**Form of Governments**

**Government**

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For government in linguistics, see [Government (linguistics)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_%28linguistics%29).

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A **government** is the system by which a [state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_%28polity%29) or community is governed. In [Commonwealth English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_English), a *government* more narrowly refers to the particular [executive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_%28government%29) in control of a state at a given time—known in [American English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_English) as an [*administration*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administration_%28government%29#United_States). In American English, *government* refers to the larger system by which any state is organized. Furthermore, *government* is occasionally used in English as a [synonym](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synonym) for [*governance*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governance).

In the case of its broad associative definition, government normally consists of [legislators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislature), [administrators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_%28government%29), and [arbitrators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary). Government is the means by which state policy is enforced, as well as the mechanism for determining the [policy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Policy) of the state. A form of government, or form of state governance, refers to the set of political systems and institutions that make up the organization of a specific government.

Government of any kind currently affects every human activity in many important ways. For this reason, [political scientists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_science) generally argue that government should not be studied by itself; but should be studied along with [anthropology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology), [economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics), [history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), [philosophy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy), [science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science), and [sociology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology).

**Political science**

**Etymology**

From Middle English government, from Old French government(French government), from Latin gubernatio ("management, government"). Government is a compound formed from the Ancient Greek κυβερνάω (kubernaō, "I steer, drive, guide, pilot") and the Latin -mente, ablative singular of mēns (“mind”).

* [*arch-*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/arch-), prefix derived from the Greek [archon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archon), 'rulership', which means "higher in hierarchy". The Greek word [κράτος](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%CE%BA%CF%81%CE%AC%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%82) *krátos*, 'power', which means "right to lead" is the suffix root in words like [*aristocrat*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/aristocrat) and [*democracy*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy). Its mythological personification was the god [Kratos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kratos_%28mythology%29), a son of Styx.

**Classifying government**

In political science, it has long been a goal to create a typology or taxonomy of [polities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polities), as typologies of political systems are not obvious. It is especially important in the [political science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_science) fields of [comparative politics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative_politics) and [international relations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_relations).

On the surface, identifying a form of government appears to be easy, as all governments have an official form. The United States is a [federal republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic), while the former Soviet Union was a [socialist republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_republic). However self-identification is not objective, and as Kopstein and Lichbach argue, defining regimes can be tricky. For example, [elections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election) are a defining characteristic of a democracy, but in practice elections in the former Soviet Union were not "free and fair" and took place in a [single party state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_party_state). Thus in many practical classifications it would not be considered democratic.

Identifying a form of government is also complicated because a large number of [political systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_systems) originate as [socio-economic movements](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Socio-economic_movement&action=edit&redlink=1) and are then carried into governments by specific [parties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_party) naming themselves after those movements; all with competing political-ideologies. Experience with those movements in power, and the strong ties they may have to particular forms of government, can cause them to be considered as forms of government in themselves.

Other complications include general non-consensus or deliberate "distortion or bias" of reasonable technical definitions to political ideologies and associated forms of governing, due to the nature of politics in the modern era. For example: The meaning of "[conservatism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservatism)" in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) has little in common with the way the word's definition is used elsewhere. As Ribuffo (2011) notes, "what Americans now call conservatism much of the world calls [liberalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism) or neoliberalism". Since the 1950s conservatism in the United States has been chiefly associated with the [Republican Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Republican_Party_%28United_States%29). However, during the era of [segregation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation_in_the_United_States) many [Southern Democrats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Democrats) were conservatives, and they played a key role in the [Conservative Coalition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservative_Coalition) that controlled Congress from 1937 to 1963.

Every country in the world is ruled by a system of governance that combines at least 2 (or more) of the following attributes (for example, the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) is not a true capitalist society, since the government actually provides social services for its citizens). Additionally, one person's opinion of the type of government may differ from another's (for example, some may argue that the [United States is a plutocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutocracy#United_States) rather than a democracy since they may believe it is ruled by the wealthy). There are always shades of gray in any government. Even the most liberal democracies limit rival political activity to one extent or another, and even the most tyrannical dictatorships must organize a broad base of support, so it is very difficult "[pigeonholing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pigeonholing)" every government into narrow categories.

**The dialectical forms of government**

Main article: [Plato's five regimes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato%27s_five_regimes)

The [Classical Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Greece) [philosopher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophy) [Plato](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plato) discusses **five types of regimes**. They are [aristocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy), [timocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timocracy), [oligarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligarchy), [democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) and [tyranny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrant). Plato also assigns a man to each of these regimes to illustrate what they stand for. The tyrannical man would represent tyranny for example. These five regimes progressively degenerate starting with aristocracy at the top and tyranny at the bottom.

In [*Republic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Republic_%28Plato%29), while Plato spends much time having Socrates narrate a conversation about the city he founds with Glaucon and Adeimantus "in speech", the discussion eventually turns to considering four regimes that exist in reality and tend to degrade successively into each other: timocracy, oligarchy (also called plutocracy), democracy and tyranny (also called despotism).

