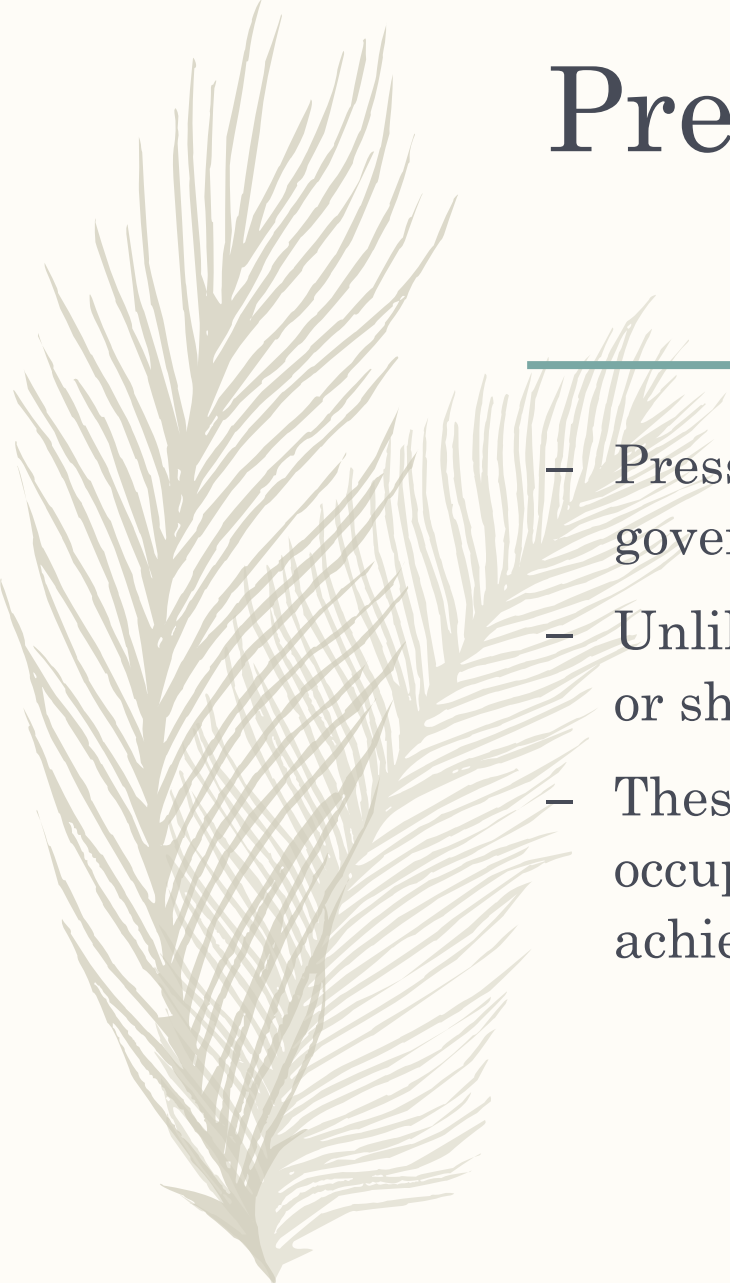


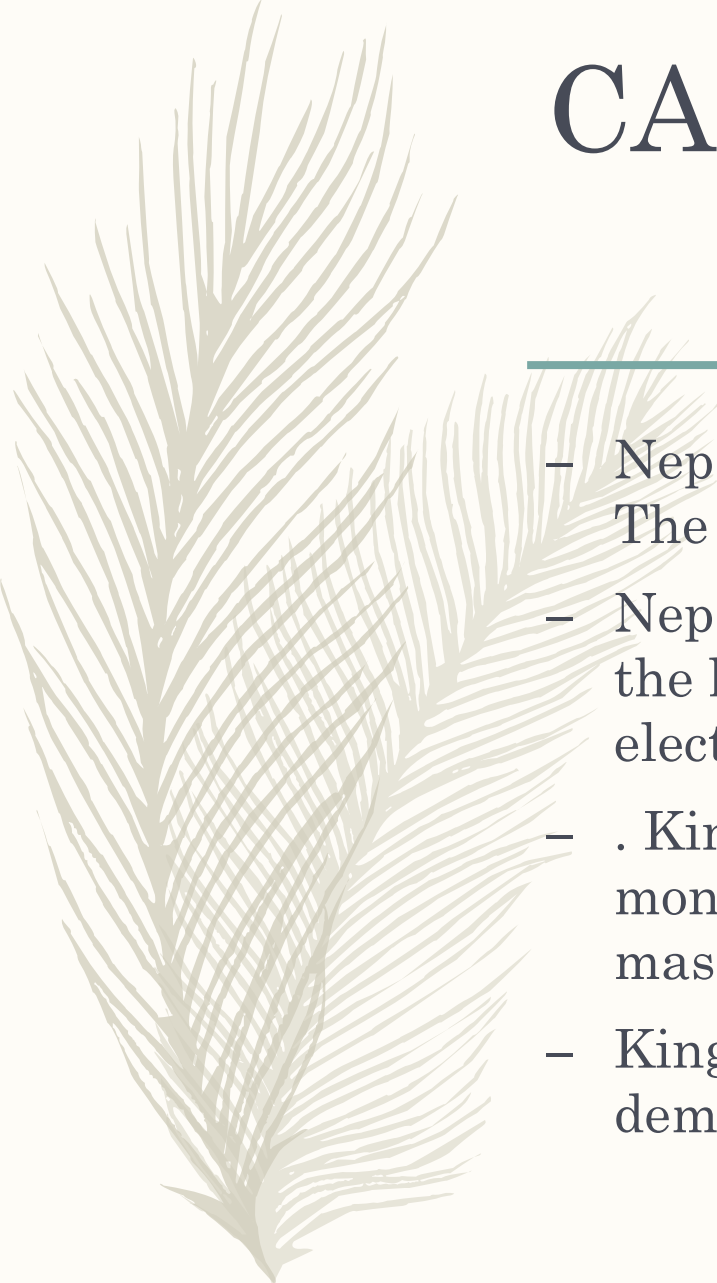


Popular Struggles and Movements



Pressure Groups

- Pressure groups are organizations that attempt to influence government policies.
- Unlike political parties, pressure groups do not aim to directly control or share political power.
- These organizations are formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.



CASE STUDY: Nepal

- Nepal witnessed an extraordinary popular movement in April 2006. The movement was aimed at restoring democracy.
- Nepal won democracy in 1990. Although the king formally remained the head of the state, the real power was exercised by popularly elected representatives.
