the rights of minority groups. Among the many liberties that might be protected are freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of religion, the right to private property and privacy as well as equality before the law and due process under the rule of law. Such constitutional rights, also call liberal rights, are guaranteed through various controlled institutions and statutory laws. Additionally, the constitutions of most contemporary liberal democracies prohibit majoritarianism, which is rule by the will of majority, when it harms those in the minority.

Among the most important main elements of liberal democracy in the West, as many modern commentators and political theorists are : Popular Sovereignty, Civil Liberties, Majority Rule, Elected Representatives, Separation of Powers, Political Participation, Competitives Elections and Political Party System and Interest Groups. The purpose of this research work is to provide an in-depth analysis of the mains liberal democracy in the West and their counterparts in the Islamic political system. In addition to explaining the main elements of each system in detail, this book also makes the reader aware of the similarities and differences between the two systems.