

List of forms of government

Forms of government by power structure

Term	Definition
<u>Unitary State</u>	A unitary state is a state governed as a single power in which the central government is ultimately supreme and any administrative divisions (sub-national units) exercise only the powers that the central government chooses to delegate. The majority of states in the world have a unitary system of government. Of the 193 UN member states, 165 are governed as unitary states.
<u>Federation</u>	A federation (also known as a federal state) is a political entity characterized by a union of partially self-governing states or regions under a central (federal) government. In a federation, the self-governing status of the component states, as well as the division of power between them and the central government, is typically constitutionally entrenched and may not be altered by a unilateral decision of either party the states or the federal political body. Alternatively, federation is a form of government in which sovereign power is formally divided between a central authority and a number of constituent regions so that each region retains some degree of control over its internal affairs.
<u>Confederation</u>	A confederation (also known as a confederacy or league) is a union of sovereign states, united for purposes of common action often in relation to other states. Usually created by treaty, confederations of states tend to be established for dealing with critical issues, such as defense, foreign relations, internal trade or currency with the general government being required to provide support for all its members. Confederalism represents a main form of inter-governmentalism, this being defined as 'any form of interaction between states which takes place on the basis of sovereign independence or government.
<u>Anarchy</u>	A society without a publicly enforced government or political authority^{[1][2]} Sometimes said to be non-governance; it is a structure which strives for non-hierarchical, voluntary associations among agents. Anarchy is a situation where there is no state. When used in this sense, anarchy may or may not^[4] be intended to imply political disorder or lawlessness within a society. This can be a natural, temporary result of civil war in a country, when an established state has been destroyed and the region is in a transitional period without definitive leadership.^[5] Alternatively, it has been presented as a viable long term choice by individuals known as anarchists who oppose the state and other forms of coercive hierarchies. These individuals typically think people should organize in non-hierarchical, voluntary associations where people voluntarily help each other.^[6] There are a variety of forms of anarchy that attempt to avoid the use of coercion, violence, force and authority, while still producing a productive and desirable society.^{[7][8]}

Forms of government by power source

Term	Description
<u>Democracy</u>	Democracy, meaning "rule of the people", is a system of government in which the citizens exercise power directly or elect representatives from among themselves to form a governing body, such as a parliament. Democracy is sometimes referred to as "rule of the majority". Democracy is a system of processing conflicts in which outcomes depend on what participants do, but no single force controls what occurs and its outcomes.
<u>Oligarchy</u>	Oligarchy, meaning "rule of the few", is a form of power structure in which power rests with a small number of people. These people might be distinguished by nobility, wealth, family ties, education or corporate, religious or military control. Such states are often controlled by families who typically pass their influence from one generation to the next, but inheritance is not a necessary condition for the application of this term.
<u>Autocracy</u>	Autocracy is a system of government in which supreme power (social and political) is concentrated in the hands of one person or polity, whose decisions are subject to neither external legal restraints nor regularized mechanisms of popular control (except perhaps for the implicit threat of a coup d'état or mass insurrection). Absolute monarchy (such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Brunei and Swaziland) and dictatorships (such as Cuba, China, and North Korea) are the main modern day forms of autocracy.

Types of democracy

In democracies, large proportions of the population may vote, either to make decisions or to choose representatives to make decisions. Commonly significant in democracies are political parties, which are groups of people with similar ideas about how a country or region should be governed. Different political parties have different ideas about how the government should handle different problems.

Note: These categories are not exclusive.