**Forms of government by associated attributes**

Descriptions of governments can be based on the following attributes:

**By elements of where decision-making power is held**

**Aristarchic attributes**

Governments with *aristarchy* attributes are traditionally controlled and organized by a small group of the most-qualified people, with no intervention from the most part of society; this small group usually shares some common trait. The opposite of an aristarchic government is [kakistocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakistocracy).

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Aristocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy) | Rule by elite citizens. It has come to mean rule by "the aristocracy" who are people of noble birth. An aristocracy is a government by the "best" people. A person who rules in an aristocracy is an aristocrat. Aristocracy is different from nobility, in that nobility means that one bloodline would rule; an aristocracy would mean that a few or many bloodlines would rule, or that rulers be chosen in a different manner. |
| [Geniocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geniocracy) | Rule by the intelligent; a system of governance where creativity, innovation, intelligence and wisdom are required for those who wish to govern. See [Aristocracy of the wise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noocracy). |
| [Kratocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kratocracy) | Rule by the strong; a system of governance where those who are strong enough seize power through physical force, social maneuvering or political cunning. The process can mimic [Darwinian selection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darwinian_selection). |
| [Meritocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritocracy) | Rule by the meritorious; a system of governance where groups are selected on the basis of people's ability, knowledge in a given area, and contributions to society. |
| [Timocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timocracy) | Rule by [honor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honour); a system of governance ruled by honorable citizens and property owners. [Socrates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socrates) defines a timocracy as a government ruled by people who love honor and are selected according to the degree of honor they hold in society. This form of timocracy is very similar to [meritocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritocracy), in the sense that individuals of outstanding character or faculty are placed in the seat of power. European feudalism and post-Revolutionary America are historical examples of this type; the [city-state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City-state) of [Sparta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparta) provided another real-world model for this form of government. |
| [Technocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technocracy) | Rule by the educated or technical experts; a system of governance where people who are skilled or proficient govern in their respective areas of expertise in technology would be in control of all decision making. Doctors, engineers, scientists, professionals and technologists who have knowledge, expertise, or skills, would compose the governing body, instead of politicians, businessmen, and economists. In a technocracy, decision makers would be selected based upon how knowledgeable and skillful they are in their field. |

**Autocratic attributes**

Governments with *autocratic* attributes are dominated by one person who has all the power over the people in a country. The [Roman Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Republic) made *dictators* to lead during times of war; the Roman dictators only held power for a small time. In modern times, an autocrat's rule is not stopped by any rules of law, [constitutions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution), or other social and political institutions. After World War II, many governments in Latin America, Asia, and Africa were ruled by autocratic governments. Examples of autocrats include [Idi Amin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idi_Amin), [Muammar Gaddafi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muammar_Gaddafi), [Adolf Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) and [Gamal Abdul Nasser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamal_Abdul_Nasser).

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Autocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocracy) | Rule by one individual, whose decisions are subject to neither external legal restraints nor regular mechanisms of popular control (except perhaps for implicit threat). An autocrat needs servants while a despot needs slaves. |
| [Despotism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Despotism) | Rule by a single entity with absolute power. That entity may be an individual, as in an autocracy, or it may be a group, as in an oligarchy. The word despotism means to "rule in the fashion of a despot" and does not necessarily require a single, or individual, "despot". A despot needs slaves while an autocrat needs servants. |
| [Dictatorship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictatorship) | Rule by an individual who has full power over the country. The term may refer to a system where the dictator came to power, and holds it, purely by force; but it also includes systems where the dictator first came to power legitimately but then was able to amend the constitution so as to, in effect, gather all power for themselves. In a military dictatorship, the army is in control. Usually, there is little or no attention to public opinion or individual rights. See also [Autocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocracy) and [Stratocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratocracy). |
| [Fascism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism) | Rule by leader base only. Focuses heavily on [patriotism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriotism) and [national identity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_identity). The leader(s) has the power to make things illegal that do not relate to nationalism, or increase belief in national pride. They believe their nation is based on commitment to an organic national community where its citizens are united together as one people through a national identity. It exalts nation and race above the individual and stands for severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition. |

