

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**

I. Majority Rules and Minority Rights

All democracies are systems in which citizens freely make political decisions by majority rule. But rule by the majority is not necessarily democratic: No one, for example, would call a system fair or just that permitted 51 percent of the population to oppress the remaining 49 percent in the name of the majority. In a democratic society, majority rule must be coupled with guarantees of individual human rights that, in turn, serve to protect the rights of minorities--whether ethnic, religious, or political, or simply the losers in the debate over a piece of controversial legislation. The rights of minorities do not depend upon the goodwill of the majority and cannot be eliminated by majority vote. The rights of minorities are protected because democratic laws and institutions protect the rights of all citizens.

Using the cartoons below answer the questions on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper.



1. What event is this supposed to represent?
2. What group did they "forget"?
3. How do you know this?



4. What is the woman with the blindfold supposed to represent?
5. What is the difference between how she handles whites and minorities?
6. Do you think that the author believes the rights of minorities are being protected? What evidence do you see in the cartoon that supports your judgment?