

Guiding principle	<u>AUTHORITARIANISM</u>	<u>CONSTITUTIONALISM</u>
Power comes from...	The person or group in power	The law
Description/Overview	<p>An authoritarian regime (government) operates with unchecked power; it is not limited by laws or constitutions. An authoritarian government is not required by law to protect the rights or freedoms of its citizens, and if there <i>are</i> laws that intend to protect the citizens, then the regime has enough power to ignore them. Most authoritarian systems, however, do allow some individual liberty as long as that liberty does not threaten the strength of the State (the ruling power) or encourage disobedience.</p> <p>The most extreme form of authoritarianism is called totalitarianism. A totalitarian system requires that people give the State full control over public <i>and</i> private life. Whereas an authoritarian government may allow certain social and economic freedoms, a totalitarian state manages <i>all</i> political, social and economic institutions.</p> <p>Whether authoritarian or totalitarian, much of the State's control comes through the use of propaganda (info, ideas or rumors spread to help or harm a person or group). With propaganda the government controls the ideas that are distributed to the public. Brutality, oppression, and secret policing are also tactics that may be used to produce obedience through fear and the threat of punishment.</p>	<p>A constitutional government is one that places certain rights and freedoms above the ruling power. In other words, constitutional governments identify -- in written documents, usually -- particular human or civil rights that are inalienable (natural, unchallengeable, guaranteed). These are rights that the governing body is not allowed to legislate or overrule, even if the ruling entity did not draft the constitution in the first place.</p> <p>Sovereignty, or supreme governing power, therefore, rests with the people, as given to them by the law. The authority of the ruling entity is restricted by the law.</p> <p>Additionally, there may be checks and balances to prevent leaders from having absolute power. The most common check against dictatorial power is to organize separate <i>branches</i> (bodies) of government. In other words, there may be different groups within the government (for example: lawmakers, law-enforcers, and the courts), all of whom have equal authority, such that one person or group cannot assume full control. Each equally powerful group exists to <i>check</i>, or limit, the power of the others.</p>
How is power gained?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seizure of power: The ruling authority takes power 2. Hereditary rule: The ruler(s) inherits power 3. Popular vote: The leadership is elected 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hereditary rule (const. monarchy / crowned republic) 2. Popular vote: The leadership is elected

	AUTHORITARIANISM	CONSTITUTIONALISM
Political Systems	<p><u>Autocracy</u> (rule by one individual with <i>full authority</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Absolute monarchy</u>: Hereditary king or queen • <u>Dictator</u>: Non-hereditary leader <p><u>Oligarchy</u>** (rule by a small group)</p> <p><u>Democracy</u>*** (rule by the people/many/the majority)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an authoritarian democracy (also called a <i>democratic dictatorship</i>) the majority rules. Those not in the majority do not have legal protection. Imagine, for instance, that people are asked to vote on this question: “Should people with birthdays in the month of July lose their lands and be forced into slavery?” If the majority of voters say YES, then those who voted NO (likely the people born in July) have no constitutional rights protecting them from the majority’s rule. They will lose lands and be forced into slavery. 	<p><u>Constitutional Monarchy</u> (king/queen; limited power)</p> <p><u>Republic</u> (elected officials rule under constitutional law)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Crowned Republic</u>: A monarchy governs alongside a body of elected representatives who hold the actual decision-making power of the state • <u>Oligarchic Republic</u>: A group of elected officials (with something specific in common – i.e. wealth) has decision-making power over the State • <u>Democratic Republic</u>: The voting majority directly or indirectly elects the leaders of the State • <i>Republican Systems</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Presidential System</u>: An individual <i>Head of State</i> holds <u>executive</u> power ○ <u>Parliamentary System</u>: An elected body of representatives holds executive power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader of Parliament: <u>Prime Minister</u>

****Examples of oligarchy**

- **Aristocracy** Rule by “the best;” a ruling class considered to be superior (through wealth or education or birth or ability, etc.)
- **Theocracy** Rule by the clergy or a particular group of religious leaders
- **Military junta** Authoritarian rule by military officials
- Stratocracy Constitutional rule by military officials
- Timocracy Rule by a small group of property owners whose main goal is to gain honor (often gained through service to the governed)
- Plutocracy Rule by a small group of wealthy officials whose main goal is to gain and keep greater wealth

*****Two kinds of democracy**

- **Direct democracy**: People vote directly for leaders or for laws; the majority wins
- **Indirect (representative) democracy**: People elect representatives from the society; the representatives’ votes determine leaders and laws