

# **The Five Types of Governments**



**A Social Studies Online  
Presentation**

# The Different Types of Government

- There are five different types of governments in the world - Democracy, Autocracy, Oligarchy, Theocracy and Republic



**VOTE**



# Democracy




- In a democracy, the government is elected by the people. Everyone who is eligible to vote has a chance to have their say over who runs the country. It is distinct from governments controlled by a particular social class or group (aristocracy; oligarchy) or by a single person (dictatorship or an absolute monarchy).
- A democracy is determined either directly or through elected representatives.



*There are*  
*Two Kinds of Democracies*

A Parliamentary Democracy  
And a  
Presidential Democracy






# Parliamentary Democracy

found in Israel


Government in which members of an executive branch (the cabinet and its leader—a prime minister, premier, or chancellor) are nominated to their positions by a legislature or parliament, and are directly responsible to it.

This type of government can be dissolved at will by the parliament if it can no longer function.





# A Presidential Democracy

- A system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature.
  - The executive branch exists separately from the legislature
  - People elect the representatives and they make the decisions.
- 



# Autocracy

- Government by a single person having unlimited power; via despotism (domination through threat of punishment and violence by using the military).
- The citizens has limited, if any, role in the government.



# Autocracy

- The oldest form of government.
- One of the most common forms of government.
- Maintains power through inheritance or ruthless use of military and police power.





# Forms of Autocracy include...



- A Dictatorship
- Absolute Monarchies



# Dictatorship



- A country ruled by a single leader.
- The ideas of this single leader are glorified.
- The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control.
- In a military dictatorship, the army is in control.



# Dictatorship

- The government tries to control all aspects of social and economic life.
- The government is not responsible to the people.
- People lack the power to limit their rulers.
- Examples of dictators include: Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, Joseph Stalin



# Dictatorships

found in Sudan and Cuba

A form of government in which a ruler  
wields absolute power.

It is not restricted by a constitution or  
laws.





# Absolute Monarchy



- A king, queen, or emperor, exercises the supreme powers of government/unlimited power.
- The position is usually inherited.
- People lack the power to limit their rulers.
- Absolute monarchies are rare today but from the 1400s to the 1700s, they ruled most of Western Europe.
- Examples-Saudi Arabia



# Constitutional Monarchy



- A monarchy has a king, queen, emperor or empress.
- The ruling position can be passed on to the ruler's heirs.
- In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has absolute power.
- But a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, also has a democratic government that limits the monarch's control.



# Constitutional Monarchy

## Japan and Canada



- A system of government in which a monarch is guided by a constitution whereby his/her rights duties, and responsibilities are spelled out in written law or by custom.



# Oligarchy



- It is Governed by a few-such as a small clan or a clique.
- Sometimes a small group exercises control for corrupt and selfish purposes.
- The citizens has a very limited role.





# Oligarchy



- The group gets its power from military power, social power, wealth, religion, or a combination.
- Political opposition is usually suppressed-sometimes violently.
- Examples-Communist countries such as China.
- Leaders in the party and armed forces control the government.



# Communist



- In a communist country, the government owns property such as businesses and farms.
- It provides its people's healthcare, education and welfare.





# Communist China



A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single-often authoritarian-party holds power. State controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people(i.e. a classless society)




# Theocracy

## Iran

A form of government in which a Deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler, but the Deity's laws are interpreted by ecclesiastical authorities (bishops, mullahs, etc.)

A government subject to religious authority.



