Restorative justice began as an effort to deal with burglary and other property crimes that are usually viewed (often incorrectly) as relatively minor offenses. Today, however, restorative approaches are available in some communities for the most severe forms of criminal violence: death from drunken driving, assault, rape, even murder. Building upon the experience of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, efforts are also being made to apply a restorative justice framework to situations of mass violence. Kay Pranis, a prominent restorative justice advocate, calls circles a form of participatory democracy that moves beyond simple majority rule (see pages 50-51 for a fuller explanation of circles as understood in the restorative justice field).

4. An Overview. Restorative justice refers to a process for resolving crime by focusing on redressing the harm done to the victims, holding offenders accountable for their actions and, often also, engaging the community in the resolution of that conflict. Participation of the parties is an essential part of the process that emphasizes relationship building, reconciliation and the development of agreements around a desired outcome between victims and offender. Various forms of restorative justice. The process is characterized by respectful treatment of all parties. It is also one that promotes the par-ticipation and, to a varying extent, the empowerment of all parties concerned. Theorists of deliberative democracy at the second stage like Bohman, Gutmann, and Thompson believed that deliberation could produce deliberative democracy with practical significance only on the basis of acknowledging cultural diversity and social complexity. However, they did not provide enough details about how to guarantee deliberative democracy in a complex society. Theorists of deliberative democracy at the third stage put an emphasis on the "empirical turn" of deliberative democracy, such as Barber, Bartlett, O'Flynn, and Parkinson.
scholars consider that deliberative democracy is not only a democratic form, a democratic decision-making process and mechanism, but also a form of state and social governance.