Term	Definition
<u>Direct democracy</u>	Variant of democracy; government in which the people represent themselves and vote directly for new laws and public policy
<u>Representative democracy</u>	Variant of democracy; wherein the people or citizens of a country elect representatives to create and implement public policy in place of active participation by the people.
<u>Liberal democracy</u>	Variant of democracy; a form of government in which representative democracy operates under the principles of liberalism. It is characterised by fair, free, and competitive elections between multiple distinct political parties, a separation of powers into different branches of government, the rule of law in everyday life as part of an open society, and the protection of human rights and civil liberties for all persons. To define the system in practice, liberal democracies often draw upon a constitution, either formally written or uncodified, to delineate the powers of government and enshrine the social contract. After a period of sustained expansion throughout the 20th century, liberal democracy became the predominant political system in the world. A liberal democracy may take various constitutional forms: it may be a republic, such as France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Taiwan, or the United States; or a constitutional monarchy, such as Japan, Spain, or the United Kingdom. It may have a presidential system (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, or the United States), a semi-presidential system (France, Portugal, or Taiwan), or a parliamentary system (Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, India, Italy, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom).
<u>Social democracy</u>	Variant of democracy; social democracy rejects the "either/or" phobic/racism/polarisation interpretation of capitalism versus socialism. It claims that fostering a progressive evolution of capitalism will gradually result in the evolution of capitalist economy into socialist economy. Social democracy argues that all citizens should be legally entitled to certain social rights. These are made up of universal access to public services such as: education, health care, workers' compensation, public transportation, and other services including child care and care for the elderly. Social democracy is connected with the trade union labour movement and supports collective bargaining rights for workers. Contemporary social democracy advocates freedom from discrimination based on differences of: ability/disability, age, ethnicity, sex, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and social class.
<u>Totalitarian democracy</u>	Variant of democracy; refers to a system of government in which lawfully elected representatives maintain the integrity of a nation state whose citizens, while granted the right to vote, have little or no participation in the decision-making process of the government.
<u>Electocracy</u>	Variant of democracy; where citizens are able to vote for their government but cannot participate directly in governmental decision making and where the government does not share any power
<u>Demarchy</u>	Variant of democracy; government in which the state is governed by randomly selected decision makers who have been selected by sortition (lot) from a broadly inclusive pool of eligible citizens. These groups, sometimes termed "policy juries", "citizens' juries", or "consensus conferences", deliberately make decisions about public policies in much the same way that juries decide criminal cases. Demarchy, in theory, could overcome some of the functional problems of conventional representative democracy which is widely subject to manipulation by special interests and a division between professional policymakers (politicians and lobbyists) vs. a largely passive, uninvolved and often uninformed electorate. According to Australian philosopher John Burnheim, random selection of policymakers would make it easier for everyday citizens to meaningfully participate, and harder for special interests to corrupt the process. More generally, random selection of decision makers from a larger group is known as <u>sortition</u> (from the Latin base for lottery). The <u>Athenian democracy</u> made much use of sortition, with nearly all government offices filled by lottery (of full citizens) rather than by election. Candidates were almost always male, Greek, educated citizens holding a minimum of wealth and status.

Types of oligarchy

Oligarchies are societies controlled and organised by a small *class* of privileged people, with no intervention from the most part of society; this small elite is defined as sharing some common trait.

De jure democratic governments with a *de facto* oligarchy are ruled by a small group of segregated, powerful or influential people who usually share similar interests or family relations. These people may spread power and elect candidates equally or not equally. An oligarchy is different from a true democracy because very few people are given the chance to change things. An oligarchy does not have to be hereditary or monarchic. An oligarchy does not have one clear ruler but several rulers.

Some historical examples of oligarchy are the Roman Republic, in which only males of the nobility could run for office and only wealthy males could vote, and the Athenian democracy, which used sortition to elect candidates, almost always male, Greek, educated citizens holding a minimum of land, wealth and status. Some critics of capitalism and/or representative democracy think of the United States as an oligarchy

Note: These categories are not exclusive.

