Does Islam approves democracy?

Muslims already have what is better than democracy, namely the Shūra (consultation) system.

Democracy: It is to consider the opinion of all your family members before taking a crucial decision on family matters, regardless of their experience, age, or level of wisdom, putting all on an equal footing, starting from the kid of kindergarten up to the wise grandfather.

Shūra, on the other hand, means consulting seniors and those who are experienced regarding what serves the interest and what does not.

The difference between the two is crystal clear. The biggest evidence on the deficiency of democracy is what occurs in some countries regarding the legalization of acts that are against the sound natural disposition, religion, customs, and traditions like homosexuality, usury, and other heinous practices, just for the sake of winning the majority votes. Because of the excessive votes advocating immorality, democracy has big role in creating immoral communities.

The difference between the Islamic Shūra and the western democracy lies in the source of legislation. In democracy, the supremacy in legislation is given first to the people and the nation, whereas in the Islamic Shūra, the supremacy in legislation belongs first to the rulings of the Almighty Creator represented in the Sharia, which is not a human product. The only authority that man has in legislation is the authority of building upon that divine legislation, in addition to the authority of practicing Ijtihād (personal reasoning) in what is not decided by a divine law, provided that the human authority remains controlled within the Sharia-approved frame of the lawful and the unlawful.

Questions and Answers about Islam
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