

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

What is Government?

- Government is the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies.
- Public Policies include taxation, defense, education, crime prevention, fire safety, roads etc.....
- 3 Major Types
 1. Autocracy
 2. Oligarchy
 3. Democracy

The Purpose of Government

1. To maintain social order
2. To provide public services
3. To provide for national security and common defense
4. To provide for and control the economic system

Formations of Government

- **Unitary System**- gives all key powers to the national or central government
- **Federal System**- divides the power of gov't between national and state or local governments
- **Confederacy**- a loose union of independent states

Type of Government: Democracy

- Government is elected by the people.

Two Types:

1. Direct Democracy- Every citizen has the opportunity to vote on every issue
2. Representative Democracy- People elect a Representative to vote on their behalf (**Republic**)

Type of Government: Autocracy

- Government by a single person having unlimited power to rule

- Two types:
 1. Monarchy
 2. Dictatorship



Type of Government: Oligarchy

- Any system of government in which a small group holds power.

Monarchy

- An autocracy in which a king, queen, or emperor exercises supreme powers of government.
- Two Types:
 1. Absolute Monarchy
 2. Constitutional Monarchy

Absolute Monarchy

- Rule by one person — a **monarch**, usually a king or a queen — whose actions are restricted neither by written law nor by custom; a system different from a constitutional **monarchy** and from a republic.
- **Absolute monarchy** persisted in France until 1789 and in Russia until 1917.
- Examples:
 - Vatican City
 - Saudi Arabia

Constitutional Monarchy

- **Constitutional monarchy**, system of government in which a **monarch** (see **monarchy**) shares power with a constitutionally organized government. The **monarch** may be the de facto head of state or a purely ceremonial leader. The **constitution** allocates the rest of the government's power to the legislature and judiciary.
- Examples:
- Today **constitutional monarchies** are mostly associated with Western European countries such as **the** United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg, Monaco, Liechtenstein, **and** Sweden. However, **the two** most populous **constitutional monarchies** in **the** world are in Asia: Japan **and** Thailand

Dictatorship

- A country ruled by a single leader.
 - The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control.
 - **Totalitarianism** → single-ruler government; ruler attempts to control the TOTAL society.
 - *Examples* → Hitler (Germany WWII) and Stalin (Russia WWII)

Anarchy

- 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.

Economics

- The study of how limited resources are used to satisfy people's seemingly unlimited wants
- Three types of Economic Systems:
 1. Capitalism (Market/Mixed-Market Economy)
 2. Socialism (Command Economy)
 3. Communism (Command Economy)

Capitalism

- An economic system in which **freedom of choice** and individual incentive for workers, investors, consumers, and business enterprises are emphasized.
- **5 Characteristics:**
 1. Private Ownership and Control of Property and Economic Resources
 2. Free Enterprise
 3. Competition
 4. Freedom of Choice
 5. Possibility of Profits

Socialism

- An economic system in which the government owns the basic means of production
 - Determines the use of resources
 - Distributes the products and wages
 - Provides social services such as education, health care, and welfare

Communism

- An economic system in which the central government directs all major economic decisions.
 - No private ownership of land
 - One social class (the working class)
 - No need for a government

Characteristics of States

- **State**- a body of people, living in a defined territory, organized politically, and with the power to make and enforce laws.
- Population – a state must have people.
- Territory – a state must have land.
- Sovereignty – every state has supreme and absolute power within its territory.
- Government – every state is politically organized.

Political Theories

1. The Force Theory – states are born from force (ex-wars).
2. The Evolutionary Theory – claims states develop naturally out of the early family.
3. The Divine Right Theory – God created the state and royal birth-line.
4. The Social Contract Theory – origin of a state is that of the “social contract” or an agreement between the People and the Government