Term	Definition
<u>Aristocracy</u>	Rule by the nobility; a system of governance where political power is in the hands of a small class of privileged individuals who claim a higher birth than the rest of society
<u>Plutocracy</u>	Rule by the wealthy; a system wherein governance is indebted to, dependent upon or heavily influenced by the desires of the rich. Plutocratic influence can alter any form of government. For instance, in a republic, if a significant number of elected representative positions are dependent upon financial support from wealthy sources, it is a plutocratic republic.
<u>Kraterocracy</u>	Rule by the strong; a system of governance where those who are strong enough to seize power through physical force, social maneuvering or political cunning.
<u>Stratocracy</u>	Rule by military service; a system of governance composed of military government in which the state and the military are traditionally or constitutionally the same entity. Citizens with mandatory or voluntary active military service or who have been honorably discharged have the right to govern (not to be confused with 'military junta' or 'military dictatorship'). The <u>Spartan city-state</u> is a historical example; its social system and constitution were completely focused on military training and excellence. Stratocratic ideology often attaches to the honor-oriented <u>democracy</u> .
<u>Timocracy</u>	Rule by the honourable; a system of governance ruled by honorable citizens and property owners. <u>Socrates</u> defines a timocracy as a government ruled by people who love honour and are selected according to the degree of honour they hold in society. This form of timocracy is very similar to <u>meritocracy</u> , in the sense that individuals of outstanding character or faculty are placed in the seat of power.
<u>Meritocracy</u>	Rule by the meritorious; a system of governance where groups are selected on the basis of people's ability, knowledge in a given area, and contributions to society
<u>Technocracy</u>	Rule by the educated or technical experts; a system of governance where people who are skilled or proficient govern in their respective areas of expertise in technology would be in control of all decision making. Doctors, engineers, scientists, professionals and technologists who have knowledge, expertise, or skills would compose the governing body instead of politicians, businessmen and economists. ^[9] In a technocracy, decision makers would be selected based upon how knowledgeable and skillful they are in their field.
<u>Geniocracy</u>	Rule by the intelligent; a system of governance where creativity, innovation, intelligence and wisdom are required for those who wish to govern. Comparable to <u>noocracy</u> .
<u>Noocracy</u>	Rule by the wise; a system of governance in which decision making is in the hands of philosophers. (advocated by <u>Plato</u>)
<u>Theocracy</u>	Rule by a religious elite; a system of governance composed of religious institutions in which the state and the church are traditionally or constitutionally the same entity. The <u>Vatican's</u> (see <u>Pope</u>), <u>Iran's</u> (see <u>Supreme Leader</u>), <u>Tibetan governments</u> (see <u>Dalai Lama</u>), <u>Caliphates</u> and other <u>Islamic states</u> are historically considered <u>theocracies</u> .
<u>Kritarchy</u>	Rule by various judges, the <u>kritarchs</u> ; a system of governance composed of law enforcement institutions in which the state and the legal systems are traditionally or constitutionally the same entity. The <u>kritarchs</u> , magistrates and other adjudicators have the legal power to legislate and administer the enforcement of government laws in addition to the interposition of laws and the resolution of disputes. (Not to be confused with " <u>judiciary</u> " or " <u>judicial system</u> ".) <u>Somalia</u> , ruled by judges with the tradition of <u>xeer</u> , ^[10] as well as the <u>Islamic Courts Union</u> is a historical example! ^[11]
<u>Particracy</u>	Rule by a dominant political party (or parties).
<u>Ergatocracy</u>	Rule by the proletariat, the workers, or the working class. Examples of ergatocracy include communist revolutionaries and rebels which control most of society and create an alternative economy for people and workers. See <u>Dictatorship of the proletariat</u>
<u>Netocracy</u>	Rule by social connections; a term invented by the editorial board of the American technology magazine <u>Wired</u> in the early 1990s. A portmanteau of Internet and aristocracy, netocracy refers to a perceived global upper-class that bases its power on a technological advantage and networking skills, in comparison to what is portrayed as a bourgeoisie of a gradually diminishing importance. The netocracy concept has been compared with <u>Richard Florida's</u> concept of the <u>creative class</u> . <u>Bard and Söderqvist</u> have also defined an under-class in opposition to the <u>netocracy</u> , which they refer to as the <u>consumtariat</u> .

Types of autocracy

Autocracies are ruled by a single entity with absolute power, whose decisions are subject to neither external legal restraints nor regular mechanisms of popular control (except perhaps for implicit threat). That entity may be an individual, as in a dictatorship or it may be a group, as in a one-party state. The word despotism means to "rule in the fashion of despots" and is often used to describe autocracy.

Historical examples of autocracy include the Roman Empire, Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

Term	Definition
<u>Civilian Dictatorship</u>	A dictatorship where power resides in the hands of one single person <u>polity</u> . That person may be, for example, an absolute monarch or a dictator, but can also be an elected president. The Roman Republic made dictators to lead during times of war; but the Roman dictators only held power for a small time. In modern times, an autocrat's rule is one that not stopped by any rules of law <u>constitutions</u> , or other social and political institutions. After <u>World War II</u> , many governments in Latin America, Asia, and Africa were ruled by autocratic governments. Examples of dictators include <u>Joseph Stalin</u> , <u>Adolf Hitler</u> , <u>Mao Zedong</u> , <u>Idi Amin</u> , <u>Muammar Gaddafi</u> , and <u>Gamal Abdul Nasser</u> .
<u>Military Dictatorship</u>	A dictatorship primarily enforced by the military. Military dictators are different from <u>civilian dictators</u> for a number of reasons: their motivations for seizing power, the institutions through which they organize their rule, and the ways in which they leave power. Often viewing itself as saving the nation from the corrupt or myopic civilian politicians, a military dictatorship justifies its position as "neutral" arbiters on the basis of their membership within the armed forces. For example, many juntas adopt titles, such as "National Redemption Council", "Committee of National Restoration", or "National Liberation Committee". Military leaders often rule as a junta, selecting one of them as the head.

