

## Confederal



In a confederal system, the smaller states that make up the country have the right to pull out from under the central government at any time.

Some of the services that they cede to the central government include foreign affairs, internal security issues, military defense, and in some cases, health services. The states that form the country usually retain their legislative rights, which gives them more power.

## Federal



A federal government is a system of dividing up power between a central national government and local state governments that are connected to one another by the national government. Some areas of public life are under the control of the national government, and some areas are under control of the local governments.

## Parliamentary



A parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary laws and decisions for the country. This parliament directly represents the people. The system is led by a Prime Minister, who is first elected as a member of parliament, then elected Prime Minister by the other members of the parliamentary legislature. However, the Prime Minister remains *a part* of the legislature. The legislative branch makes the laws, and thus the Prime Minister has a hand in law-making decisions. The Prime Minister works directly with other people in the legislature to write and pass these laws.

Most democracies in the world today use the parliamentary system as opposed to a presidential system like that used in the United States.

## Prime minister

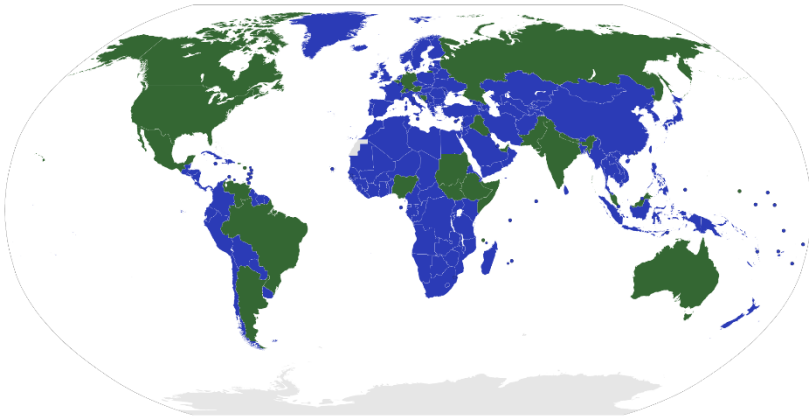


In presidential systems such as the United States the president is both head of state and head of government (executive), but does not control the legislature.

In parliamentary systems the prime minister is the head of government. Moreover, the prime minister not only runs the executive branch, but is usually concurrently the leader of the majority party in the legislature.

So how do the powers of a prime minister compare to the U.S. president? Both have exclusive control of their executive branches by the power to appoint and fire cabinet members. However, their legislative and judicial powers differ considerably: A prime minister always commands support of parliament and thus has the power to push through legislation, whereas the U.S. president is elected independently from Congress and may have to fight with Congress to get laws passed.

## Unitary



A unitary state is a nation governed as one single power. The central government is in complete charge. It decides if state or local governments exist or have any powers. The majority of countries in the world have a unitary system of government.

## Absolute monarchy



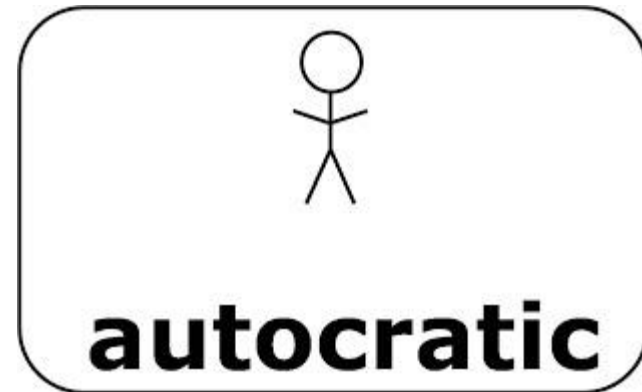
Absolute monarchy or absolutism is a form of government in which the monarch (king or queen) has absolute power over his or her people. An absolute monarch wields unrestricted political power over the nation and its people. It is not a democracy the king or queen has all the power. Today there are very few left in the world.

