

# Who Rules?

## Forms of Government



Types of Government, Explained 



# Forms of Government

When people decide to form the social contracts that we call governments, they make many different decisions about how their government will look.

*President or King?*

Rule by few or rule by all?

*Hold elections?*

Where do the rulers get their power?

## Two Main Categories of Government

- Democracy – Government by the people / Decisions made by the people
- Authoritarian - Government by one person (King / Queen / Emperor / Pharaoh)



# Democracy



Any form of government in which political power is exercised by **all citizens**, either directly or through their elected representatives.

There are two kinds of *Democracies*...

Direct!

Representative!





## Direct Democracy



- ❖ All citizens participate in government.
- ❖ There are no representatives in government: The citizens vote on everything!
- ❖ All citizens can create public policy if they want to.
- ❖ Example: In ancient Athens, Greece, they held assemblies where citizens voted to pass laws.

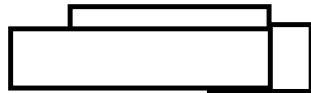




## Representative Democracy



- ❖ Like direct democracy, all citizens participate in government
- ❖ People elect representatives who vote on laws for the citizens
- ❖ Representatives answer to the people through regular elections
- ❖ Representatives are also usually held accountable by a constitution



# Democratic

## Advantages

- Everyone has a say
- Corruption more difficult
- Power is spread

## Disadvantages

- Messy, takes time
- Sometimes hard to make difficult decisions
- Need an educated citizen

Now that we've talked about

DIRECT DEMOCRACY!

And

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY!

we can move on to  
forms of government  
where only one  
person is in control...





## Authoritarian

A form of government in which political power is controlled by **one** individual such as a monarch, dictator, emperor, etc.

We're going to talk about two kinds of  
*Authoritarian...*



Monarchs!

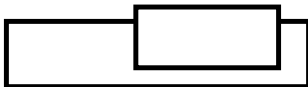
Dictators!





# Monarchy

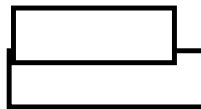
- ❖ Rule by kings, queens, princes, and princesses... sometimes by other names, but always MONARCHS!
- ❖ Leaders usually gain their power because their parents were rulers too.
- ❖ Some modern monarchies like Spain and Japan have constitutions.





# Dictatorship

- ❖ In a dictatorship, power is not inherited, but is acquired by force (military or political)
- ❖ Dictators have absolute control over the lives of their citizens and usually people are not allowed to voice their negative opinions
- ❖ North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il is considered a dictator



# Authoritarian

## Advantages

- Efficient
- Order
- Changes can happen quickly

## Disadvantages

- Needs a strong leader
- Decisions may not be in the interest of everyone
- Too much power leads to corruption

What else?

We've talked about **DEMOCRACIES...**

Democracy  
is...

rule by the  
people!



What else?

... and **AUTOCRACIES**...

Autocracy  
is...

... rule by  
one!



## Decision Making Autocratic or Democratic?

- Teacher decides there will be a test on Friday
- Group of Friends decide on which movie to go to by discussing three possible movies and voting on which one they want to see.
- Fast food CEO, Manager and Supervisor decides to give workers a dollar per hour raise

## Autocratic or Democratic?

- Parents listen to daughter complain about staying out late and decide to let child stay out 1 hour later.
- Parents allow all 3 children to choose (vote) what vacation to go on.
- Mayor, elected by citizens, decides to build a new city hall
- Citizens voted in favor of a city tax measure to increase funding to schools



Authoritarian or democratic? Authoritarian or democratic?

*Do you know the difference?*

**DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?**

*Do you know the difference?*

Authoritarian or democratic?

Authoritarian or democratic?

1. You and your friends are students at university. You have decided to organize a protest calling for the release of prisoners of conscience, arrested the year before for criticizing the government's policies. During the peaceful public protest the government sends in the army with tanks to break up the demonstration and arrest your group. \_\_\_\_\_

WHY:

2. People are complaining about a river that has begun to swell in size. They circulate a petition demanding that the government build a barrier wall. \_\_\_\_\_

WHY:

3. A boat of refugees arrives in port. None of the refugees holds any identification. The government rounds up the passengers and places them in a detention camp until the immigration department gets answers. \_\_\_\_\_

WHY:

4. You gather a group of people together to protest the forced draft of young people into the army. The police show up in riot gear, but allow the protest to continue.

\_\_\_\_\_

WHY:

ian or democratic? Authorita

6. You learn that there is an election. You arrive at the polling station and are told that you can vote in secret, or vote out in the open. Police are standing around. You decide to vote out in the open. You go to cast your vote and notice that there is only one name on the ballot. \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY:

7. As you walk through the streets of the village, you see the people go down on one knee and welcome you. Some of them throw flowers at your feet. You decide not to raise taxes on their farm produce. \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY:

8. The government leader has been convicted of taking bribes for special favours. Under pressure from the people he decides to resign. \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY:

9. A group of students complain that they are not allowed to gather together after curfew. They protest before the city hall. All of them are arrested and jailed after being clubbed by members of the army. \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY:

itarian or democratic? Author