

# ["civil "civil society” had become associated with](https://assignbuster.com/civil-civil-society-had-become-associated-with/)

“ Civil society” Earlydiscussions about civil society were borntwo thousand years ago by political philosophers like Aristotle (Scholte, 2011)and have a long history of becoming theterm that we know today. By the 1980s, the meaning of “ civil society” hadbecome associated with the notion of an “ independent sector” (Anderson, 2011). In other words, communities of citizens who were not social institutions, neither the market, and did not have involved in the activities of publicauthorities, have turned into a sort of social structures that had the power toexpress an opinion on the actions or inaction of the state.  Enlightenedand isolated actions of citizens for the public good are related to universalphenomena. The so-called “ Global Associative Revolution” (Cardoso, 2003), which resulted from these jointactions, has strengthened democracy both at the national and global levels. However, this process was always accompanied by a conflict between the stateand the citizens.

Despite all this, the tendency to be informed, the desire toparticipate in decision-making processes has spread widely around the world, and this process is almost irreversible. It should be noted that globalgovernance, as well as globalization, is a very controversial process, wherethe space for political action by states and non-state actors is significantlyexpanding.  Indemocracies, civil society organizations were a mechanism for expressingvisions and protecting human rights. In undemocratic authoritarian andtotalitarian societies, such as the union of the Church, the fascist politicalpower in European countries before and during the WW2, modern North Korea, civilsociety has always been persecuted.

In the period of prosperity of civilsociety organizations (the 1970s and1980s) in the former Soviet Union in the form of banned or half-banned, theywere the main source of pressure on the state in order to require the authoritiesto represent the interests and desire of the population. In both cases, therole of civil society was crucial. Thepurpose of the civil society is tomonitor the provision of democracy. More precisely to ensure that it is notallowed to infringe on human rights and values, to ensure freedom and equalrights, to prevent mismanagement of available resources, to demand from thestate and other institutions reports for informing citizens. Todate, the activities of civil society in global governance have become anintegral part of day-to-day policies. This is confirmed by the multitude of “ anti-globalization” protests against the World Bank and the WTO, certain civil society groupsconducted a campaign against the global arms and conflict regimes, women’s associations, in turn, increased gender sensitivity in global governance.

Bypromoting the futility of public administration mechanisms, increasingtransparency and accountability, civil society can make an importantcontribution to the democratization of global governance. Theprocess and mechanisms of the work of civil society in demanding moreaccountability from the state are not as simple as it might seem for the firsttime. This whole system has been formed during a long period. The next part ofthis essay will demonstrate the main three approaches through which civilsociety contributes to increased accountability.