

# Types of Government



**Civics**

# Government

organizations, institutions, and individuals that exercise political authority on behalf of a group of people



# Citizen

a legal member of a country



# Types of Government

## Limited

- In a limited government even the people who make the laws have to obey them.
- Usually limited by constitution (plan of government)
- Examples:
  - Direct Democracy
  - Representative Democracy
  - Constitutional Monarchy

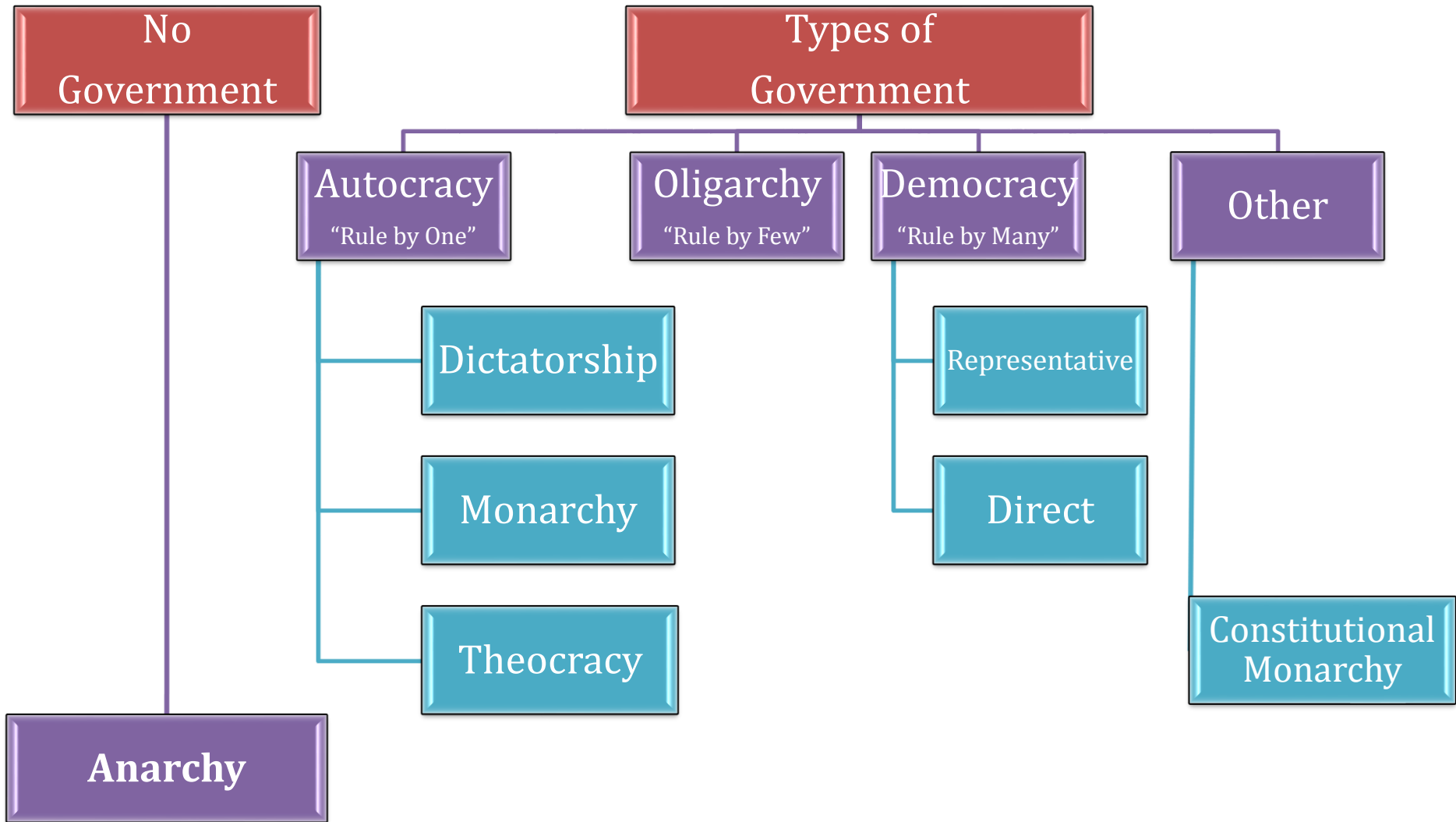
## Unlimited

- **Autocracy** – power in the hands of one person
- In unlimited governments all the power belongs to the ruler.
- There are no rules or laws that the ruler must obey.
- Examples:
  - Theocracy
  - Monarchy
  - Dictatorship

# Constitution

a written plan of government





# Anarchy

Absence of government; a state of lawlessness due to the absence or inefficiency of the supreme power; political disorder

- **Pros:**

- freedom to do what ever you want

- **Cons:**

- no one is available to protect peoples natural rights (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness)

- **Examples:**

- Somalia



# Autocracy

“rule by one”