- . King Birendra, who has accepted this transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy, was killed in a mysterious massacre of the royal family in 2001.
- King Gyanendra, the new king of Nepal, was not prepared to accept democratic rule.

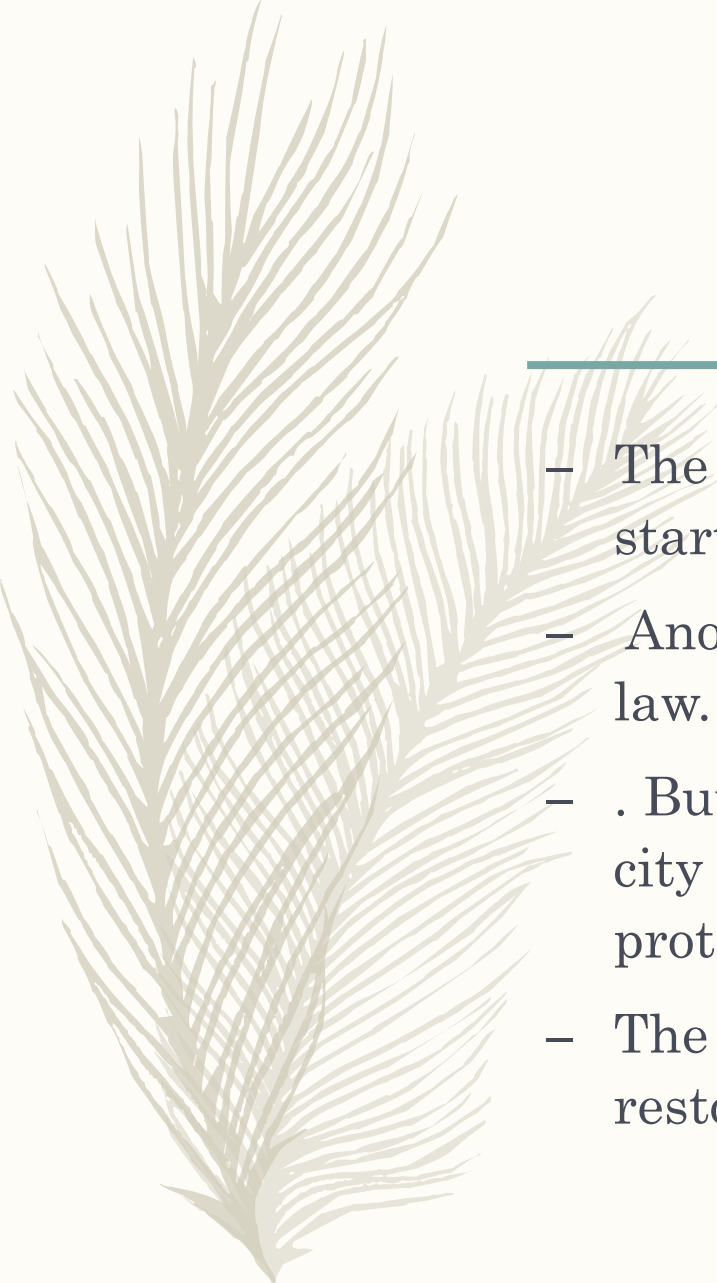
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- . In February 2005, the king dismissed the then Prime Minister and dissolved the popularly elected Parliament.
 - The movement of April 2006 was aimed at regaining popular control over the government from the king.
 - All the major political parties in the parliament formed a Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and called for a four day strike in Kathmandu.
 - This protest soon turned into an indefinite strike in which MAOIST insurgents and various other organizations joined hands.

