

**Democracy 6 Dahl on Why Democracy Part 2**

Please **read pp. 54-61** of Chapter 5, “Why Democracy?” from Robert Dahl’s *On Democracy*. After reading the selection, answer the questions that follow.

1. What is the freedom of self-determination? What ‘perplexing question’ does it generate? How does democracy answer that question?
2. To what extent are we morally responsible for the actions of our government? Does that differ between democracies and non-democracies? Why or why not?
3. How might democracy encourage full human development? Do you agree with Dahl’s argument here?
4. Why might a more democratic world be a more peaceful one?
5. How have the developments of the last two centuries changed the traditional wisdom about the relationship between democracies and prosperity?
6. Do any of the advantages of democracy Dahl suggests seem unlikely or questionable to you? Which ones and why?
7. Do any of the advantages stand out to you as especially important or valuable compared to the others? If so, why?