## Anarchy



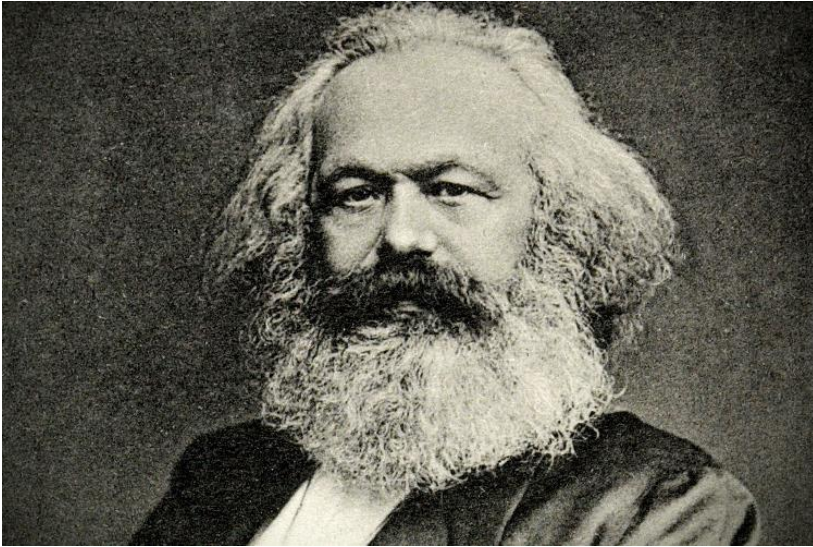
A state of society without government or law. It leads to political and social disorder due to the absence of governmental control.

## Autocracy



Autocracy is a government in which one person has uncontrolled or unlimited authority over others. A single person holds all the power. It could be an absolute monarch or dictator, either way that person has complete control of the government and the nation.

## Communism



An economic and social system created by the nineteenth-century German scholar Karl Marx. In theory, under communism, all means of production are owned in common, rather than by individuals (All the businesses, companies and wealth are shared with everyone). In practice, a single authoritarian party controls both the political and economic systems.

## Democracy



Democracy is government by the people. A form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them through a system of voting.

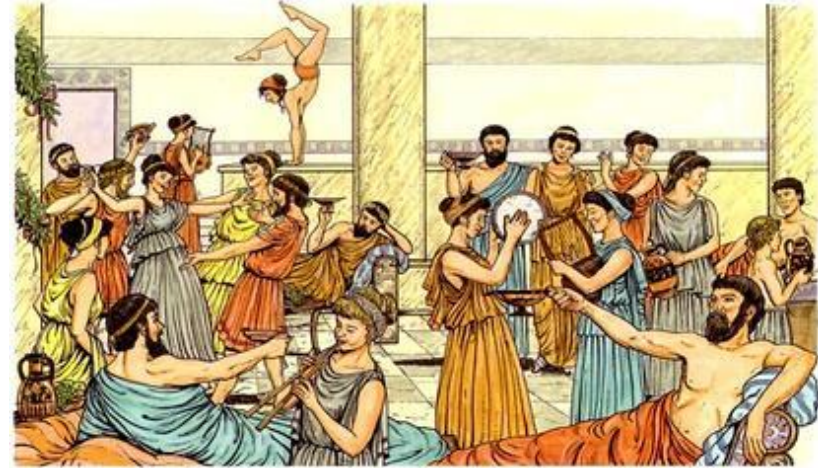
## Dictatorship



A dictatorship is a government headed by a dictator.

Originally a legitimate military office in the Roman Republic, the dictator was given his powers by the Senate. The dictator had absolute power, but for a limited time. In the twentieth century, the term dictatorship has come to mean a government in which absolute power is concentrated in the hands of a single person. Dictators can come to power in a variety of different ways. They can be elected (like Hitler), be appointed by the resident ruling party or inherit their position from a deceased relative. Still other modern dictators seize power in a military coup d'état, and are supported by the military. The dictator generally controls the three state powers, legislative, executive and judicial.

