

CIVGAME Politics

Political ideologies and systems

Guiding principle	<u>AUTHORITARIANISM</u>	<u>CONSTITUTIONALISM</u>
Power comes from...	The person or group in power	The law
Description/Overview	<p>An <u>authoritarian government</u> operates with unchecked power – that is, power that is not limited by laws and constitutions. An authoritarian government is not required to protect the rights or freedoms of its citizens, though most authoritarian <u>regimes</u> 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 <u>totalitarianism</u>. 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 <u>propaganda</u> (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 <u>constitutional government</u> 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 <u>inalienable</u> (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><u>Sovereignty</u>, or ultimate power, therefore, rests with the people and their protected rights. The authority of the ruling entity is restricted by the law.</p> <p>Additionally, there may be <u>checks and balances</u> 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>

CIVGAME Politics

Political ideologies and systems

	AUTHORITARIANISM	CONSTITUTIONALISM
Political Systems	<p>Autocracy (rule by one individual with <i>full authority</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolute monarchy: Hereditary king or queen • Dictator: Non-hereditary leader <p>Oligarchy** (rule by a small group)</p> <p>Democracy*** (rule by the people/many/the majority)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an authoritarian democracy 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>Constitutional Monarchy (king/queen; limited power)</p> <p>Republic (elected officials rule under constitutional law)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowned Republic: A monarchy governs alongside a body of elected representatives who hold the actual decision-making power of the state • Oligarchic Republic: Distinct group -- elected and constitutionally supported -- has decision-making power over the State • Democratic Republic: The voting majority directly or indirectly elects the leaders of the State • <i>Republican Systems:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presidential System: An individual <i>Head of State</i> holds executive power ○ Parliamentary System: An elected body of representatives holds executive power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader of Parliament: Prime Minister
How is power gained?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seizure of power: The ruling authority <i>takes</i> 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

**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

CIVGAME Politics

Political ideologies and systems

Names _____

Directions Establish a system of governance for your civilization. Read the questions in the boxes on the left, and then provide thorough and clearly explained answers in the boxes on the right.

<p>WHICH GOVERNING IDEOLOGY IS NECESSARY TO HELP YOUR CIVILIZATION ACHIEVE ORDER AND LONG-TERM SUCCESS -- <u>AUTHORITARIANISM</u> OR <u>CONSTITUTIONALISM?</u></p>	
<p>WHICH SPECIFIC POLITICAL SYSTEM WITHIN YOUR GUIDING IDEOLOGY WILL BEST SUIT YOUR CIVILIZATION? <i>(Be as specific as possible. For instance, do not just say "oligarchy;" specify a particular type of oligarchy. Then explain why that particular system is better than the others.)</i></p>	
<p>BY WHAT MEANS WILL YOUR RULING ENTITY COME TO POWER -- SEIZURE, INHERITANCE, OR POPLAR VOTE? <i>(Explain the advantages of your choice <u>as well as the disadvantages of the other two choices.</u>)</i></p>	