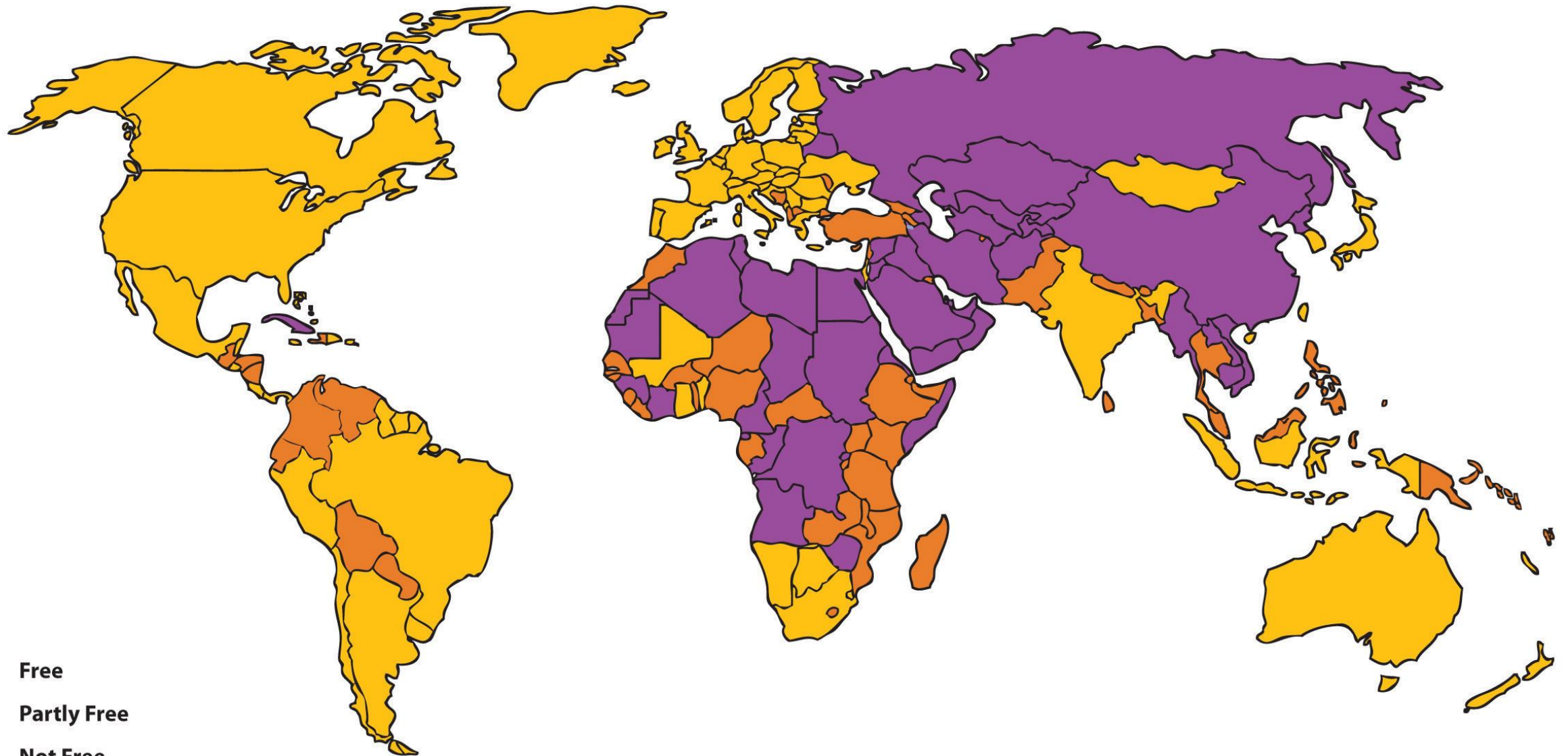


With special thanks to Sophie Boczko
my former social studies student

Five Political Systems

Democracy, Republic, Monarchy, Communism, Dictatorship



Direct/Pure Democracy



Direct democracy or pure democracy is a form of democracy in which the electorate decides on policy initiatives without elected representatives as proxies.

The origin of modern democracy, at least as we commonly understand it, is the direct democratic system of Athens around 600 BCE. This is the first example of direct democracy.

In the 5th Century B.C. members of the male citizenry could opt to participate in governmental decision-making as part of the assembly (boulê), which controlled the government. They could also serve as jurors in the courts of law, where there were no judges.