**Monarchic attributes**

Governments with *monarchic* attributes are ruled by a king/emperor or a queen/empress who usually holds their position for life. There are two types of monarchies: absolute monarchies and constitutional monarchies. In an absolute monarchy, the ruler has no limits on their wishes or powers. In a constitutional monarchy a ruler's powers are limited by a document called a constitution. The constitution was put in place to put a check to these powers.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Absolute monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) | Variant of monarchy; a system of governance in which a [monarch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch) exercises ultimate governing authority as [head of state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state) and [head of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_government). |
| [Constitutional monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) | Variant of monarchy; a system of governance that has a [monarch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch), but one whose powers are limited by law or by a formal [constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution), such as that in the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom). |
| [Diarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diarchy) | Variant of monarchy; a system of government in which two individuals, the *diarchs*, are the [heads of state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state). In most diarchies, the diarchs hold their position for life and pass the responsibilities and power of the position to their children or family when they die. Diarchy is one of the oldest forms of government. In modern usage diarchy means a system of dual rule, whether this be of a government or of an organization. Such 'diarchies' are not hereditary. |
| [Elective monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elective_monarchy) | Variant of monarchy; a system of governance that has an elected monarch, in contrast to a *hereditary monarchy* in which the office is automatically passed down as a family inheritance. The democratic manner of election, the nature of candidate qualifications, and the electors vary from case to case. |
| [Emirate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirate) | Similar to a monarchy or **sultanate**; a system of governance in which the supreme power is in the hands of an emir (the ruler of a [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) state); the emir may be an absolute overlord or a sovereign with constitutionally limited authority. |
| [Federal monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_monarchy) | Variant of monarchy; a system of governance where a federation of states with a single monarch as overall head of the federation, but retaining different monarchs, or a non-monarchical system of government, in the various states joined to the federation. |
| [Monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy) | Rule by [royalty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_family); a system of governance where an individual who has inherited the role and expects to bequeath it to their heir. |

**Pejorative attributes**

Regardless of the form of government, the actual governance may be influenced by sectors with [political power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_%28social_and_political%29) which are not part of the formal government. Certain actions of the governors, such as [corruption](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corruption), [demagoguery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demagoguery), or [fear mongering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fear_mongering), may disrupt the intended way of working of the government if they are widespread enough.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Bankocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bankocracy) | Rule by banks; a system of governance with excessive power or influence of banks and other financial authorities on public policy-making. It can also refer to a form of government where financial institutions rule society. |
| [Corporatocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporatocracy) | Rule by corporations; a system of governance where an economic and political system is controlled by corporations or corporate interests. Its use is generally pejorative. Examples include [company rule in India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_rule_in_India) and business voters for the [City of London Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_London_Corporation). |
| [Nepotocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepotism) | Rule by nephews; [favoritism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favouritism) granted to [relatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinship) regardless of [merit](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/merit); a system of governance in which importance is given to the relatives of those already in power, like a *nephew* (where the word comes from). In such governments even if the relatives aren't qualified they are given positions of authority just because they know someone who already has authority. [Pope Alexander VI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Alexander_VI) ([Borgia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borgia)) was accused of this. |
| [Kakistocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakistocracy) | Rule by the stupid; a system of governance where the worst or least-qualified citizens govern or dictate policies. Due to [human nature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_nature) being inherently flawed, it has been suggested that every government which has ever existed has been a prime example of kakistocracy. See [Idiocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idiocracy). |
| [Kleptocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kleptocracy) ([Mafia state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mafia_state)) | Rule by thieves; a system of governance where its officials and the ruling class in general pursue personal wealth and political power at the expense of the wider population. In strict terms kleptocracy is not a form of government but a *characteristic* of a government engaged in such behavior. Examples include Mexico as being considered a *narcokleptocracy*, since its democratic government is perceived to be corrupted by those who profit from trade in illegal drugs smuggled into the United States. |
| [Ochlocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ochlocracy) | Rule by the general populace; a system of governance where **mob rule** is government by mob or a mass of people, or the [intimidation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intimidation) of legitimate authorities. As a pejorative for [majoritarianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majoritarianism), it is akin to the [Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) phrase ***mobile vulgus*** meaning "the fickle crowd", from which the English term "mob" was originally derived in the 1680s. Ochlocratic governments are often a democracy spoiled by [demagoguery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demagoguery), "[tyranny of the majority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyranny_of_the_majority)" and the rule of passion over reason; such governments can be as oppressive as autocratic tyrants. Ochlocracy is synonymous in meaning and usage to the modern, informal term "mobocracy." |

**By elements of who elects the empowered**

**Authoritarian attributes**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Authoritarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism) | Rule by authoritarian governments is identified in societies where a specific set of people possess the authority of the state in a [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) or union. It is a [political system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_system) controlled by unelected rulers who usually permit some degree of [individual freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Individual_freedom). |
| [Totalitarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism) | Rule by a totalitarian government is characterized by a highly centralized and coercive authority that regulates nearly every aspect of public and private life. |

**Democratic attributes**

Further information: [Outline of democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outline_of_democracy)