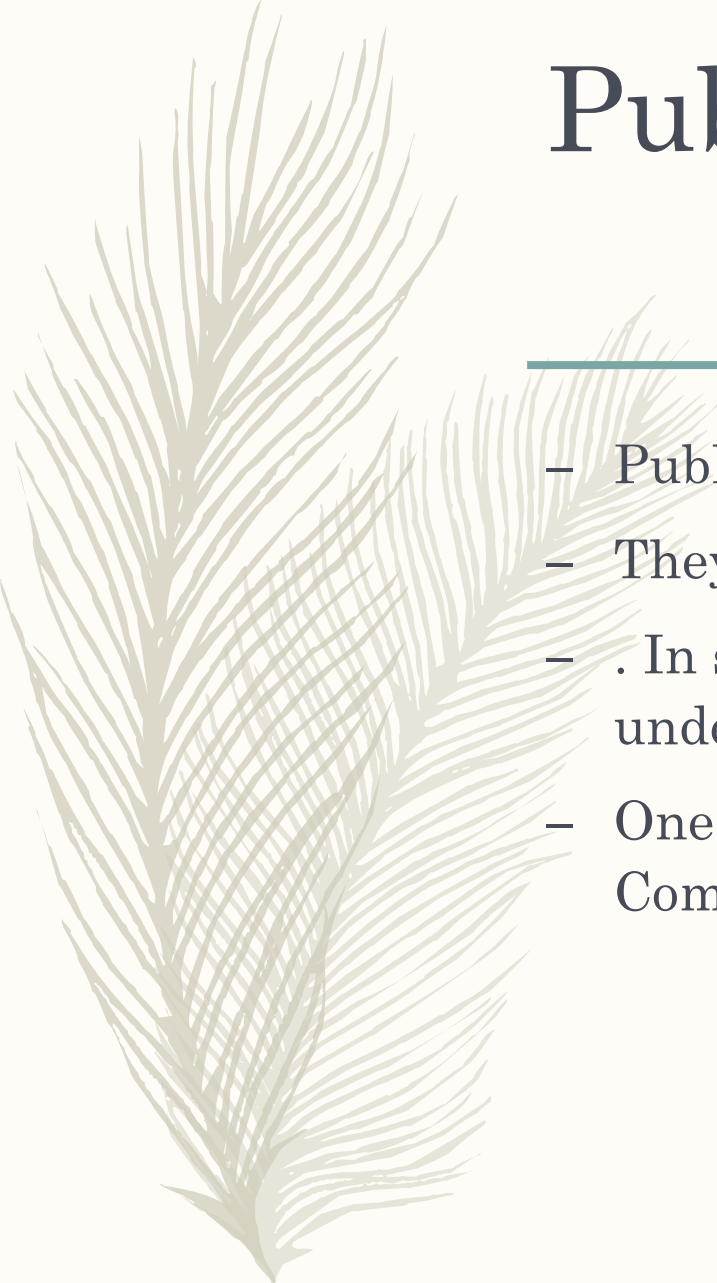
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- . The number of protesters reached between three to five lakhs on 21 April and they served an ultimatum to the king.
 - On 24 April 2004, the last day of the ultimatum, the king was forced to concede all the three demands. The SPA chose Girija Prasad Koirala as the new Prime Minister of the interim government. The restored parliament met and passed laws taking away most of the powers of the king.



CASE STUDY: Bolivia

- Bolivia is a poor country in Latin America. The World Bank pressurized the government to give up its control of municipal water supply.
- The government sold these rights for the city of Cochabamba to a multi-national company (MNC).
- The company immediately increased the price of the water by four times.
- This led to a spontaneous popular protest. In January 2000, a new alliance of labor, human rights and community leaders organized a successful four-day general strike in the city.

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- The police resorted to brutal repression when the agitation was started again in February.
 - Another strike followed in April and the government imposed martial law.
 - . But the power of the people forced the officials of the MNC to flee the city and made the government concede to all the demands of the protesters.
 - The contract with the MNC was cancelled and water supply was restored to the municipality at old rates.



Public Interest Groups

- Public Interest Groups promote collective rather than selective good.
- They aim to help groups other than their own members.
- . In some instances the members of a public interest group may undertake activity that benefits them as well as others too.
- One such example is that of BAMCEF (Backward and Minorities Community Employees Federation).



Sectional Interest Groups

- Sectional Interest Groups seek to promote the interests of a particular section or group of society usually.
- They are sectional because they represent a section of society: workers, employees, businesspersons, industrialists, followers of a religion, caste group, etc.
- Their principal concern is the betterment and well being of their members, not society in general.
- One such example would be of Trade Unions.



SECTIONAL INTEREST GROUPS	PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS
Sectional Interest groups promote interest of a particular section or group of society.	Public Interest Groups promote the general interests of the society as a whole.
The main aim of the sectional interest group is selective good.	The main of the public interest group is collective good.
Sectional Interest Groups represent only a section or group of society, hence they are called Sectional Interest Groups.	Public Interest Groups represent the common people of the society hence they are called Public Interest Groups
Example: Trade Unions, Business Associations, and Professional Bodies	Example: BAMCEF



THANK YOU!