# Dictatorship

form of government in which the government is ruled by an individual

- **Pros:**

- Leadership by a single person = quick action
- Harsh punishments = few lawbreakers
- No arguments

- **Cons:**

- Lack of liberties/ voice
- In many rules thousands of people are killed due to no freedom of speech or are 'enemies'
- Adolescents are not brought up to think and question for themselves
- No one else to change the countries course if things are going wrong

# Examples of Dictatorships



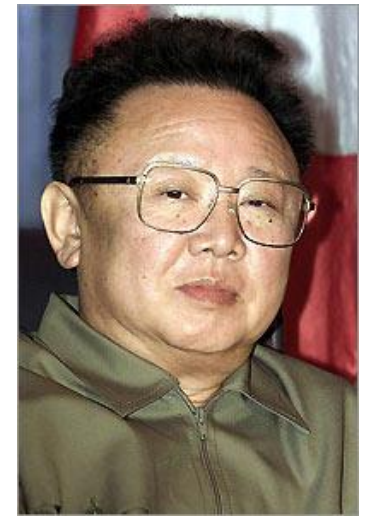
Adolf Hitler  
Germany



Idi Amin  
Uganda



Saddam Hussein  
Iraq



Kim Jong-Il  
North Korea

# Monarchy

## King or a Queen

- Kings & Queens are **born** into power or inherits their power
- Has complete control of the government and laws
- Rule is by “Divine Right”
  - **Divine right**: power given to him from God
- Not held accountable to the laws



**King Mswati III**  
Swaziland



**King Abdullah**  
Saudi Arabia

# Theocracy

form of government in which a state is understood as governed by immediate divine guidance especially a state ruled by clergy

- Government ruled by or subject to a religious authority
- Form of government in which one individual ruled as both religious leader and King

## Examples:

- Vatican City
- Israel
- Iran



# Oligarchy

“rule by a few”

- **Pros:**

- Decisions can be made relatively quickly.
- May provide expert leadership while avoiding the danger of one-person rule.
- In theory, they are the most educated members of society.
- Members of the oligarchy listen to each other - they work together to rule.

- **Cons:**

- Decision making has a narrow base - can be flawed, wrong, dangerous, and not fully supported by the people.
- Needs of the people may be neglected.
- People are afforded little or no individual liberty. Civil rights are trampled on.

# Democracy

“rule of the people”



# Direct Democracy

“all voters in a community meet in one place to make laws and decide what actions need to take place”

- **Pros:**

- Every citizen has equal power in matters of government. Every citizen is involved in the decision making.
- Since all citizens are involved in decision making, there is a broad base of support and loyalty.
- Individual liberties are protected.

- **Cons:**

- Only works when a small number of people are involved. Ability to gather all citizens in one place is necessary.
- Decision making involving all citizens is time-consuming. All citizens give in-put, debate, etc...

- **Examples:**

- Town Hall
- Referendum
- Recall



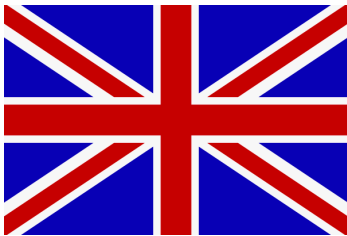
# Representative Democracy (Republic)

people elect representatives to carry on the work of government

- **Pros:**
  - more practical than a direct democracy
  - Representatives typically are more “informed”
- **Cons:**
  - Representatives can sometimes vote against the wishes of their constituents
- **Examples:**
  - United States of America
  - Wisconsin
  - Most American cities (Mayor, Alderman, City Council, etc.)

# Constitutional Monarchy

a form of a monarchy in which the King or Queen is limited by a  
Constitution



United Kingdom	David Cameron	Elizabeth II
Position	Prime Minister	Queen (Monarch)
How Chosen	Appointed by the House of Commons (legislative branch)	Divine Right Hereditary
Political Power	Directs the Legislative Branch and head the Executive Branch	Limited
Other Duties	Foreign Affairs	Ceremonial
Term		Until Death

# Constitutional Monarchy

## United Kingdom



David Cameron

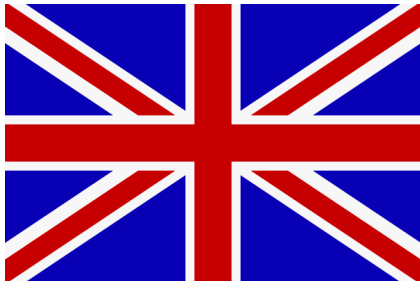
Prime Minister



Elizabeth II

Queen (Monarch)

- Has a royal family & do not really rule or set law – mainly ceremonial
- A Parliament & Prime Minister run the country.



# Constitutional Monarchy



House of Lords



House of Commons



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- A form of limited government.
- **Parliament** – lawmaking body of Great Britain
  - **Bicameral** – two house legislature
    - **House of Lords** – appointed by the monarch
    - **House of Commons** – elected by the people
- A **Prime Minister** serves as the country's leader much like a President