

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT TYPES

There are different types of government systems in the world. Each country has their own government system. There are 8 different types of government:

- Oligarchy
- Absolute Monarchy
- Totalitarianism
- Direct Democracy
- Representative Democracy
- Dictatorship
- Theocracy
- Constitutional Monarchy

Using online resources, provide the definition of each government type, then provide examples of which countries use that system.

| Type | Definition | Examples |
|--------------------------|------------|----------|
| Oligarchy | | |
| Absolute Monarchy | | |
| Totalitarian | | |
| Direct Democracy | | |
| Representative Democracy | | |
| Dictatorship | | |
| Theocracy | | |
| Constitutional Monarchy | | |

GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS

Directions: Using the reading material and online resources, fill in the boxes. Explain why you agree or disagree with the system. Make sure to provide examples for your reasons.

| Type | Agree/Disagree | Explain |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Oligarchy | | |
| Absolute Monarchy | | |
| Totalitarian | | |
| Direct Democracy | | |
| Representative Democracy | | |
| Dictatorship | | |
| Theocracy | | |
| Constitutional Monarchy | | |

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

A representative democracy, also known as a republic, is an independent country ruled by representatives of the citizens of a nation. A republic is a government in which all citizens have the right to vote and in which the government's power is limited by a constitution.

A republic is different from a direct democracy in that the republic operates with a group of representatives chosen by the citizens, while in a direct democracy the citizens vote and participate directly in governmental affairs. Most modern representative governments are closer to a republic than a democracy.

In a republic, instead of voting directly about what they want to do, people vote for people to represent them, and those people decide what to do.



DIRECT DEMOCRACY

Democracy means rule by the people. This is when each citizen of the country has a vote about what to do. Whatever the most people vote for becomes the law. There is no king and anybody can propose a new law.

Direct democracy is a phrase that represents the decisions where citizens pass laws directly, without using representatives. Each person casts their own vote for proposed laws, instead of having a representative cast a vote on their behalf. A current example of the way direct democracy is practiced is the "initiative". This allows citizens to place proposals on the ballot that become law if most of the voters vote for the proposal.

One problem that comes up in a direct democracy is deciding who is going to be able to vote. It is much easier to allow fewer people to vote.

Historically, another problem for direct democracies was that it was not easy for men to always attend the meeting to place their vote. Most men had work to do such as farming, making shoes, fighting wars, etc. Most democracies sooner or later ended up choosing a few men who would do the voting and the rest only came when there was an important vote. It was hard to decide how to choose the few men, and different countries decide in different ways.

TOTALITARIAN

Totalitarian is a government system in which one person has all the power and authority in all aspects of day-to-day life. Totalitarian regimes are very rare. Prime examples of totalitarianism are the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin and Germany under Adolf Hitler. Totalitarianism prohibits opposition parties, restricts people's right to oppose the state and its claims, and exercises an extreme control over public and private life. Totalitarianism is considered the most extreme and complete form of authoritarianism.

Political power is often held by autocrats, a single person or party that has complete power, and will typically utilize propaganda campaigns broadcast by state-controlled media. Totalitarianism practices extensive political repression, a complete lack of democracy, widespread personality cultism, absolute control over the economy, restriction of speech, mass surveillance, and uses state terrorism.

Totalitarians will practice using concentration camps, repressive secret police, religious persecution or state atheism, extreme practice of capital punishment, rigged elections, and state-sponsored mass murder and genocides. Totalitarianism has no limits to its authority in one's public or private life and extends their authority to wherever feasible.

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a monarch, typically a king or queen, acts as the head of state within the parameters of a written or unwritten constitution. In a constitutional monarchy, political power is shared between the monarch and a constitutionally organized government such as a parliament.

Constitutional monarchies are the opposite of absolute monarchies, in which the monarch holds all power over the government and the people. Along with the United Kingdom, a few examples of modern constitutional monarchies include Canada, Sweden, and Japan.