Pejorative attributes

Regardless of the form of government, the actual governance may be influenced by sectors with political power which are not part of the formal government. These are terms that highlight certain actions of the governors, such as corruption, demagoguery, or fear mongering that may disrupt the intended way of working of the government if they are widespread enough.

Term	Definition
<u>Banana republic</u>	A politically unstable and kleptocratic government that economically depends upon the exports of a limited resource (fruits, minerals), and usually features a society composed of <u>stratified social classes</u> , such as a great, impoverished ergatocracy and a ruling plutocracy composed of the aristocracy of business, politics, and the military. ^[12] In political science, the term <i>banana republic</i> denotes a country dependent upon limited <u>primary-sector productions</u> which is ruled by a <u>plutocracy</u> who exploit the national economy by means of a politico-economic <u>oligarchy</u> . ^[13] In American literature, the term <i>banana republic</i> originally denoted the fictional <i>Republic of Anchuria</i> , a servile dictatorship that abetted, or supported <u>kickbacks</u> , the exploitation of large-scale plantation agriculture, especially banana cultivation. ^[13] In U.S. politics, the term <i>banana republic</i> is a pejorative political descriptor coined by the American writer O. Henry in <i>Cabbages and Kings</i> (1904), a book of thematically related short stories derived from his 1896–1897 residence in Honduras, where he was hiding from U.S. law for bank <u>embezzlement</u> . ^[14]
<u>Bankocracy</u>	Rule by banks; ^[15] a system of governance with excessive power or influence of banks and other financial authorities on public policy-making. It can also refer to a form of government where financial institutions rule society
<u>Corporatocracy</u>	Rule by corporations; a system of governance where an economic and political system is controlled by corporations or corporate interests. ^[16] Its use is generally pejorative. Examples include <u>company rule in India</u> and <u>business voters for the City of London Corporation</u>
<u>Nepotocracy</u>	Rule by nephews; <u>favouritism</u> granted to <u>relatives</u> regardless of merit; a system of governance in which importance is given to the relatives of those already in power like a <i>nephew</i> (where the word comes from). In such governments even if the relatives aren't qualified they are given positions of authority just because they know someone who already has authority <u>Pope Alexander VI (Borgia)</u> was accused of this.
<u>Kakistocracy</u>	Rule by the stupid; a system of governance where the worst or least-qualified citizens govern or dictate policies. Due to <u>human nature</u> being inherently flawed, it has been suggested that every government which has ever existed has been a prime example of kakistocracy. See <u>Idiocracy</u> .
<u>Kleptocracy</u>	Rule by thieves; a system of governance where its <u>officials</u> and the ruling class in general pursue personal wealth and political power at the expense of the wider population. In strict terms kleptocracy is not a form of government but a characteristic of a government engaged in such behavior. Examples include Mexico as being considered a "narcokleptocracy", (<u>narco-state</u>) since its democratic government is perceived to be corrupted by those who profit from trade in illegal drugs smuggled into the United States and Vladimir Putin's style of government in the Russian Federation often called <u>mafia state</u> .
<u>Ochlocracy</u>	Rule by the crowd; a system of governance where mob rule is government by mob or a mass of people, or the intimidation of legitimate authorities. As a pejorative form of <u>majoritarianism</u> , it is akin to the Latin phrase <i>mobile vulgus</i> meaning "the fickle crowd", from which the English term "mob" was originally derived in the 1680s. Ochlocratic governments are often a democracy spoiled by <u>demagoguery</u> , " <u>tyranny of the majority</u> " and the rule of passion over reason; such governments can be as oppressive as autocratic tyrants. Ochlocracy is synonymous in meaning and usage to the modern, informal term "mobocracy".