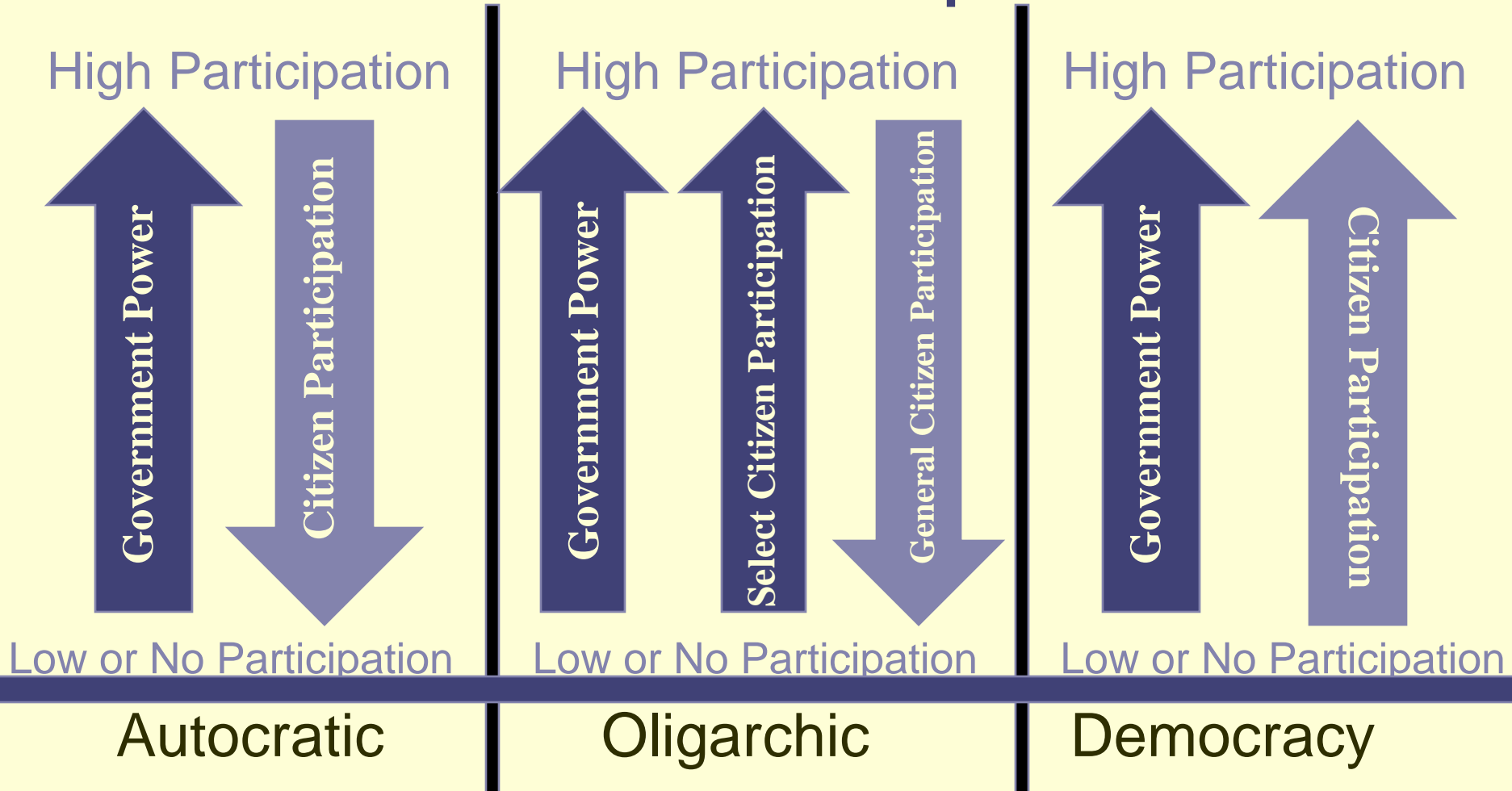


# Citizen Participation in an Autocracy and a Oligarchy



- Sometimes rulers claim they rule for the people.
- In reality, the people have very little say in both types of government.
- For example, they may hold elections with only one candidate or control the results in various ways.
- Even when these governments have a legislature or natural assembly, they often only approve decisions made by the leaders.

# How Governments Determine Citizens Participation



# Republic

- A republic is a country that has no monarch.
- The head of the country is usually an elected president.






# Republican Systems

Kenya and South Africa

A representative democracy in which the people's elected deputies (representatives), not the people themselves, vote on legislation.







# Federal Republic

India, Brazil, Mexico

A state in which the powers of the central government are restricted and in which the component parts (states, colonies or provinces) retain a degree of self government

Ultimate sovereign power rests with the voters who choose their governmental officials.

