

## Types of Governments

Govt. "group"	Name of Govt.	Key Traits	Advantages (Pros)	Disadvantages (Cons)
<b>Democracy</b>	Pure Democracy (aka Direct Democracy)	All citizens may vote for ALL elected officials, laws, and issues facing the society.	It's fair for all involved.	Not practical for large populations or large geographical areas. Voters may be uninformed or uneducated.
	Representative Democracy (aka Republic)	Citizens vote for representatives who then make decisions on their behalf.	A fair justice system; guarantee of rights and liberties.	Decisions are sometimes slow as the "bureaucracy" can tend to bog things down.
	Parliamentary Democracy	Similar to a republic, but the power remains as long as the ruling party stays in power by the vote.	A fair judicial system; faster and easier to pass laws	There can be an imbalance of power; The chief executive officer, the Prime Minister, is not elected - but appointed.
	Social Democracy (Socialism)	A democratic system with multiple parties; government plays a strong role in the economy; more accurately considered an economic system.	Extensive personal rights and liberties; health care, education and public welfare (food and housing supplements) are not a concern for citizens.	Much higher taxes; requires effort on the part of the people; less opportunity for extensive wealth.

<b>Monarchy</b>	Absolute Monarchy	Oldest system of government; hereditary rule for life; rule of ONE; "mono" = one.	Runs efficiently; can unify the people when the ruler is fair and just.	Monarch may not have to follow his/her own laws; no individual rights or personal freedoms of citizens
	Constitutional Monarchy	The monarch is a figurehead; has no ruling authority	Can provide a sense of national pride and unity; preserves history, culture and tradition	The monarch cannot be removed; expensive to maintain.
<b>Totalitarian</b>	Communism	Motto - "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need." ALL means of production are controlled by the government.	Low unemployment rates; health care and education are free	No personal liberties or freedoms; no individual ownership of business; poverty is common.
	Fascism	Usually an individual leader or dictator who comes to power by force; an economic system in which citizens can own a business, but is under control of the government.	Can provide a sense of nationalism and unity; provides a strong military defense; economic security.	The leader/dictator may be an unethical person; personal freedoms are limited.
	Dictatorship	One ruler - one authority;	Single ruler provides for a stable government; makes for efficient decision making	No choice in who will be the leader; citizens have no voting rights; little or no personal rights or liberties.
	Oligarchy	A small group of people who become the "ruling elite."	The people in charge are usually good at what they do, so it creates stability;	Sometimes can become inequitable dispersion of wealth.

<b>Theocracy</b>	Theocracy	A religious leader is in charge; may or may not be considered a deity (a god).	Can promote a sense of unity among the citizens; a single leader makes decision making more efficient	Those who do not follow the faith of the leader may be persecuted; the leader could be unethical
<b>Anarchy</b>	Anarchy	The absence of an official government structure	Excess individual freedoms; no ruling authority creating laws that may restrict freedoms	The lack of a ruling authority most often leads to disorder and chaos.