

The Authentic Republic

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REPUBLICAN DOCUMENTS



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THE AUTHENTIC REPUBLIC

Many nations today either call themselves a republic or is called a republic by others. The term republic is being used today in an almost generic sense much like the word nation, without any consideration as to the particular factors that makes a nation a republic. For instance you have the Peoples Republic of China, yet it is no secret that the Chinese government denies religious freedom to certain religious groups such as the Felon Gung movement. They also tightly control the media. The following is just one example, *“The Central Propaganda Department of the Chinese Communist Party is the most important institution for monitoring media personnel and controlling the content of television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and film. The Central Organization Department selects the leadership of the Propaganda Department with guidance from the “Thought Work Small Group” (thought work is the term used in China to describe the task of shaping the views of the public) under the direct leadership of CCP chairman and PRC President Hu Jintao and the Politburo Standing Committee member responsible for the media, Li Changchun. Local branches of the Propaganda Department work with lower levels of the party-state hierarchy to transmit content priorities to the media. For example, the Shanghai bureau of the Propaganda Department interacts with the Shanghai Municipal Party Committee, the provincial branches of General Administration of Press and Publications (GAPP), and State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) to coordinate guidance for the Shanghai media”*. Taken from **Freedom At Issue, A Freedom House Special Report February 2006** (an organization that does surveys on political rights and freedoms, freedom of the press and religious liberty around the globe, www.freedomhouse.org). The surveys also indicate that religious freedoms are deteriorating around the around the globe. More and more governments are yielding to temptations to interfere with freedom of the press and the religious liberty of the people.

The nation that adopts and adheres to the political doctrine of Republicanism, protects and respect the rights and freedoms of its citizenry by law. The origin of the term ‘republic’ was birthed in the context a of moving away from tyrannical, anti-rights forms of governmental systems; hence the compounding of the two words ‘re’ and ‘public’ which means a making over of the public according to the rights of man. This experiment took place in the early history of the development of the nation of America. American constitutionalism was the answer to all past forms of anti-rights political systems, whether they be called despotism, monarchs, communism, divine rights of the kings, papalism, etc. The public under such harsh political systems was stifled by excessive control and limitations and needed to be re-made. Unfortunately the world is currently witnessing an America that is moving away from the Republican practices they worked so hard to establish in their early history.

Below is a listing of the essential principles of the doctrine of Republicanism that constitute the criterion for becoming an authentic Republic.

- A republic must adhere to the rule of law throughout their practice,
- A republic must have a constitution with a defined bill of rights acknowledging and declaring the natural rights and freedoms of the people, with limits on government in that regard, and provisions that emphasize that they (rights and freedoms) are not to be deprived of. The rights of all citizens must be protected regardless of whether they form part of minorities or majorities,
- A republic must also detail in their constitution - the powers, authority and functions of government with a system of separation of powers,
- A republic must adhere to the principle of democracy or democratic elections as opposed to non-electoral governmental systems which is a safeguard against perpetuating anti-rights leaders, which forms part of a variety of checks and balances in the system,
- A republic must acknowledge that it is not the government but the Creator is the only source of human rights, thus it is not government’s responsibility or obligation or right in any way to *withdraw, restrict, grant or deny any human rights* to any of its citizens; but on the contrary give utmost respect to them.
- A republic must acknowledge that the religious right or religious liberty is a matter of mind and conscience; thus cannot be subjected to government legislation, regulation and determination. Religion is off-limits to government legislation; hence religious liberty must be allowed free and full exercise. Government interference in religious matters are only justified if crimes are committed in the name of or under the guise of religion.

If the abovementioned principles are adopted and adhered to by a nation, that nation is an authentic republic. Some nations may adopt some of the principles of republicanism and are on their way to becoming a republic, accordingly, they could be considered a partial republic on the way to full republicanism.

Genuine Republics will have micro-governmental differences which are simply methodological differences in the application of republican principles due to the differences of circumstances, cultural and otherwise that vary from country to country. However the macro-governmental structure remains the same i.e. protection of the rights and freedoms of the people, democratic elections, equality before the law, equal justice for all, etc.

Republics are usually tested in certain areas. They are - (1) wanting more power and control, (2) wanting to take away freedom of expression and of the press because of criticism, and (3) wanting to regulate and control religious affairs. If a government face these tests and successfully past them the same is a sustainable republic.