## Direct democracy



Direct democracy, sometimes called "pure democracy," is a form of democracy in which the people themselves, rather than elected representatives, determine the laws and policies by which they are governed. So the people vote on everything not just for politicians that in turn make decisions. Ancient Greece, where democracy was invented, practiced direct democracy.

## Constitutional monarchy



Constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a king or queen acts as Head of State, but doesn't have a lot of power. The ability to make and pass laws resides with an elected Parliament, not with the monarch. They have a king or queen but the people get to vote as well.

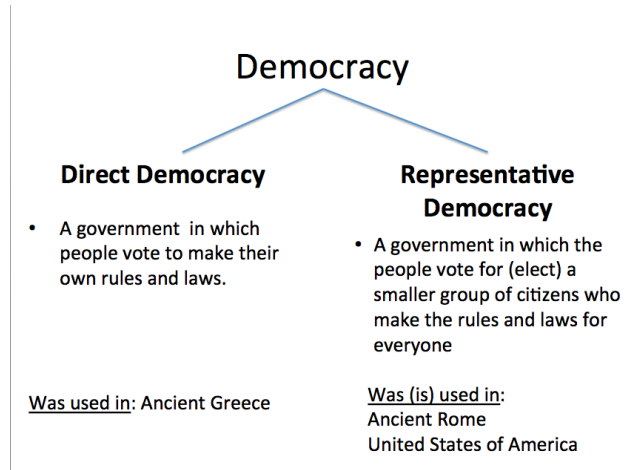
## Oligarchy



Oligarchy, government by the few, especially despotic power exercised by a small and privileged group for corrupt or selfish purposes.

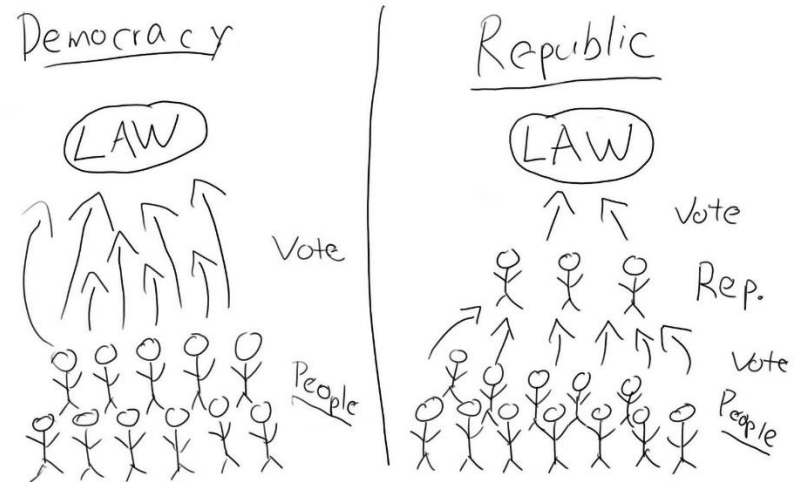
The "iron law of oligarchy," a concept devised by the German sociologist Robert Michels, is the idea that political parties will eventually become corrupt. His reasoning was that, no matter how good the original ideas and goals of a political party may be, there must emerge a limited group of leaders at the center of the party who can direct power and get things done. With time they become too powerful leading to corruption.

## Representative democracy



A representative democracy (also indirect democracy or psephocracy) is a system of government in which all eligible citizens vote on representatives to pass laws for them.

## Republic



A republic (from Latin: res publica) is a form of government in which power resides in elected individuals representing the citizens. The government leaders exercise power according to the rule of law. Currently, 147 of the world's 206 sovereign states use the word "republic" as part of their official names.