Other attributes

Term	Definition
<u>Anocracy</u>	A regime type where power is not vested in public institutions (as in a normal democracy) but spread amongst elite groups who are constantly competing with each other for power. Examples of anocracies in Africa include the warlords of <u>Somalia</u> and the shared governments in <u>Kenya</u> and <u>Zimbabwe</u>. Anocracies are situated midway between an <u>autocracy</u> and a <u>democracy</u>.^[17] The Polity IV dataset recognised anocracy as a category. In that dataset, anocracies are exactly in the middle between autocracies and democracies. Often the word is defined more broadly. For example, a 2010 <u>International Alert</u> publication defined anocracies as "countries that are neither autocratic nor democratic, most of which are making the risky transition between autocracy and democracy".^[18] Alert noted that the number of anocracies had increased substantially since the end of the Cold War. Anocracy is not surprisingly the least resilient political system to short-term shocks: it creates the promise but not yet the actuality of an inclusive and effective political economy, and threatens members of the established elite; and is therefore very vulnerable to disruption and armed violence.
<u>Adhocracy</u>	Rule by a government based on relatively disorganised principles and institutions as compared to a <u>bureaucracy</u> , its exact opposite.
<u>Bureaucracy</u>	Rule by a system of governance with many bureaus, administrators, and petty officials
<u>Cybersynacy</u>	Ruled by a data fed group of secluded individuals that regulates aspects of public and private life using data feeds and technology having no interactivity with the citizens but using "facts only" to decide direction.
<u>Nomocracy</u>	Rule by a government under the sovereignty of rational laws and civic right as opposed to one under theocratic systems of government. In a nomocracy ultimate and final authority (sovereignty) exists in the law.
<u>Band society</u>	Rule by a government based on small (usually family) unit with a semi-informal hierarchy with strongest (either physical strength or strength of character) as leader. Very much like a pack seen in other animals, such as wolves.

Forms of government by ideology

By socio-political attributes

Term	Definition
<u>Monarchy</u>	A monarchy is a form of government in which a group, generally a family representing a dynasty, embodies the country's national identity and its head, the monarch, exercises the role of sovereignty. The actual power of the monarch may vary from purely symbolic (crowned republic), to partial and restricted (constitutional monarchy), to completely autocratic (absolute monarchy). Traditionally the monarch's post is inherited and lasts until death or abdication. In contrast elective monarchies require the monarch to be elected. Both types have further variations as there are widely divergent structures and traditions defining monarchy. For example, in some^[which?] elected monarchies only pedigrees are taken into account for eligibility of the next ruler, whereas many hereditary monarchies impose requirements regarding the religion, age, gender, mental capacity, etc. Occasionally this might create a situation of rival claimants whose legitimacy is subject to effective election. There have been cases where the term of a monarch's reign is either fixed in years or continues until certain goals are achieved: an invasion being repulsed, for instance.
<u>Republic</u>	A republic (Latin: <i>res publica</i>) is a form of government in which the country is considered a "public matter", not the private concern or property of the rulers. The primary positions of power within a republic are not inherited, but are attained through elections expressing the consent of the governed. Such leadership positions are therefore expected to fairly represent the citizen body. It is a form of government under which the head of state is not a monarch. In American English, the definition of a republic can also refer specifically to a government in which elected individuals represent the citizen body, known elsewhere as a representative democracy (a democratic republic) and exercise power according to the rule of law (a constitutional republic).

Types of monarchy

Countries with monarchy attributes are those where a family or group of families (rarely another type of group), called the royalty, represents national identity, with power traditionally assigned to one of its individuals, called the monarch, who mostly rule kingdoms. The actual role of the monarch and other members of royalty varies from purely symbolical (crowned republic) to partial and restricted (constitutional monarchy) to completely despotic (absolute monarchy). Traditionally and in most cases, the post of the monarch is inherited, but there are also elective monarchies where the monarch is elected.

Term	Definition
<u>Absolute monarchy</u>	A traditional and historical system where the monarch exercises ultimate governing authority as <u>head of state and head of government</u> . Many nations of Europe during the Middle Ages were absolute monarchies. Modern examples include mainly Islamic countries such as <u>Saudi Arabia</u> , <u>UAE</u> , <u>Oman</u> , <u>Brunei</u> and one African country <u>Swaziland</u> .
<u>Constitutional monarchy</u>	Also called <u>parliamentary monarchy</u> the monarch's powers are limited by law or by a formal <u>constitution</u> , ^{[19][20]} usually assigning them to those of the <u>head of state</u> . Many modern developed countries, including the <u>United Kingdom</u> , <u>Norway</u> , <u>Netherlands</u> , <u>Australia</u> , <u>Canada</u> and <u>Japan</u> , are constitutional monarchy systems.
<u>Crowned republic</u>	A form of government where the monarch (and family) is an <u>official ceremonial entity</u> with no political power. The royal family and the monarch are intended to represent the country and may perform speeches or attend an important ceremonial events as a symbolical guide to the people, but hold no actual power in decision-making, appointments <i>et cetera</i> .

Types of republic

Rule by a form of government in which the people, or some significant portion of them, have supreme control over the government and where offices of state are elected or chosen by elected people.^{[21][22]} A common simplified definition of a republic is a government where the head of state is not a monarch.^{[23][24]} Montesquieu included both democracies, where all the people have a share in rule, and aristocracies or oligarchies, where only some of the people rule, as republican forms of government.^[25]

Note: These categories are not exclusive.

