## 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?

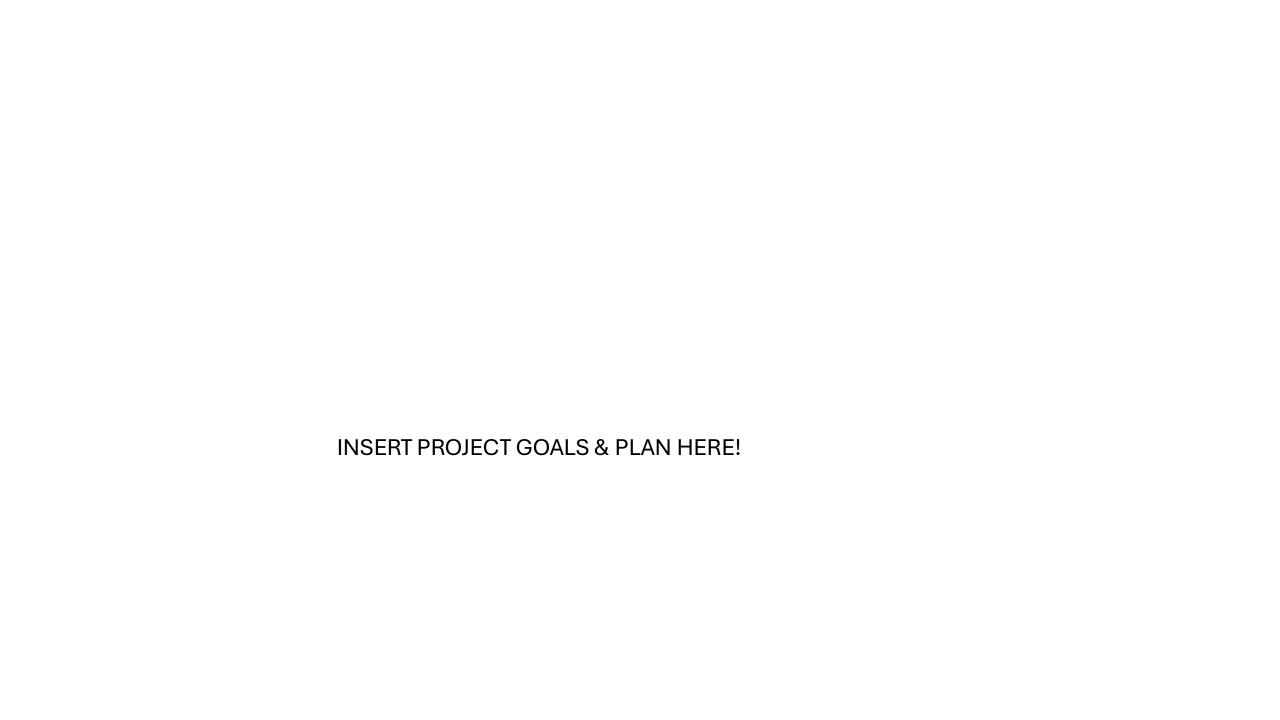
Three types of classifications...

- 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.