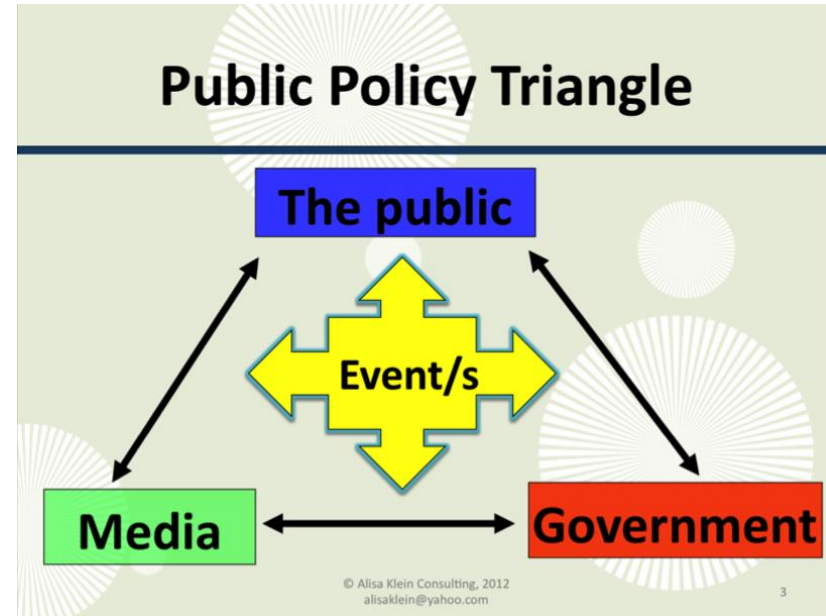


## Socialism



Democratic socialism rejects capitalism, seeing capitalism as inherently incompatible with the democratic values of freedom, equality and solidarity. Democratic socialists believe that the issues inherent to capitalism can only be solved by transitioning from capitalism to socialism, by ending private property with some form of social ownership. Society would own businesses, not individuals. The government would control the economy insuring that economic inequality is not severe and that citizens are cared for by the government.

## Public policy



The decisions and actions a government takes to solve problems with in a community. A system of laws, regulations, courses of action, and funding priorities concerning a given topic.

## Fascism



A governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, controlling industry, commerce, the economy as a whole. It emphasizes an aggressive form of nationalism (pride in your nation) and often racism.

## Ideology



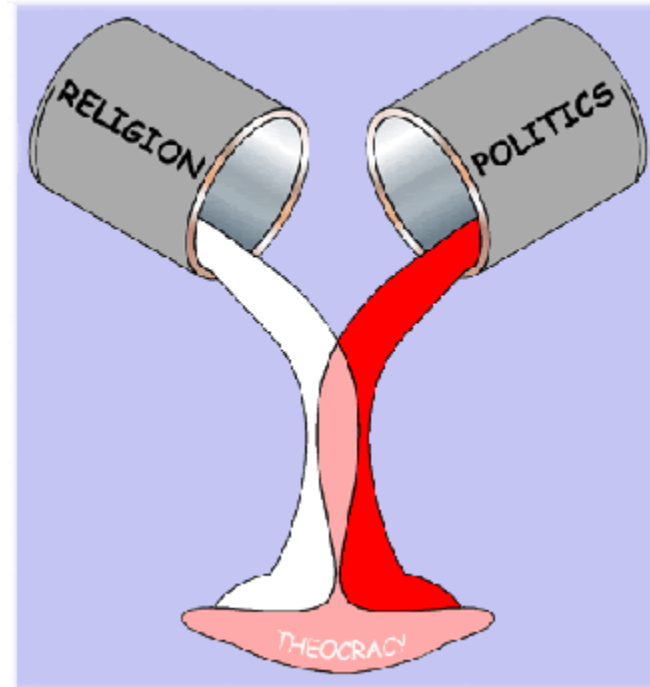
A system of beliefs or theories, usually political, held by an individual or a group. Capitalism, communism, and socialism are usually called ideologies.

## Authoritarian regime



A government that concentrates political power in an authority not responsible to the people. A single leader or group of people hold absolute power.

## Theocracy



A form of government in which God or a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler. The God's or deity's laws are then interpreted by the religious leaders who control the government. A system of government where religion controls the government.