<https://youtu.be/lbuqSt57OxQ>

https://youtu.be/Qmje2_xFMXE

Indirect/Representative Democracy

Representative democracy, also known as indirect democracy, is a type of democracy where elected persons represent a group of people, in contrast to direct democracy.

The Roman Republic was the first known state in the western world to have a representative government, despite taking the form of a direct government in the Roman assemblies.

The Roman model of governance would inspire many political thinkers over the centuries.

Globally, a majority of the world's people live in representative democracies, including constitutional monarchies and republics with strong representative branches

<https://academy4sc.org/video/representative-vs-direct-democracy-power-of-the-people/>



Parliamentary Republic



A parliamentary system is democratic form of government in which the party (or a coalition of parties) with the greatest representation in the parliament (legislature) forms the government.

Its leaders are prime ministers or chancellors.

Executive decisions are exercised by members of the parliament appointed by the prime minister to the cabinet.

The parties in the minority serve in opposition to the majority and have the duty to challenge it regularly.

Prime ministers may be removed from power whenever they lose the confidence of a majority of the ruling party or of the parliament.

The parliamentary system originated in Britain and was adopted in several of its former colonies.

Single Party Republic

A one-party state, single-party state, one-party system, or single-party system is a type of sovereign state in which only one political party has the right to form the government, usually based on the existing constitution.

All other parties are either outlawed or allowed to take only a limited and controlled participation in elections. The rule of the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) in the Ottoman Empire following the 1913 Ottoman coup d'état is considered the first one-party state.

There are 9 current states that are ruled by a single party: China (Communist party, 8 registered minor parties), North Korea (Korean Workers' Party) - 2 minor parties that exist on paper only, Vietnam (Communist party), Cuba (Communist party), Eritrea, Western Sahara, Burma (the opposition parties are prevented from taking office), Laos (Communist party), and Bermuda Progressive Labour Party - 2 minor parties exist).

The states whose were formerly ruled by single parties were: Nazi Germany (Nazi Party), Kingdom of Italy (National Fascist Party), Socialist Republic of Romania (Romanian Communist Party), Democratic Kampuchea (Communist Party of Kampuchea), Empire of Japan (Imperial Rule Assistance Association), Polish People's Republic (Polish Workers' Party), Soviet Union (Communist Party of the Soviet Union), Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (League of Communists of Yugoslavia), Syrian Arab Republic (Ba'ath Party), and Serbia (Serbian Progressive Party).

Capitalist Republic

The term capitalist republic is sometimes used to refer to a republican form of government existing under a capitalist economic system.

The term is typically employed by socialist critics of capitalism, to distinguish between capitalist republics and socialist republics.

Fun fact number 1: A capitalist republic was the goal of Sean Murray in the Irish Republicanism movement in the 1930s. At a meeting in Rathmines, Murray advocated a capitalist republic for Ireland, taking what commentators have described as a "stages" approach in moving from national freedom towards a socialist state. Murray advocated first the achievement of national freedom, to form a capitalist republic, followed by a transition from a capitalist republic to a socialist republic.

Fun fact number 2: In *On New Democracy*, Mao Zedong distinguished his vision of a New Democratic Republic from a capitalist republic, which he characterized as an "old European-American form" of government that was "out of date"

<https://documentaryheaven.com/the-people%E2%80%99s-republic-of-capitalism/>

Federal Republic

A federal republic is a federation of states with a republican form of government.

The meaning of the word republic when used to reference a form of government means: "a country that is governed by elected representatives and by an elected leader (such as a president) rather than by a king or queen"

In a federal republic, a division of powers exists between the federal government and the government of the individual subdivisions.

Common matters relating to security and defense, and monetary policy are usually handled at the federal level. Matters such as infrastructure maintenance and education policy are usually handled at the regional or local level. However, some federal monarchies, such as the United Arab Emirates are based upon principles other than democracy.

Constitutional Monarchy/ Crowned Republic

A constitutional monarchy is a system of government in which a monarch shares power with a constitutionally organized government. The monarch may be the head of state or a purely ceremonial leader.

The constitution allocates the rest of the government's power to the legislature and judiciary.