#### 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 &

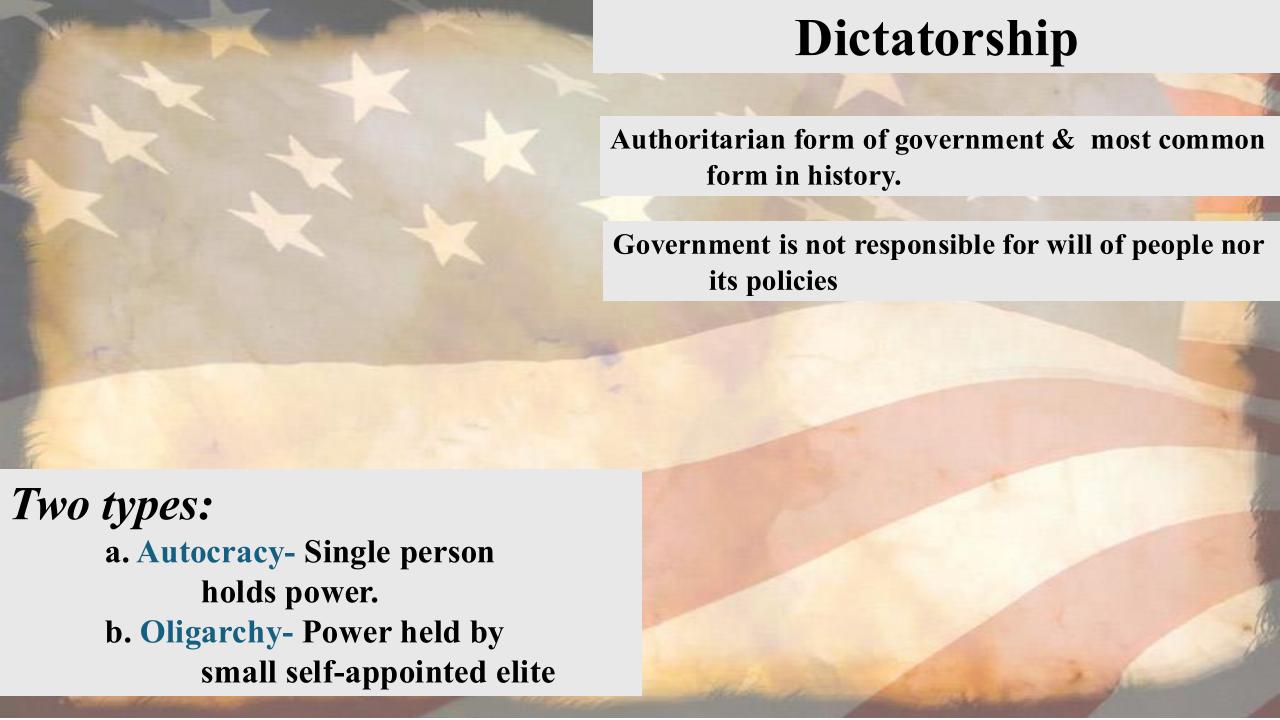
used at all levels of government.