Governments with *democratic* attributes are most common in the Western world and in some countries of the east that have been influenced by western society, often by being colonized by western powers over the course of history. In democracies, large proportions of the population may vote, either to make decisions or to choose representatives to make decisions. Commonly significant in democracies are political parties, which are groups of people with similar ideas about how a country or region should be governed. Different political parties have different ideas about how the government should handle different problems.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Demarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demarchy) | Variant of democracy; government in which the [state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_%28polity%29) is governed by [randomly selected](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Random_selection) decision makers who have been selected by [sortition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sortition) (lot) from a broadly inclusive pool of eligible citizens. These groups, sometimes termed "policy juries", "citizens' juries", or "consensus conferences", deliberately make decisions about public policies in much the same way that [juries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jury) decide criminal cases.  Demarchy, in theory, could overcome some of the functional problems of conventional [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy), which is widely subject to manipulation by [special interests](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_interests) and a division between professional policymakers (politicians and lobbyists) vs. a largely passive, uninvolved and often uninformed electorate. According to Australian philosopher [John Burnheim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Burnheim), random selection of policymakers would make it easier for everyday citizens to meaningfully participate, and harder for special interests to corrupt the process.  More generally, random selection of decision makers from a larger group is known as [sortition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sortition) (from the Latin base for lottery). The [Athenian democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athenian_democracy) made much use of sortition, with nearly all government offices filled by lottery (of full citizens) rather than by election. Candidates were almost always male, Greek, educated citizens holding a minimum of wealth and status. |
| [Democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) | Rule by a government chosen by election where most of the populace are enfranchised. The key distinction between a democracy and other forms of constitutional government is usually taken to be that the right to vote is not limited by a person's wealth or race (the main qualification for enfranchisement is usually having reached a certain age). A democratic government is, therefore, one supported (at least at the time of the election) by a [majority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majority) of the populace (provided the election was held fairly). A "majority" may be defined in different ways. There are many "power-sharing" (usually in countries where people mainly identify themselves by race or religion) or "electoral-college" or "constituency" systems where the government is not chosen by a simple one-vote-per-person headcount. |
| [Direct democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_democracy) | Variant of democracy; government in which the people represent themselves and vote directly for new laws and public policy |
| [Liberal democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_democracy) | Variant of democracy; a [form of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Form_of_government) in which [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) operates under the principles of [liberalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism). It is characterized by fair, free, and competitive [elections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections) between [multiple distinct](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluralism_%28political_philosophy%29) [political parties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_parties), a [separation of powers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) into different [branches of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Branches_of_government), the [rule of law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_of_law) in everyday life as part of an [open society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_society), and the protection of [human rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights) and [civil liberties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_liberties) for all persons. To define the system in practice, liberal democracies often draw upon a [constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution), either formally written or [uncodified](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncodified_constitution), to delineate the powers of government and enshrine the [social contract](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_contract). After a period of sustained expansion throughout the 20th century, liberal democracy became the predominant political system in the world. A liberal democracy may take various constitutional forms: it may be a constitutional [republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic), such as [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France), [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland), [Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy), or the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States); or a [constitutional monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), such as [Japan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan), [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain), or the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom). It may have a [presidential system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) ([Argentina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentina), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico), or the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)), a [semi-presidential system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) ([France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) or [Taiwan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China)), or a [parliamentary system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) ([Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [New Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland), or the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom)). |
| [Representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) | Variant of democracy; wherein the people or citizens of a country elect representatives to create and implement public policy in place of active participation by the people. |
| [Social democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_democracy) | Variant of democracy; social democracy rejects the "either/or" phobiocratic/polarization interpretation of capitalism versus socialism. It claims that fostering a progressive evolution of capitalism will gradually result in the evolution of capitalist economy into socialist economy. Social democracy argues that all citizens should be legally entitled to certain social rights. These are made up of universal access to public services such as: education, health care, workers' compensation, public transportation, and other services including child care and care for the elderly. Social democracy is connected with the trade union labor movement and supports collective bargaining rights for workers. Contemporary social democracy advocates freedom from discrimination based on differences of: ability/disability, age, ethnicity, sex, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and social class. |
| [Totalitarian democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarian_democracy) | Variant of democracy; refers to a system of government in which lawfully elected representatives maintain the integrity of a nation state whose citizens, while granted the right to vote, have little or no participation in the decision-making process of the government. |

**Oligarchic attributes**

Governments with *oligarchic* attributes are ruled by a small group of segregated, powerful and/or influential people, who usually share similar interests and/or family relations. These people may spread power and elect candidates equally or not equally. An oligarchy is different from a true democracy because very few people are given the chance to change things. An oligarchy does not have to be hereditary or monarchic. An oligarchy does not have one clear ruler, but several rulers.

