



CHAPTER 1: FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1: THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

○ SECTION 1: FOCUS

- What is government?
- Which major characteristics do all states share?
- What are the major functions of government?
- What theories of rule have been put forth to explain government?



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

○ What is the The Purposes of Government

- Government is the formal structures and institutions through which decisions are made for a body of people.
- Most governments today exercise power within the context of a state.
- Governments function to ensure national security, maintain order, resolve conflict, provide services and provide for the public good.
- Many theories have been put forth to explain why governments exist and the source of governments authority.



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

○ What Is Government

- Government is made up of the formal institutions and processes through which decisions are made for a group of people.
- Three Main Components
 - **People**: elected officials with authority and control over others, public servants who carry out day-to-day governmental business
 - **Power**: **Legislative** to make laws, **Executive** to carry out, enforce, and administer laws, **Judicial** to interpret laws and to settle disputes.
 - **Policy**, decision made by government in pursuit of a goal, can be a law, a government program, or a set of government actions



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- What are the Characteristics of a State
 - **State:** political unit with the power to make and enforce laws over a group of people living within a clearly defined territory
 - **Theories of the development of the State**
 - **Divine Right Theory:** States are founded by God or the gods , and the ruler possesses a “divine right” to rule.
 - **Evolution Theory:** States form gradually over time, growing from family and extended kinship groups.
 - **Social Contract Theory:** States form when people reach a “contract” to surrender some power to a common authority in return for security.
 - **Force Theory:** States form when an individual or group uses force to make enough people submit to central authority.



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- **Characteristics:**
 - **Population:** must have people, number does not matter
 - **Territory:** must have clearly defined and recognized borders
 - **Government:** must have a government that issues and enforces rules for the people living within its territory; government must be recognized from within and by other nation states in the international community
 - **Sovereignty:** must have supreme power to act within its territory and to control its external affairs



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- What are the Functions of Government
 - **Ensure National Security:**
 - Guard its territory and its people against external threats
 - Create and maintain national defense forces including military personnel, weaponry, and operations as well as peacekeeping missions
 - Maintain good relations with other nations (diplomacy)
 - **Maintain Order:**
 - Laws help maintain order and protect rights, property, and lives
 - Must have clear rules for unacceptable behavior and consequences
 - Must have means to identify and punish wrongdoers
 - Different societies have different ideas about lawful behavior and appropriate punishment



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- **Resolve Conflict**
 - Some use intimidation and force; most use **politics** and justice system
 - Groups try to influence government decisions through politics
- **Provide Services**
 - People pay taxes to fund services such as parks, mail and education
 - Public goods include clean water, parks and roads; restricted services may include medical care, high schools and public housing
- **Provide for the Public Good**
 - Definitions of public and public good change over time
 - These questions are addressed through the political process



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- What are the Theories of Rule
 - Legitimacy of Rulers
 - What makes some forms of rule more acceptable than others?
 - Rulers often have **legitimacy**. They are seen as right and proper by important segments of a nation's population, so their governance is voluntarily accepted by the people.
 - Divine Right
 - Ruler is believed to be chosen by God or the gods
 - Believed in ancient China, ancient Egypt, the Inca Empire, the Roman Empire, Japan until the mid-twentieth century, and seventeenth century Europe
 - European political and religious theory by Bossuet argued for the **divine right of kings**



SECTION 1: THE PURPOSES OF GOVERNMENT

- **Natural Law and Natural Rights**
 - Natural law is a system of rules derived from the natural world.
 - Natural law binds citizens and rulers alike
 - All people possess natural, or human rights
 - Supported by Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine and Thomas Aquinas
- **The Social Contract**
 - **Social Contract Theory:** governments formed when people agreed to submit to state authority in return for protection and support.
 - Government is legitimate only so long as the power is given to the state
 - Contributed to by Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

○ SECTION 2: FOCUS

- What are the classic forms of government?
- How is national power organized differently in unitary, federal, and confederal systems?
- In what ways do presidential and parliamentary systems differ?



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

○ What are the Forms of Government

- Forms of Government can be grouped into categories based on who exercises authority and how power is distributed.
- Within a government, how power is shared between a central government and local governments determines whether a government has a unitary, federal, or confederal system.
- Most democratic governments have either a presidential or parliamentary system of government. In presidential systems, power is divided between executive and legislative branches. In parliamentary systems, the functions of the executive and legislative branches are often combined.