Constitutional monarchies include Great Britain, Belgium, Japan, Cambodia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Norway, Monaco, Spain, and Thailand. A Crowned Republic is a form of Constitutional Monarchy. An example would be Australia

<https://youtu.be/PUi7P9ZpmOg>

https://youtu.be/9sUsNsT_JGw

<https://youtu.be/NOQ6R-1vN2g>

ABSOLUTE MONARCHY VERSUS CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY	
ABSOLUTE MONARCHY	CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY
Absolute monarchy is a form of government where one person, typically a king or queen, holds absolute power	Constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a country is ruled by a monarch whose power is limited by a constitution
The monarch is the highest and most powerful authority in the country	The monarch is a purely ceremonial ruler or a de facto head of state
The monarch has unlimited power and authority	The monarch shares the power with the parliament or another legislative body
Ex: Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Ex: the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Sweden, Belgium, Cambodia, the Netherlands, and Thailand

Absolute Monarchy



An absolute monarchy was a form of government in which an all-powerful king or queen rules a state.

Rulers in an absolute monarchy had total control over the country.

This form of government was popular in Europe toward the end of the medieval period all the way through the 18th century.

King Louis XIV of France was considered the best example of absolute monarchy.

<https://youtu.be/UO5-vLVJG5Q>

<https://quizlet.com/337343044/characteristics-of-an-absolute-monarch-flash-cards/?i=43ghur&x=1jqY>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/absolute-monarchy-definition-characteristics-examples.html>

<https://youtu.be/vC6okzIKQvg>



Elective Monarchy

An elective monarchy is a monarchy ruled by an elected monarch, in contrast to a hereditary monarchy in which the office is automatically passed down as a family inheritance.

The manner of election, the nature of candidate qualifications, and the electors vary from case to case.

Historically it was not uncommon for elective monarchies to transform into hereditary ones over time, or for hereditary ones to acquire at least occasional elective aspects.

Currently, the world's only true "elective monarchies" are: Vatican City, where the Pope is elected to a life term by (and usually from) the College of Cardinals.

Non-Sovereign Monarchy

A non-sovereign monarchy or constituent monarchy is one in which the head of the monarchical polity (whether a geographic territory or an ethnic group), and the polity itself, are subject to a temporal authority higher than their own.

A foreign country is controlled by another country. For example, the German Empire and German city state kingdoms and British-controlled India



Communism

A communist state, also known as a Marxist–Leninist state, is a one-party state that is administered and governed by a communist party guided by Marxism–Leninism. Marxism–Leninism remains the ideology of several communist states around the world and the official ideology of the ruling parties of China, Cuba, Laos and Vietnam.

Communist states are typically authoritarian and are typically administered through democratic centralism by a single centralized communist party apparatus. These parties are usually Marxist–Leninist or some national variation thereof such as Maoism or Titoism, with the official aim of achieving socialism and progressing toward a communist society. There have been several instances of communist states with functioning political participation (i.e., Soviet democracy) processes involving several other non-party organizations such as direct democratic participation, factory committees and trade unions, although the communist party remained the center of power.

However, these states do not describe themselves as communist nor do they claim to have achieved communism—they refer to themselves as socialist states that are in the process of constructing socialism. Terms used by communist states include national-democratic, people's democratic, socialist-oriented and workers and peasants' states.

<https://youtu.be/vvzmBhCpWvA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6Xm6Q75pa0>

Authoritarian Dictatorship

Authoritarianism is principle of blind submission to authority, as opposed to individual freedom of thought and action.

Authoritarianism thus stands in fundamental contrast to democracy. An authoritarian state allows people a limited degree of political freedom. They tend to rely on passive mass acceptance rather than active popular support.

Examples of authoritarian regimes, according to some scholars, include the pro-Western military dictatorships that existed in Latin America and elsewhere in the second half of the 20th century.

In South America between 1982 and 1990, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay moved away from dictatorship to democracy.

<https://coffeeordie.com/country-before-after-authoritarian/>

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=R-emDpQIFWI>

Military Dictatorship

A military dictatorship is a dictatorship in which the military exerts complete or substantial control over political authority, and the dictator is often a high-ranked military officer.

Most military dictatorships are formed after a coup d'état has overthrown the previous government.

From 1916 until the end of World War I, the German Empire was governed as an effective military dictatorship. It was because its leading generals had gained such a level of control over Kaiser Wilhelm II that the Chancellor and other civilian ministers effectively served at their pleasure.

The current countries that are military dictatorships today are Sudan, Mali, Chad, Guinea, Myanmar, and Burkina Faso.

<https://povmagazine.com/review-on-the-inside-of-a-military-dictatorship/>

