


## Types of Governments

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### Assignments:

1. Read about different forms of government.
  2. Answer [questions](#) about different forms of government ([worksheet](#) ).
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1. anarchy: a society without government or law. Substitution of associations of groups of people for the state.
2. [aristocracy](#): a state ruled by a privileged class (determined by wealth or birth). Based on belief that the elite know better than the common person how to rule.
3. authoritarian: one person or a small group has complete authority to make and carry out laws.
4. autocracy: a system of government in which supreme political power to direct all the activities of the state is concentrated in the hands of one person, whose decisions are subject to neither external legal restraints or popular control .
5. bureaucracy: any large, complex administrative structure; a hierarchical organization with job specialization and complex rules. By definition, it is not privately owned. Bureaucracy is based on the principle of hierarchical authority, job specialization, and formal rules.
6. colonial: a government set up by a group of people in a foreign territory subject to the parent state.
7. [communism](#): a totalitarian government based on a social system where goods are held in common. Government owns nearly all resources and businesses.
8. confederal system: a group of independent states that form a central government that is very limited in power. In a confederal system, each state is ultimately given all powers to run their own state, and the central government is very weak.
9. constitutional: a government subject to the provisions and limitations of a written and enforced constitution.
10. [democracy](#): a government with supreme power vested in the people and exercised by them (direct democracy through such things as referendums) or their elected agents (indirect democracy). Rule by the people.
11. despotism: government by a ruler who uses unlimited absolute authority to achieve his goals.
12. [dictatorship](#): any form of government in which one person or group has absolute power without effective constitutional limitations.
13. dynasty: a long sequence of rulers from the same family.
14. fascism: a totalitarian political system with the goals of the nation more important than individual goals.
15. federal system: is a combination of the unitary system and the confederal system. In a federal system of government, powers are divided among the central federal government and the state/regional governments. The powers given to these

- governments are usually listed in a written constitution. In other words, the central government shares power with other levels of government.
16. imperialism: the policy of extending the rule or authority of an empire or nation over foreign countries, or of acquiring and holding colonies and dependencies.
  17. interim: a temporary or provisional government set up while administration changes as a result of a cabinet shake up, a sudden death, etc.
  18. legislative union: a country having one central government with all the power to make laws for the entire country.
  19. [monarchy](#): a government in which power is vested in a king or emperor who can pass power on to his heirs.
  20. nationalism: a feeling of devotion to national interests, national unity, and national independence.
  21. nazism: national socialism, a brand of fascism. It involves anti-Semitism, anti-communism, and anti-pacifism.
  22. occupational: a government set up by the military to control an area taken by force.
  23. oligarchy : a government in which a few people such as a dominant clan or clique have power.
  24. parliamentary monarchy:
  25. plutocracy: a government in which the wealthy class rules.
  26. representative democracy: a system of government in which appointed or elected agents act for a group of people. The people elect others to run the government for them.
  27. republic: a state in which the people are represented by elected agents and the head of state is an elected official.
  28. responsible: a government in which the executive must have the support, or confidence, of the elected legislative assembly in order to govern.
  29. [socialism](#): a system in which people as a whole, and not individuals, control and own all property. Government owns most large businesses, individuals own smaller ones.
  30. sovereignty: government free from external control.
  31. theocracy: a system of government by people who claim a divine right to rule.
  32. totalitarianism: centralized government with absolute control by one political party and/or the military. A highly authoritarian government which controls nearly every aspect of the people's lives.
  33. tribe: a social and economic group usually in a primitive or nomadic state acting under a chief.
  34. unitary: characterized by a form of government in which power is held by one central authority. A unitary system of government gives control of the government to one central government, and that central government has all of the power. The central government can regulate certain powers to local governments if they deem it necessary. In this form of government, central government makes all basic decisions. other governments see that these decisions are carried out.

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## What is Communism?

Communism means the common ownership of all property by the people through the government. There is no such thing as private property under communism. The government pays the people wages according to how important their job is to the country. All the goods produced are to be shared by all the people equally.

How is Communism Practiced in the World Today?