Some historical examples of oligarchy are the former [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_of_Soviet_Socialist_Republic). Some critics of [representative democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy) think of the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) as an oligarchy. The [Athenian democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athenian_democracy) used [sortition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sortition) to elect candidates, almost always male, white, Greek, educated citizens holding a minimum of land, wealth and status.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Ergatocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ergatocracy) | Rule by the [proletariat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proletariat), the workers, or the working class. Examples of ergatocracy include communist revolutionaries and rebels which control most of society and create an alternative economy for people and workers. See [Dictatorship of the proletariat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictatorship_of_the_proletariat). |
| [Kritarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kritarchy) | Rule by judges; a system of governance composed of law enforcement institutions in which the state and the [legal systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_system) are traditionally and/or [constitutionally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution) the same entity. Kritarchic judges, magistrates and other adjudicators have the legal power to legislate and administrate the enforcement of government laws, in addition to the interposition of laws and the resolution of disputes. (Not to be confused with *"*[*judiciary*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary)*"* or *"*[*judicial system*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_system)*"*.) [Somalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somalia), ruled by judges with the tradition of [xeer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xeer), as well as the [Islamic Courts Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Courts_Union), is a historical example. |
| [Netocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netocracy) | Rule by social connections; a term invented by the editorial board of the American technology magazine *Wired* in the early 1990s. A portmanteau of Internet and aristocracy, netocracy refers to a perceived global upper-class that bases its power on a technological advantage and networking skills, in comparison to what is portrayed as a bourgeoisie of a gradually diminishing importance. The netocracy concept has been compared with [Richard Florida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Florida)'s concept of the [creative class](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_class). Bard and Söderqvist have also defined an under-class in opposition to the [netocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netocracy), which they refer to as the consumtariat. |
| [Oligarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligarchy) | Rule by a system of governance with small group of people who share similar interests or family relations. |
| [Plutocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutocracy) | Rule by the rich; a system of governance composed of the wealthy class. Any of the forms of government listed here can be plutocracy. For instance, if all of the elected representatives in a republic are wealthy, then it is a republic and a plutocracy. |
| [Stratocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratocracy) | Rule by military service; a system of governance composed of military government in which the state and the military are traditionally and/or [constitutionally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution) the same entity. Citizens with mandatory or voluntary active military service, or who have been honorably discharged, have the right to govern. (Not to be confused with *"*[*military junta*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_junta)*"* or *"*[*military dictatorship*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_dictatorship)*"*.) The [Spartan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparta) [city-state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City-state) is a historical example; its social system and constitution, were completely focused on military training and excellence. Stratocratic ideology often attaches to the honor-oriented [timocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timocracy). |
| [Theocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theocracy) | Rule by a religious elite; a system of governance composed of religious institutions in which the state and the church are traditionally and/or [constitutionally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution) the same entity. Citizens who are clergy have the right to govern. [The Vatican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_See)'s (see [Pope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope)) and the [Tibetan government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Tibetan_Administration)'s (see [Dalai Lama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalai_Lama)) are historically considered *theocracies*. |

**Other attributes**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Anarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anarchy) | **Anarchy** has more than one definition. In the United States, the term "anarchy" typically is used to refer to a society without a publicly enforced government or violently enforced political authority. When used in this sense, anarchy may or may not be intended to imply political disorder or [lawlessness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_disorder) within a society.  Outside of the U.S., and by most individuals that self-identify as anarchists, it implies a system of governance, mostly theoretical at a nation state level. There are also other forms of anarchy that attempt to avoid the use of coercion, violence, force and authority, while still producing a productive and desirable society. |
| [Anocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anocracy) | An **anocracy** is a regime type where power is not vested in public institutions (as in a normal democracy) but spread amongst elite groups who are constantly competing with each other for power. Examples of anocracies in Africa include the warlords of [Somalia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somalia) and the shared governments in [Kenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) and [Zimbabwe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zimbabwe). Anocracies are situated midway between an [autocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autocracy) and a [democracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy).  The Polity IV dataset recognized anocracy as a category. In that dataset, anocracies are exactly in the middle between autocracies and democracies.  Often the word is defined more broadly. For example a 2010 [International Alert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Alert) publication defined anocracies as "countries that are neither autocratic nor democratic, most of which are making the risky transition between autocracy and democracy". Alert noted that the number of anocracies had increased substantially since the end of the Cold War. Anocracy is not surprisingly the least resilient political system to short-term shocks: it creates the promise but not yet the actuality of an inclusive and effective political economy, and threatens members of the established elite; and is therefore very vulnerable to disruption and armed violence. |
| [Banana republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banana_republic) | A **banana republic** is a politically unstable kleptocratic government that economically depends upon the exports of a limited resource (fruits, minerals), and usually features a society composed of [stratified](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_stratification) [social classes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_%28social%29), such as a great, impoverished ergatocracy and a ruling plutocracy, composed of the aristocracy of business, politics, and the military. In [political science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_science), the term *banana republic* denotes a country dependent upon limited [primary-sector productions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_sector_of_the_economy), which is ruled by a [plutocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutocracy) who exploit the national economy by means of a politico-economic [oligarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligarchy). In [American literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_literature), the term *banana republic* originally denoted the fictional *Republic of Anchuria*, a servile dictatorship that abetted, or supported for [kickbacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kickbacks), the exploitation of large-scale plantation agriculture, especially banana cultivation. In U.S. politics, the term [*banana republic*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/banana_republic) is a pejorative political descriptor coined by the American writer [O. Henry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O._Henry) in *Cabbages and Kings* (1904), a book of thematically related short stories derived from his 1896–97 residence in [Honduras](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honduras), where he was hiding from U.S. law for bank [embezzlement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embezzlement). |
| [Maoism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maoism) | The theory and practice of [Marxism-Leninism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism-Leninism) developed in China by [Mao Zedong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Zedong) ([Mao Tse-tung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Tse-tung)), which states that a continuous revolution is necessary if the leaders of a communist state are to keep in touch with the people. |

