



People

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A **people** is a plurality of persons considered as a whole, as is the case with an ethnic group or nation. Collectively, for example, the contemporary Frisians and Danes are two related Germanic peoples, while various Middle Eastern ethnic groups are often linguistically categorized as Semitic peoples.

Contents

- 1 In politics
- 2 In law
- 3 See also
- 4 References

In politics

Various states govern, or claim to govern, in the name of *the people*. Both the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire used the Latin term *Senatus Populusque Romanus*, (the Senate and People of Rome). This term was fixed to Roman legionary standards, and even after the Roman Emperors achieved a state of total personal autarchy, they continued to wield their power in the name of the Senate and People of Rome.

A People's Republic is typically a Marxist or socialist one-party state that claims to govern on behalf of the people even if it in practice often turns out to be a dictatorship state. Populism is another umbrella term for various political tendencies that claim to represent the people, usually with an implication that they serve the *common people* instead of the elite.

Chapter One, Article One of the Charter of the United Nations states that peoples have the right to self-determination.^[1]

In law

In criminal law, in certain jurisdictions, criminal prosecutions are brought in the name of *the People*. Several U.S. states, including California, Illinois, and New York, use this style.^[2] Citations outside the jurisdictions in question usually substitute the name of the state for the words "the People" in the case captions.^[3] Four states — Massachusetts, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky — refer to themselves as *the Commonwealth* in case captions and legal process.^[4] Other states, such as Indiana, typically refer to themselves as *the State* in case captions and legal process. Outside the United States, criminal trials in Ireland and the Philippines are prosecuted in the name of the people of their respective states.



Liberty Leading the People by Eugène Delacroix

The political theory underlying this format is that criminal prosecutions are brought in the name of the sovereign; thus, in these U.S. states, the "people" are judged to be the sovereign, even as in the United Kingdom and other dependencies of the British Crown, criminal prosecutions are typically brought in the name of the Crown. "The people" identifies the entire body of the citizens of a jurisdiction invested with political power or gathered for political purposes.^[5]

See also

- Clan
- Kinship
- Lists of people
 - List of contemporary ethnic groups
 - List of indigenous peoples
- Nationality
- Tribe

References

- ↑ "Charter of the United Nations: Chapter I: Purposes and Principles". United Nations. Archived from the original on 8 May 2015. Retrieved 22 April 2013.
- ↑ See, e.g., *California v. Anderson* 6 Cal. 3d 628; 493 P.2d 880; 100 Cal. Rptr. 152; 1972 Cal. LEXIS 154 (1972)
- ↑ See generally, *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, rule 10.
- ↑ See Commonwealth (United States)
- ↑ *Black's Law Dictionary*, 5th ed., "People".



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