Term	Definition
<u>Constitutional Republic</u>	Republics where there is rule by a government whose powers are limited by law or a formal constitution, and chosen by a vote amongst at least some sections of the populace (Ancient Sparta was in its own terms a republic, though most inhabitants were disenfranchised). Republics that exclude sections of the populace from participation will typically claim to represent all citizens (by defining people without the vote as "non-citizens"). Examples include the <u>United States</u> , <u>South Africa</u> , <u>India</u> , etc.
<u>Democratic republic</u>	Republics where the running of the country is considered a "public matter" (Latin: <i>res publica</i>), not a private concern or property of rulers, and where <u>offices of states</u> are subsequently directly or indirectly, elected or appointed – rather than <u>inherited</u> – where all eligible citizens have an equal say in the local and national decisions that <u>affect</u> their lives.
<u>Parliamentary republic</u>	Republics, like <u>Germany</u> , <u>India</u> or <u>Singapore</u> , with an elected head of state, but where the head of state and head of government are kept separate with the head of government retaining most executive powers, or a head of state akin to a head of government, elected by a parliament.
<u>Presidential Republic</u>	Republics with an elected head of state, where the head of state is also the head of the government. Examples include <u>United States</u> , <u>Mexico</u> , <u>Brazil</u> , and <u>Indonesia</u> .
<u>Federal republic</u>	Republics that are a federal union of states or provinces. Examples include <u>United States</u> , <u>Argentina</u> , <u>Austria</u> , <u>Brazil</u> , <u>Germany</u> , <u>India</u> , <u>Mexico</u> , <u>Russia</u> , and <u>Switzerland</u> .
<u>People's republic</u>	Republics that include countries like <u>China</u> and <u>Vietnam</u> that are <u>de jure</u> governed for and by the people, but with no direct elections. The term <i>People's Republic</i> is used to differentiate themselves from the earlier republic of their countries before the people's revolution, like the Republic of China.
<u>Islamic Republic</u>	Republics governed in accordance with Islamic law. Examples include <u>Afghanistan</u> , <u>Pakistan</u> , and <u>Iran</u> .

By socio-economic attributes

Historically, most political systems originated as socioeconomic ideologies. Experience with those movements in power and the strong ties they may have to particular forms of government can cause them to be considered as forms of government in themselves.

Note: These categories are not exclusive.