**By elements of how power distribution is structured**

**Republican attributes**

A republic is a form of government in which the country is considered a "public matter" (Latin: res publica), not the private concern or property of the rulers, and where offices of states are subsequently directly or indirectly elected or appointed rather than inherited.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) | Rule by a form of government in which the people, or some significant portion of them, have supreme control over the government and where offices of state are elected or chosen by elected people. A common simplified definition of a republic is a government where the head of state is not a monarch. [Montesquieu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montesquieu) included both [democracies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy), where all the people have a share in rule, and [aristocracies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy) or [oligarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligarchy), where only some of the people rule, as republican forms of government. |
| [Constitutional republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_republic) | Rule by a government whose powers are limited by law or a formal constitution, and chosen by a vote amongst at least some sections of the populace (Ancient Sparta was in its own terms a republic, though most inhabitants were disenfranchised). Republics that exclude sections of the populace from participation will typically claim to represent all citizens (by defining people without the vote as "non-citizens"). Examples include the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), [South Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), etc. |
| [Democratic republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_republic) | A republic form of government where the country is considered a "public matter" (Latin: res publica), not a private concern or property of rulers/3rd world, and where offices of states are subsequently, directly or indirectly, elected or appointed – rather than inherited – where all eligible citizens have an equal say in the local and national decisions that affect their lives. |
| [Parliamentary republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic) | A republic, like [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore) and [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland), with an elected head of state, but where the head of state and head of government are kept separate with the head of government retaining most executive powers, or a head of state akin to a head of government, elected by a parliament. |
| [Federal republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) | A federal union of states or provinces with a republican form of government. Examples include [Argentina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentina), [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia), and [Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland). |
| [Islamic Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Republic) | Republics governed in accordance with Islamic law. Examples include [Afghanistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan), [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), and [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran). |
| [Socialist republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_state) | Countries like [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) and [Vietnam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam) are meant to be governed for and by the people, but with no direct elections. The term *People's Republic* is used to differentiate themselves from the earlier republic of their countries before the people's revolution, like the Republic of China and Republic of Korea. |

**Federalism attributes**

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|  | This section requires [expansion](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Government&action=edit). *(January 2013)* |

**Federalism** is a [political](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political) concept in which a *group* of members are bound together by covenant (Latin: *foedus*, [covenant](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/covenant)) with a governing [representative head](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_headship). The term "federalism" is also used to describe a system of government in which [sovereignty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty) is [constitutionally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution) divided between a central governing authority and constituent political units (such as states or provinces). Federalism is a system based upon [democratic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic) rules and institutions in which the power to govern is shared between national and provincial/state governments, creating what is often called a [**federation**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation). Proponents are often called [federalists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalist).

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Federalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism) | Rule by a form of government in which the people, or some significant portion of them, have supreme control over the government and where offices of state are elected or chosen by elected people. [Montesquieu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montesquieu) included both [democracies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy), where all the people have a share in rule, and [aristocracies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy) or [oligarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oligarchy), where only some of the people rule, as republican forms of government. |
| [Federal monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_monarchy) | A federal monarchy is a federation of states with a single monarch as overall head of the federation, but retaining different monarchs, or a non-monarchical system of government, in the various states joined to the federation. |
| [Federal republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) | A federal union of states or provinces with a republican form of government. Examples include [Argentina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argentina), [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany), [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India), [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia), and [Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland). |