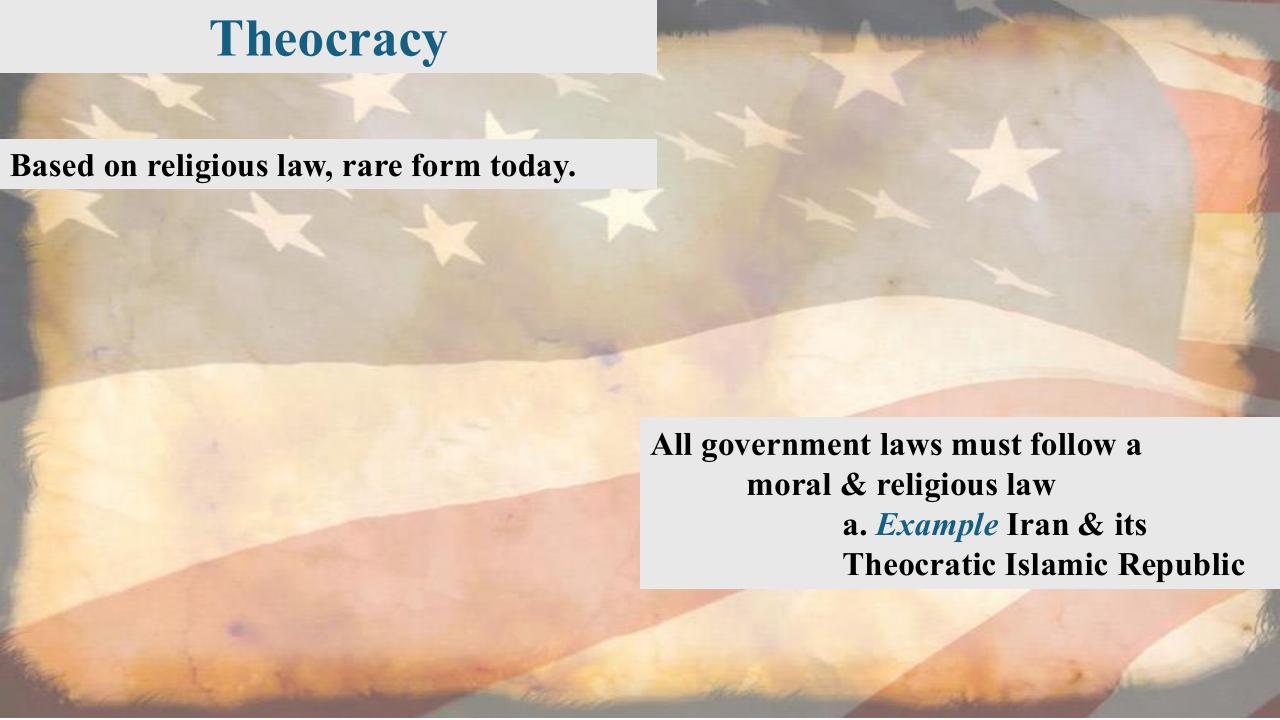


## Republic

Sovereign power is held by those who can vote.

Political power is exercised by representatives.









#### **Centralized Government**

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

Central government creates local units for convenience.

#### Great Britain

Single central organization known as Parliament.

Local governments exist to relieve Parliament of burdens

Both unitary government & democratic.



#### 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:** 

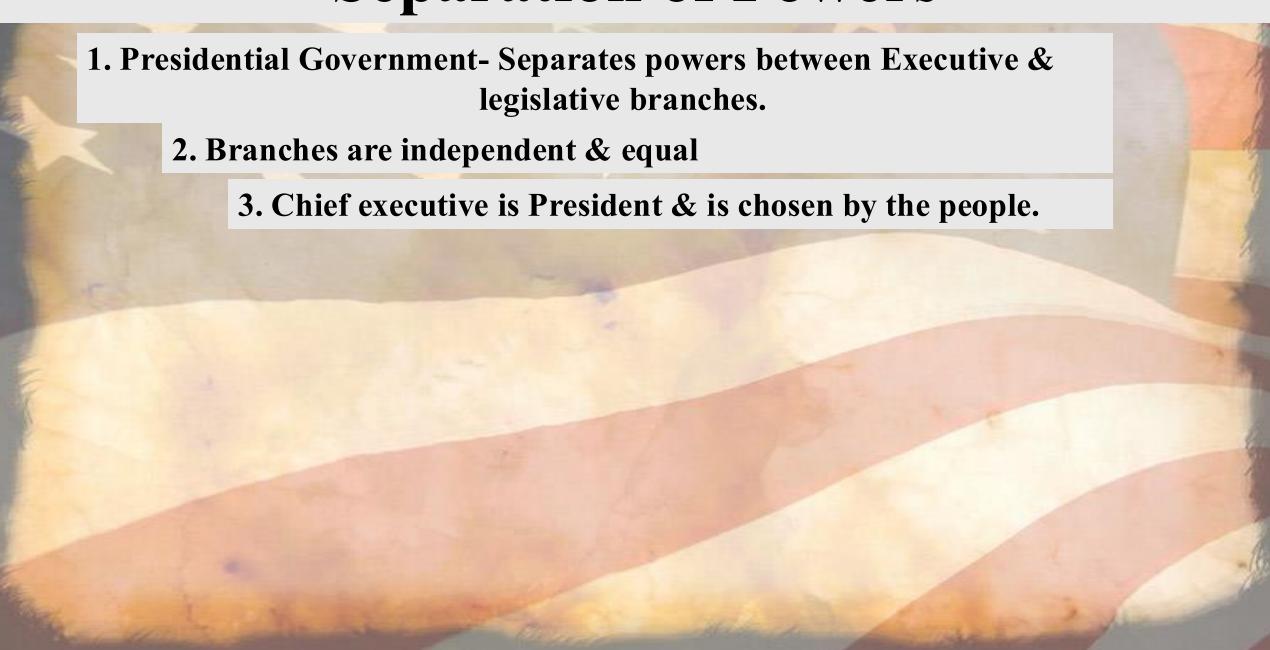
- a. Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)
- b. Confederate States of America (1861-1865)

## 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**



#### **Parliamentary Government**

Executive branch is made up of Prime Minster & 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.