Term	Definition
<u>Tribalism</u>	A system based on a small complex society of varying degrees of centralisation that is led by an individual known as a chief.
<u>Monarchism</u>	A system in which the government is headed by an agreed upon head of the nobility who is known as the monarch, usually in the form of a king or emperor (but also less commonly a queen or empress). In most monarchical systems the position of monarch is one inherited from a previous ruler by <u>bloodline</u> or marriage, but in other cases it may be a position elected by the nobility themselves, as was the case in the ancient <u>Roman Kingdom</u> and the medieval <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> .
<u>Republicanism</u>	A system in which the laws and governmental policies of the state are considered a "public matter" and decided by the citizens of the society whoever they may be. Most modern nation-states are examples of republics, but other examples include those of ancient <u>Rome</u> and <u>Athens</u> .
<u>Despotism</u>	A system in which the laws and resources of a nation are controlled by one individual, usually a monarch or dictator, who holds absolute political power. Examples include the <u>pharaohs</u> of <u>Ancient Egypt</u> and the <u>Roman emperors</u> . (Often used as a slur by republicans to refer to all monarchical systems, monarchists conversely use the term to refer to systems in which monarchs have overstepped their boundaries, or to refer to some of the more totalitarian republican systems)
<u>Feudalism</u>	A system of land ownership and duties common to <u>medieval Europe</u> . Under feudalism, all the land in a kingdom belonged to the king. However, the king would give some of the land to the lords or nobles who fought for him. These presents of land were called manors. Then the nobles gave some of their land to vassals. The vassals then had to do duties for the nobles. The lands of vassals were called fiefs. A similar system is the <u>Iqta</u> , used by medieval <u>Islamic</u> societies of the middle east and north Africa. This functioned much like the feudal system but generally had titles that weren't granted to a family dynasty but to individuals at the behest of the sultan and generally only required a tax from the lower classes, instead of military service and/or manual labour like in the feudal system.
<u>Colonialism</u>	A system in which a native group (or their lands and resources) is subjugated by an external political power for their own economic and/or political benefit.
<u>Capitalism</u>	A system in which the means of production (machines, tools, factories, etc.) are owned by private individuals, workers then negotiate with those individuals to use those means of production in exchange for a portion of what they produce, usually in the form of capital (money). The owners of the means of production are entitled to whatever portion of the products of the workers' labor that is agreed upon by the two parties. The capitalist system is usually accompanied by a <u>Welfare state</u> which plays a key role in the protection and promotion of the economic and social well-being of its citizens. It is based on the principles of equality of opportunity, equitable distribution of wealth, and public responsibility for those unable to avail themselves of the minimal provisions for a good life.
<u>Minarchism</u>	A variant of <u>capitalism</u> which advocates for the <u>State</u> to exist solely to provide a very small number of services. A popular model of the State proposed by minarchists is known as the <u>night-watchman state</u> , in which the only governmental functions are to protect citizens from <u>aggression</u> , <u>theft</u> , <u>breach of contract</u> , and <u>fraud</u> as defined by <u>property laws</u> , limiting it to three institutions: the <u>military</u> , the <u>police</u> , and <u>courts</u> .
<u>Distributism</u>	A variant of capitalism which views widespread <u>property ownership</u> as fundamental right, ^[26] the means of production are spread as widely as possible rather than being centralized under the control of the state (as in <u>state socialism</u>), or a few individuals/corporations (as in what proponents of distributism call " <u>crony capitalism</u> ") ^[27] Distributism fundamentally opposes <u>socialism</u> and <u>capitalism</u> , ^{[28][29]} which distributists view as equally flawed and exploitative. In contrast, distributism seeks to subordinate economic activity to human life as a whole, to our spiritual life, our intellectual life, our family life". ^[30]
<u>Socialism</u>	A system in which workers, democratically and/or socially own the means of production ^[31] The economic framework may be decentralized and self-managed in autonomous economic units, as in <u>libertarian systems</u> , or centrally planned, as in <u>authoritarian systems</u> . ^[32] Public services such as <u>healthcare</u> and <u>education</u> would be commonly, collectively, and/or state owned.

<u>Anarchism</u>	A socialist system that advocates <u>self-governed societies</u> based on voluntary institutions. These are often described as <u>stateless societies</u> , although several authors have defined them more specifically as institutions based on <u>nonhierarchical</u> or <u>free associations</u> . Anarchism holds the <u>state</u> to be undesirable, unnecessary and/or harmful.
<u>Communism</u>	A socialist system in which the means of production are commonly owned (either by the people directly, through the <u>commune</u> , or by a <u>communist state or society</u>), and production is undertaken for use, rather than for profit. ^{[33][34]} Communist society is thus, in theory <u>stateless</u> , <u>classless</u> , <u>moneyless</u> , and <u>democratic</u> — it is usually regarded as the "final form" of a socialist or anarchist society.
<u>Totalitarianism</u>	A system in which the land and resources of a nation are controlled by a <u>centralised authoritarian state</u> that holds absolute political power usually under a <u>dictatorship</u> or <u>single political party</u> . Examples include the <u>Soviet Union</u> and <u>Nazi Germany</u> .

By geo-cultural attributes

Governments can also be categorized based on their size and scope of influence:

Term	Definition
<u>Commune</u>	From the Medieval Latin <i>communia</i> . An intentional community of people living together, sharing common interests, often having common values and beliefs, as well as shared <u>property</u> , <u>possessions</u> , <u>resources</u> , and, in some communes, <u>work</u> , <u>income</u> or <u>assets</u> .
<u>City-State</u>	A <u>sovereign state</u> , also described as a type of small independent country, that usually consists of a single city and its dependent territories. Historically, this included cities such as <u>Rome</u> , <u>Athens</u> , <u>Carthage</u> , and the Italian city-states during the Renaissance. Today only a handful of sovereign city-states exist, with some disagreement as to which are city-states. A great deal of consensus exists that the term properly applies currently to <u>Singapore</u> , <u>Monaco</u> , and <u>Vatican City</u> . City states are also sometimes called <u>micro-states</u> which however also includes other configurations of very small countries.
<u>National Government</u>	The government of a <u>nation-state</u> and is a characteristic of a unitary state. This is the same thing as a <u>federal government</u> which may have distinct powers at various levels authorized or delegated to it by its member states, though the adjective 'central' is sometimes used to describe it. The structure of central governments varies. Many countries have created autonomous regions by delegating powers from the central government to governments at a sub national level, such as a regional, state or local level. Based on a broad definition of a basic political system, there are two or more levels of government that exist within an established territory and govern through common institutions with overlapping or shared powers as prescribed by a <u>constitution</u> or other law.
<u>Intergovernmental Organisations</u>	Also known as international governmental organizations (IGOs): the type of organization most closely associated with the term 'international organization', these are organizations that are made up primarily of <u>sovereign states</u> (referred to as <u>member states</u>). Notable examples include the <u>United Nations (UN)</u> , <u>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</u> , <u>Council of Europe (COE)</u> , <u>International Labour Organization (ILO)</u> and <u>International Police Organization (INTERPOL)</u> . The UN has used the term "intergovernmental organization" instead of "international organization" for clarity.
<u>World Government</u>	The notion of a <u>common political authority</u> for all of humanity yielding a <u>global government</u> and a single state that exercises authority over the entire <u>Earth</u> . Such a government could come into existence either through violent and compulsory <u>world domination</u> or through peaceful and voluntary <u>supranational union</u> .