**Other power structure attributes**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Adhocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adhocracy) | Rule by a government based on relatively disorganized principles and institutions as compared to a [bureaucracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureaucracy), its exact opposite. |
| [Anarchism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anarchism) | Sometimes said to be non-governance; it is a structure which strives for non-hierarchical voluntary associations among agents. Anarchy is a situation where there is no government.  This can happen after a civil war in a country, when a government has been destroyed and rival groups are fighting to take its place. There are also people called anarchists. They believe that any government is a bad thing – this belief is called anarchism. Anarchists think governments stop people organizing their own lives. Instead they think people would be better off if they ruled their own lives and worked together to create a society in any form they choose. |
| [Band society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Band_society) | Rule by a government based on small (usually family) unit with a semi-informal hierarchy, with strongest (either physical strength or strength of character) as leader. Very much like a pack seen in other animals, such as wolves. |
| [Bureaucracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bureaucracy) | Rule by a system of governance with many bureaus, administrators, and petty officials |
| [Chiefdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiefdom) ([Tribal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribal)) | Rule by a government based on small complex society of varying degrees of centralization that is led by an individual known as a chief. |
| [Cybersynacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Cybersyn) | Ruled by a data fed group of secluded individuals that regulates aspects of public and private life using data feeds and technology having no interactivity with the citizens but using "facts only" to decide direction. |
| [Parliamentary system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) | A system of democratic government in which the ministers of the executive branch derive their legitimacy from and are accountable to a legislature or parliament; the executive and legislative branches are interconnected. It is a political system in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them. |
| [Presidential system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system) | A system of government where an executive branch is led by a president who serves as both head of state and head of government. In such a system, this branch exists separately from the legislature, to which it is not responsible and which it cannot, in normal circumstances, dismiss. |
| [Nomocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomocracy) | Rule by a government under the sovereignty of rational laws and civic right as opposed to one under theocratic systems of government. In a nomocracy, ultimate and final authority (sovereignty) exists in the law. |

**Forms of government by other characteristic attributes**

**By socio-economic system attributes**

Further information: [Economic system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_system)

Historically, most political systems originated as [socioeconomic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socioeconomic) [ideologies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_ideology); experience with those movements in power, and the strong ties they may have to particular forms of government, can cause them to be considered as forms of government in themselves.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Capitalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalism) | In a capitalist or free-market economy, people own their own businesses and property and must buy services for private use. |
| [Communism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism) | A form of socialism, a stateless, classless, moneyless society, based on common ownership of industry, |
| [Feudalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudalism) | A system of land ownership and duties. Under feudalism, all the land in a kingdom was the king's. However, the king would give some of the land to the lords or nobles who fought for him. These presents of land were called manors. Then the nobles gave some of their land to vassals. The vassals then had to do duties for the nobles. The lands of vassals were called fiefs. |
| [Socialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism) | In a socialist society, workers democratically through cooperatives own all industry, public services may be commonly or state owned, such as healthcare and education. |
| [Welfare state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welfare_state) | Concept of government in which the state plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens. It is based on the principles of [equality of opportunity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equality_of_opportunity), equitable [distribution of wealth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distribution_of_wealth), and [public responsibility](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Public_responsibility&action=edit&redlink=1) for those unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions for a good life. |

**By significant constitutional attributes**

Certain major characteristics are defining of certain types; others are historically associated with certain types of government.

* [Rule according to higher law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule_according_to_higher_law) (unwritten ethical principles) vs. written [constitutionalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutionalism)
* [Separation of church and state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_church_and_state) vs. [state religion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_religion)
* [Civilian control of the military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_control_of_the_military) vs. [stratocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratocracy)
* [Totalitarianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totalitarianism)/[authoritarianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authoritarianism) vs. [libertarianism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertarianism)
  + [Police state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police_state)
* [Majority rule](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majority_rule) or [parliamentary sovereignty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_sovereignty) vs. [constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution) or [bill of rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_of_rights) with [separation of powers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) and [supermajority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermajority) rules to prevent [tyranny of the majority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyranny_of_the_majority) and protect [minority rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_rights)
* [Androcracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Androcracy) ([patriarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchy)) or [gynarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gynarchy) ([matriarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matriarchy)), [gender quotas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_government#Quotas), [gender equality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_equality) provision, or silence on the matter

**By approach to regional autonomy**

This list focuses on differing approaches that political systems take to the distribution of [sovereignty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty), and the [autonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomous_entity) of regions within the state.

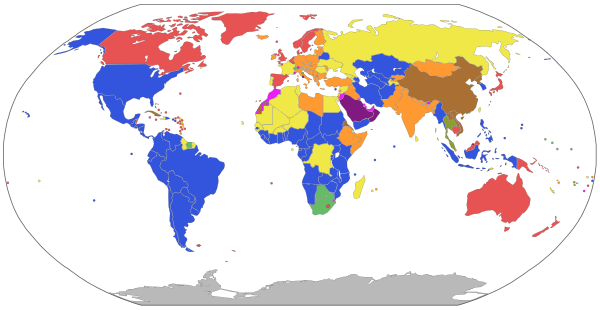
* Sovereignty located exclusively at the center of political jurisdiction.
  + [Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire)
  + [Unitary state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state)
* Sovereignty located at the center and in peripheral areas.
  + [Hegemony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegemony)
  + [Federation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation) and [federal republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic)
  + [Confederation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederation)
  + [Federal monarchy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_monarchy)
* Diverging degrees of sovereignty.
  + [Asymmetrical federalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asymmetrical_federalism)
  + [Federacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federacy)
  + [Associated state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_state)
  + [Protectorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protectorate)
  + [Colonial dependency](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Colonial_dependency&action=edit&redlink=1)
  + [Thalassocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thalassocracy)
  + [League](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliance)
  + [Commonwealth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth)
  + [Decentralization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralisation) and [devolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devolution) (powers redistributed from central to regional or local governments)