The powers of the monarch, as the head of state, are enumerated in the constitution of a constitutional monarchy. The monarch's powers, if any, are very limited and their duties are mostly ceremonial. Instead, real governmental power is exercised by a parliament or similar legislative team overseen by a prime minister. While the monarch may be recognized as the "symbolic" head of state, and while the government might technically function in the name of the queen or king, the prime minister actually governs the country.

OLIGARCHY

Oligarchy is when people who are richer and more powerful than others rule over everyone else. This typically means this government system is generally bad for the people who are not as rich or as powerful.

People who rule in oligarchies may be elected, born into their positions, or may have a certain amount of money or land which allows them to be a part of the ruling group. Oligarchies are often controlled by a few powerful families whose children are raised and taught to take over, often at some sort of expense to those who are governed.

Oligarchies can happen in countries that already have other forms of government and can create a change. For example, a group of wealthy people in a country may persuade their ruler to share power. This happened in England in 1214 when a group of wealthy citizens came together and forced King John I of England to sign the Magna Carta. As the English society continued to develop and grow, the Magna Carta was revised and edited a few more times, each time guaranteeing more rights to more people.

ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

Absolute monarchy is a form of government that was very popular during medieval Europe until the end of the 18th century. It involved society being ruled over by a king or queen. The monarch has complete control of the society including political power, economics, and all forms of authority. The monarch maintains absolute control over the society with the addition of feudalism, which involved people being placed into different estates of power, such as clergy, nobility, and peasants.

An absolute monarchy can best be seen when Louis XIV ruled in France. He proclaimed "I am the state." Louis XIV ruled over France as a monarch from 1661 until 1715.

Absolute monarchies often contain two key features: hereditary rules and divine right of kings. Hereditary rule meant that the monarch received their position as a birth right and as one in a long family line of monarchs. Absolute monarchs practiced the divine right of kings, meaning the monarch derived his or her power from god. This empowered the monarch because it ensured that the king or queen did not get their power from the people, therefore the people had no control nor can have a say over the monarchs rule.



THEOCRACY

Theocracy is a form of government in which God or a deity of some type is recognized as the supreme ruling authority, giving divine guidance to people that manage the day to day affairs of the government. Theocracy means "the rule of God, originating from Greece.

Theocracy was named by Flavius Josephus. He argued that while people had developed many forms of rule, most would fall under three different types: monarchy, oligarchy, and democracy. The government of the Jews was unique. They were to follow laws that were ordained by Moses in which God is sovereign and his word is law.

DICTATORSHIP

A dictatorship is a form of government in which most or all authority of the country is in the hands of a single individual; the leader. Some of the most famous dictators include Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Kim Jung-un, and Fidel Castro. In general, dictatorship is the opposite of democracy, which is a system of government in which the people hold the power and the ability to choose who represents their government. A dictatorship is ruled by a single person who generally acts to protect his own position and power over the welfare of the citizens. The dictator essentially controls all part of the governments and wields total control.

However, just because a dictator controls the mechanisms of government does not mean they have the support of the people, and often dictators need to use different techniques in order to control the will of the people. The following is a list of the techniques used by dictators in their attempt to maintain control over the populations of their countries:

- **Censorship** : used to control the information that their citizens have access to. This eliminates ideas or information that opposes their own view of the world.
- **Indoctrination**: when a dictator uses formal means to "educate" the citizens in the ideology and importance of the leader(s). This allows the dictator to easily spread their ideology to the citizens and to help control the ideas and information that is provided to the citizens.
- **Propaganda**: an important tool to spread the government's message and ideology to its citizens in a totalitarian state. Typically used to develop the dictator as an all-powerful figure in the minds of the citizens.
- **State terror and secret police**: this is often seen in societies with dictators in the form of secret police and state-controlled prison camps. This allows the dictator to remove dissident citizens and control the population through fear and repression.
- **Scapegoating**: concept of blaming specific groups of people for the issues facing a country. The dictator or the government uses scapegoating as a means of controlling the anger of the citizens.