Communist countries today are governed by a single party dictatorship, the Communist Party. The party allows no other political party, no free elections, no free press, and no public display of unhappiness with the government. People who live in Communist countries today do not have to belong to the Communist party but they cannot publicly disagree with the party policies. For them, the government and the party are the same.

### **What is Socialism?**

Socialism is a system in which people as a whole, and not individuals, control and own all property. People give up their rights as individuals for what they think is the greater good.

In a Socialist government people are willing to give up their individual goals for the group's goals. To do this you must be ready to give up all property you own and control of your own destiny. Your President has told the people of the United States that in order to get out of the current recession (economic downturn) we must be more socialistic. Therefore, he is calling for you to give up ownership of your house to the government. What do you do, why? Be specific and write minimum of four paragraphs.

### **What is a Dictatorship?**

In a dictatorship you have a dictator. This person has absolute and complete control over the government. The dictator is not responsible and cannot be held responsible for what he or she does to the general population.

### **What is a Monarchy?**

A monarchy is a form of rule in which there is a single head of state, a monarch, with the title of King (or Queen) or its equivalent. The monarch holds his or her position for life. The monarch is hereditary and only to members of a specific royal family. For example, if your mother is the queen you are a prince and may rule someday. Not just anyone can be a member of the Royal Family you have to be born into it.

An absolute monarchy is when the monarch rules with full executive, legislative, and judicial powers practically unlimited by constitutional restrictions.

A constitutional monarchy is when the powers of the Royal Family are more limited and restricted.

### **What is a Democracy?**

A democracy is a system of government where the power is given to the people. In more contemporary usage, the term has been broadened to include also what the American Founding Fathers called a republic. A republic is a governmental system in which the power of the people is normally exercised only indirectly, through freely elected representatives who are supposed to make government decisions according to the popular will, or at least according to the supposed values and interests of the population.

In other words, in a democracy each person has a vote. The people you vote for should represent the majorities interests.

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### Forms of Government Worksheet

- A. Town meeting
- B. Executive
- C. Cabinet
- D. Republic
- E. Parliamentary
- F. Constitution
- G. Sovereignty
- H. Unitary
- I. Separation of powers
- J. Democracy
- K. Federal
- L. State
- M. Articles of Confederation
- N. Presidential
- O. Totalitarian
- P. Confederation
- Q. Legislative
- R. Dictatorship

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Form of government headed by a prime minister

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Political system in which one person or a small group has absolute power

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Exercise of authoritarian power over all aspects of human affairs

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Document establishing federal form of government in the United States

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Branch of government responsible for lawmaking

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. People's will expressed through an elected group of representatives
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. System in which political authority rests with the people
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. An alliance of independent states
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Form of government that separates the lawmaking and law-executing branches
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Branch of government responsible for executing the law
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. System of government in which powers are divided between central and regional authorities
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Key principle of presidential form of government
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Example of direct democracy
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. System of government in which power is held by a single central agency
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Document that provided an early confederate form of government for the United States

**Write whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

16. \_\_\_\_\_ Most governments today are parliamentary in form.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Great Britain has a federal form of government.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ If the people of a state are sovereign, a dictatorship exist.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Authoritarian governments hold absolute and unchallenged authority.

20. \_\_\_\_ The Confederate States of America was an example of unitary government.

21. \_\_\_\_ Dictatorship is the most common form of government known to history.

22. \_\_\_\_ Most governments in the world are federal in form.

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**Key Questions:**

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a representative democracy?
2. What do people want the government to do for them?
3. What type of political system operates at your school? Give an example.
4. Which political system is most likely to fulfill your personal aspirations?
5. Within your family unit, how are decisions made? Which political system is most similar?
6. How might your life be different if you lived under \_\_\_\_\_ (dictatorship, monarchy, parliamentary system, socialism, fascism, communism)?
7. Write a paragraph for each of the following 4 types of government and identify a country that has this form of government and explain how each government affects the lives of its people or the economy:

Monarchy

Theocracy

Communism

Dictatorship

Democracy

Representative Democracy

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