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- **Monarchy (Jordan)**
 - Government is headed by one person with supreme authority
 - In Absolute Monarchy, powers are unlimited and unchecked
- **Constitutional Monarchy (United Kingdom)**
 - most common form today
 - Monarch is ceremonial head of state
 - Real power belongs to another part of the government
- **Dictatorship (Cuba)**
 - One person, or a small group of people, holds unlimited power
 - Power is maintained by force
 - Most dictators head authoritarian or totalitarian regimes



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- **Totalitarian Regimes (North Korea)**
 - Dictator holds ultimate power
 - Government tightly controls all aspects of life, political, social, and economic
 - No formal or informal limits on government
- **Oligarchy/Aristocracy (Ancient Greece/Sparta)**
 - Small group of powerful people make most government decisions
 - Membership based on ruling group wealth, family or military power
- **Theocracy (Iran)**
 - Rule by set of religious rules
 - Laws rooted in a particular religion or religious doctrine
 - Government power unlimited



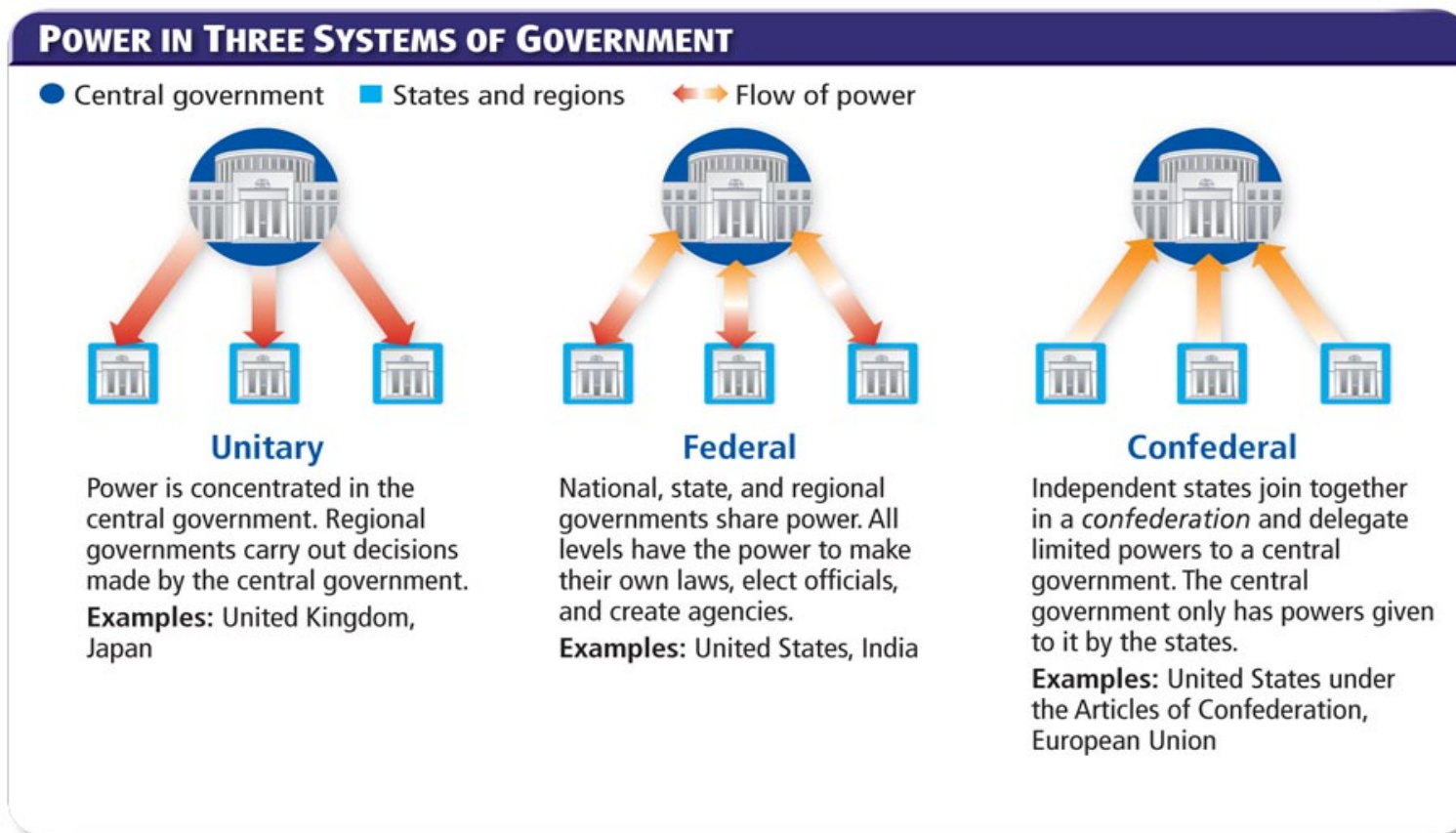
SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- **Direct Democracy (Athens Greece)**
 - Government by people, citizens ultimate source of government authority
 - Citizens elect
 - Works best in small communities
- **Republic/Representative Democracy**
 - Government by the people
 - Indirect form of Democracy
 - Representatives elected for set terms



