

What Forms of Government Exist?



As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...

- **Classify governments according to three sets of characteristics.**
- **Define systems of government based on who can participate.**
- **Identify ways that power can be distributed, geographically, within a state.**
- **Describe a government by the distribution of power between the legislative branch & executive branch.**

How Do We Classify Governments?

Three types of classifications...

1. Who can participate in governing process.
2. The geographic distribution of governmental power within the state.
3. The relationship between the branches of government.



The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

Democracy

Supreme political authority rests with people

Abraham Lincoln- “Government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

Democracy can be in 2 forms...

Direct Democracy- Will of the people is translated into law by the people themselves in mass meeting

Indirect Democracy- People have representatives that are elected & used at all levels of government.

INSERT PROJECT GOALS & PLAN HERE!

Republic

Sovereign power is held by those who can vote.

Political power is exercised by representatives.

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Dictatorship

Authoritarian form of government & most common form in history.

Government is not responsible for will of people nor its policies

Two types:

- a. **Autocracy**- Single person holds power.
- b. **Oligarchy**- Power held by small self-appointed elite

Theocracy

Based on religious law, rare form today.

**All government laws must follow a
moral & religious law
a. *Example* Iran & its
Theocratic Islamic Republic**

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***IMOW:* What Type of Government Does Winnebago Have?**

Constitutional Tribal Government- Native American government based around a tribe, typically structured around a written constitution.

Tribal Government

A central chief elected for life & responsible for life.

Centralized Government

Unitary Government- All powers held by government belong to a central agency

Central government creates local units for convenience.

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Great Britain

Single central organization known as Parliament.

Local governments exist to relieve Parliament of burdens

Both unitary government & democratic.

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Central & Local

Federal Government- Powers of government are divided between all forms.

Division of Powers- Both levels of government act directly on the people through laws, officials, & agencies

United States

National Government has powers & the 50 states have others.

State & National Government have to agree to change Constitution.

A disadvantage is each 50 states can have own policy on same issue.

Alliance of Independent States

Confederation- Alliance of independent states

Central organization has power to handle matters that members states assign

United States 2 examples:

- a. Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)**
- b. Confederate States of America (1861-1865)**

The European Union

Formed 12 countries in 1993 is closest to modern times.

Free trade among it's member-nations with common currency & coordination of defense policies

Separation of Powers

1. Presidential Government- Separates powers between Executive & legislative branches.

2. Branches are independent & equal

3. Chief executive is President & is chosen by the people.

Parliamentary Government

Executive branch is made up of Prime Minister & their cabinet.

Prime Minister & cabinet are members of legislative branch, parliament.

They remain in power as long as they have majority control of parliament.

Advantages & Disadvantages

Parliament is the most common form of government around the world

Parliament can avoid deadlock between the branches in a Presidential form.

Presidential branches, however, has checks & balances.