Forms of government by other attributes

By significant constitutional attributes

Certain major characteristics are defining of certain types; others are historically associated with certain types of government.

- Rule according to higher law (unwritten ethical principles) vs. written constitutionalism
- Separation of church and state or free church vs. state religion

- Civilian control of the military vs. stratocracy
- Totalitarianism or authoritarianism vs. libertarianism
- Majority rule or parliamentary sovereignty vs. constitution or bill of rights with separation of powers and supermajority rules to prevent tyranny of the majority and protect minority rights
- Androcracy (patriarchy) or gynarchy (matriarchy) vs. gender quotas, gender equality provision, or silence on the matter

By approach to regional autonomy

This list focuses on differing approaches that political systems take to the distribution of sovereignty, and the autonomy of regions within the state.

- Sovereignty located exclusively at the centre of political jurisdiction.
 - Empire
 - Unitary state
- Sovereignty located at the centre and in peripheral areas.
 - Hegemony
 - Federation and federal republic
 - Confederation
 - Federal monarchy
- Diverging degrees of sovereignty
 - Alliance
 - Asymmetrical federalism
 - Federacy
 - Associated state
 - Corpus separatum
 - Colony
 - Crown colony
 - Chartered company
 - Dependent territory
 - Occupied territory
 - Occupied zone
 - Mandate
 - Exclusive mandate
 - Military Frontier
 - Neutral zone
 - Colonial dependency
 - Protectorate
 - Vassal state
 - Satellite state
 - Puppet state
 - Thalassocracy
 - Unrecognized state
 - States with limited recognition
 - Separatist movement
 - Government in exile
 - Micronation
 - Provisional government
 - Territorial disputes
 - Non-self-governing territories
 - League of Nations
 - League
 - Commonwealth

- Decentralisation and devolution (powers redistributed from central to regional or local governments)

Theoretical and speculative attributes

These currently have no citable real-world examples outside of fiction.

Term	Definition
<u>Corporate republic</u>	Theoretical form of government occasionally hypothesised in works of science fiction, though some historical nations such as medieval Florence might be said to have been governed as corporate republics. The colonial megacorporations such as the Dutch East India Company should possibly be considered corporate states, being semi-sovereign with the power to wage war and establish colonies. While retaining some semblance of republican government, a corporate republic would be run primarily like a business, involving a board of directors and executives. Utilities, including hospitals, schools, the military, and the police force, would be privatised. The social welfare function carried out by the state is instead carried out by corporations in the form of benefits to employees. Although corporate republics do not exist officially in the modern world, they are often used in works of fiction or political commentary as a warning of the perceived dangers of unbridled capitalism. In such works, they usually arise when a single, vastly powerful corporation deposes a weak government, over time or in <i>coup d'état</i>. Some political scientists have also considered state socialist nations to be forms of corporate republics, with the state assuming full control of all economic and political life and establishing a monopoly on everything within national boundaries – effectively making the state itself amount to a giant corporation.
<u>Magocracy</u>	Rule by a government with the highest and main authority being either a magician, sage, sorcerer, wizard or witch. This is often similar to a theocratic structured regime and is largely portrayed in fiction and fantasy genre categories.
<u>Uniocracy</u>	Ruled by a singularity of all human minds connected via some form of technical or non-technical telepathy acting as a form of super computer to make decisions based on shared patterned experiences to deliver fair and accurate decisions to problems as they arrive. Also known as the "Hive Mind" principle, it differs from voting in that each person would make a decision while in the "hive" the synapses of all minds work together following a longer path of memories to make "one" decision.

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