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- Organizing National Power



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- What is the difference between Presidents and Parliaments
 - Presidential Systems
 - Advantages
 - President is elected by the people for a fixed term and cannot be dismissed
 - Separation of powers prevents abuses of authority
 - Independent of other branches of government
 - President is able to make decisions quickly and independently
 - Disadvantages
 - Difficult to remove an unsuitable president from office
 - Separation of power may lead to gridlock
 - Branches of government may have different agendas
 - Presidents may become too strong
 - Many presidential systems have become authoritarian



SECTION 2: FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- **Parliamentary**
 - **Advantages**
 - The legislative and executive branches are often united in purpose
 - Prime Minister directly accountable to parliament
 - Easier to pass legislation
 - **Disadvantages**
 - Few checks and balances
 - Prime Minister selected by the legislative branch, not by the people
 - Prime Minister lacks independence



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

○ SECTION 3: FOCUS

- Why are the ideals of liberty, equality, and self-government important to American democracy?
- What are the principles of American democracy?
- Why is the free enterprise system important to American democracy?



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

○ Democracy in the United States

- American democracy has been guided by a core set of democratic ideals- liberty, equality and self-government- since our nation's earliest days
- U.S. citizens ensure the continuation of democracy by committing to uphold basic principles of American democracy, including the worth of the individual, the rule of law, majority rule/minority rights, compromise, and participatory citizenship.
- Economic freedom and the free enterprise system have a special place in American democracy and help preserve liberties and limit government



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

- What are the Ideals of American Democracy
 - Core ideals of American democracy
 - Liberty
 - Ability of people to act and think as they choose
 - Choices must do no harm to the liberty or well being of others
 - Freedom from government control
 - Freedom to exercise citizens rights guaranteed under the Constitution
 - Equality
 - All people possess a fundamental moral worth
 - Their worth entitles them to fair treatment and equal opportunity
 - Equality must be balanced with liberty to avoid despotism



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

- **Self Government**
 - All people can rule themselves and do so as political equals
 - People are the ultimate source of government authority
 - Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed
 - People have a right to revolt against a government that has lost their consent
- **List the Principles of American Democracy**
 - **Worth of the Individual**
 - People can reach their highest potential if they pursue their own path
 - There is natural capacity for reason, intellect, and self determination



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

- **Rule of Law**
 - A government of laws, not of men
 - U.S. government and officials are subject to limits on power
 - Limits are spelled out in the Constitution
- **Majority Rule, Minority Rights**
 - Decision making by majority rule, balanced by minority rights
 - Individual rights are protected under a liberal democracy
- **Compromise**
 - Ability of two opposing groups to give up some demands and agree
 - Necessary to keep the political process moving



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

- **Citizen Participation**
 - Citizens must be informed about public issues
 - Many ways to participate peacefully, respectfully and with tolerance
- **What is Free Enterprise**
 - Economic freedom holds a special place in a democracy
 - Free enterprise allows both people and business to make their own economic choices
 - How to produce, distribute, and exchange goods and services
 - Limited interference from government
 - Also protects rights of ownership to property and to results of one's labor
 - Key to preserving other freedoms and to allowing people to build wealth, thereby empowering them to limit governmental power.



SECTION 3: DEMOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES

- **Free market is essential**
 - Open competition results in better products offered at lower prices
 - Those who succeed in the competition will prosper
 - Prosperity will benefit society and the economy
- **Why a Constitutional Government (p. 26-27)**
 - Our nation's Founders struggled with how best to prevent government abuse of power. Their answer to establish a constitutional government that protected individual rights by placing limits on what government can do and how it can exercise power.
- **What is the Constitution**
- **How did the Founders characterize higher law**
- **Why did the Founders fear government abuse of power**
- **What kinds of government may be Constitutional Governments**



LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES

- **Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)**
 - The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled on a number of cases concerning democratic ideals and principles
 - In Gideon v. Wainwright, the Court considered whether the right to counsel was necessary to guarantee a defendant's liberty and ensure equality under the law
 - Court ruled in favor of Gideon, all felonies and misdemeanors that can result in prison time must be provided with legal counsel