**Theoretical and speculative attributes**

These currently have no citable real-world examples outside of fiction.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| [Corporate republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_republic) | Theoretical [form of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Form_of_government) occasionally hypothesized in works of [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction), though some historical nations such as medieval [Florence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Florence) might be said to have been governed as corporate republics. The colonial [megacorporations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megacorporations) such as the [Dutch East India Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_East_India_Company) should possibly be considered corporate states, being semi-sovereign with the power to wage war and establish colonies.  While retaining some semblance of [republican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) government, a corporate republic would be [run primarily like a business](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_governance), involving a [board of directors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_of_directors) and [executives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_title). [Utilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utility), including [hospitals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospital), [schools](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School), the [military](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military), and the [police force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police), would be [privatized](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privatization). The [social welfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_welfare) function carried out by the state is instead carried out by corporations in the form of benefits to employees. Although corporate republics do not exist officially in the modern world, they are often used in works of fiction or [political commentary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_criticism) as a warning of the perceived dangers of unbridled [capitalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalism). In such works, they usually arise when a single, vastly powerful corporation deposes a weak government, over time or in a [coup d'état](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d%27%C3%A9tat).  Some political scientists have also considered [state socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_socialist) nations to be forms of corporate republics, with the state assuming full control of all economic and political life and establishing a monopoly on everything within national boundaries – effectively making the state itself amount to a giant corporation. |
| [Magocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magocracy) | Rule by a government with the highest and main authority being either a [magician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magician_%28fantasy%29), sage, sorcerer, wizard or witch. This is often similar to a theocratic structured regime and is largely portrayed in fiction and fantasy genre categories. |
| [Uniocracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technological_singularity) | Ruled by a [singularity of all human minds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_consciousness) connected via some form of technical or non-technical telepathy acting as a form of super computer to make decisions based on shared patterned experiences to deliver fair and accurate decisions to problems as they arrive. Also known as the "[Hive Mind](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_consciousness)" principle, it differs from voting in that each person would make a decision while in the "hive" the synapses of all minds work together following a longer path of memories to make "one" decision. |

**Maps**



States by their systems of government. For the complete list of systems by country, see [List of countries by system of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_system_of_government).

[presidential republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system)

[semi-presidential republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-presidential_system)

[parliamentary republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic)

[parliamentary republics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_republic), an [executive presidency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_president) elected by and dependent on [parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system)

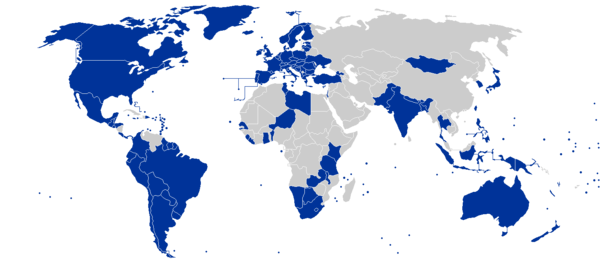
[parliamentary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) [constitutional monarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) in which the monarch does not personally exercise power

[constitutional monarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) in which the monarch personally exercises power, often alongside a weak parliament

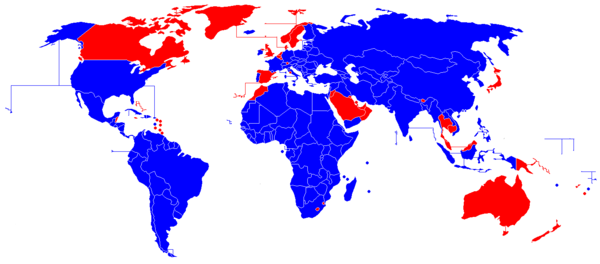
[absolute monarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_monarchy)

  states whose constitutions grant only a [single party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-party_state) the right to govern

  states where constitutional provisions for government have been suspended



Countries highlighted in **blue** are designated "[electoral democracies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representative_democracy)" in Freedom House's 2014 survey "Freedom in the World". Freedom House considers democracy in practice, not merely official claims.



A world map distinguishing countries of the world as [monarchies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy) (red) from other forms of government (blue). Many monarchies are considered electoral democracies because the monarch is largely ritual; in other cases the monarch is the only powerful political authority.

**See also:**

* [Central government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_government)
* [Civics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civics)
* [Comparative government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative_government)
* [Constitutional economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_economics)
* [Legal rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_rights)
* [List of countries by system of government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_system_of_government)
* [List of European Union member states by political system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_European_Union_member_states_by_political_system)
* [Ministry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_%28collective_executive%29)
* [Political economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_economy)
* [Politics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics)
* [State (polity)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_%28polity%29)
* [Voting system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_system)
* [World government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_government)

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This page was last modified on 18 July 2014 at 17:00.