

Types of Government

HS.26 - Define and compare/contrast United States republican government to direct democracy, socialism, communism, theocracy, oligarchy.

Monarchy

- Ruled by a king or queen
- Power passed down through the family (usually oldest child)
- Today, sometimes power is shared with other parts of government
- Ex. United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia



Dictatorship

- One person, a “dictator”
- Absolute control over all aspects of government and of people’s lives
- Authoritarian, totalitarian
- Ex. Maduro (Venezuela), Stalin (USSR), Kim Jong-Un (N. Korea)



Direct Democracy

- Citizens are directly involved (vote) in almost all aspects of government
- Citizens can vote different people into the government if they don’t like what the gov. is doing
- Ex. Ancient Greece (Athens)



Republic (Representative Democracy)

- Citizens vote for people to represent them
- The Representatives do most of the day-to-day work of the government
- Citizens can vote in new representatives
- Ex. Ancient Rome



Oligarchy

- Power is in the hands of a small group of people
 - Usually wealthy, or of a certain race or religion
- *Junta* is a form of oligarchy, usually when a small group of the military takes control of a country
- Ex. Burma



Theocracy

- Power is held by religious leaders, religious laws are used
- Can also be combined with most other types of government
- Ex. Iran (Ayatollahs)



Anarchy

- No organized government
- ‘state of nature’
- People who support anarchy generally believe that people’s actions should be free from government interference
- No country has anarchy as a form of government
- Ex. Black Bloc demonstrators



Economic Systems

Capitalism

- Personal ownership of property with the goal to create wealth.
- Limited government involvement in businesses
- Prices set through competition
- Free markets, freedom of choice
- Ex. Western democracies (USA)



Socialism

- Government plays a greater role in the manufacture and distribution of essential goods and services
- Exists in many different forms
- Public ownership of many resources
- Private property continues to some extent
- Ex. Sweden, Portugal



Communism

- General idea that all resources should be equally shared among the people
- Government controls most economic and many daily aspects of people's lives
- Prices set by government
 - Little competition (if any)
 - No freedom of choice!
- Totalitarian, authoritarian
- Ex. Vietnam, China, Cuba, USSR



The Constitutional Convention

OBJECTIVES:

- **Explain the Actions and Events of the Constitutional Convention**
- **Identify the type of government structure set up by the Framers at the Constitutional Convention.**
- **Explain how the Federalists won the battle over ratification.**

Delegates recognized:

1. A National Government was essential
 - a. Have power to tax
 - b. Ability to enforce laws
 - c. Deal with country's debt
 - d. Settle disputes between states
 2. Alliance of states was insufficient
 3. Abuse of power had to be countered
 - a. Montesquieu's principle: Separation of powers (legislative, executive, and Judicial branches)
1. Governments powers must be divided among the state and national governments

Other Issues:

1. How many representatives should each state have?
2. How much power should government have?

The Constitutional Convention (Philadelphia May-Sept 1787)

A. Setting up the Convention

1. Initial plan was to revise Articles of Confederation
2. Quickly the plan was changed to write a new Constitution
3. 55 delegates – from 12 of the 13 states
 - a. Benjamin Franklin
 - b. George Washington (President of Convention)
 - c. Alexander Hamilton
 - d. James Madison

B. Two Basic Plans

1. Virginia Plan (James Madison)
 - a. 3 branches (executive, legislative, judicial)
 - b. 2 houses of Congress (both by population)
 - c. Small states protested this plan
2. New Jersey Plan
 - a. Basically the same as the Virginia Plan
 - b. Except only one house with equal representation from each state

C. The Great Compromise (Roger Sherman, Connecticut)

1. House of Representatives
 - a. Seats divided by population
 - b. Chosen by the people
 - c. Large states liked this
2. Senate
 - a. Two senators per state
 - b. Chosen by the state legislators
 - c. Small states liked this
3. July 16th, the Great Compromise was accepted

C. Other Issues:

A. Slavery

1. Northerners did not want slaves counted for population
2. Southerners wanted to count the slaves even though they couldn't vote
3. 3/5th's compromise
 - a. Slaves would count as 3/5th's of a person for purposes of population
 - b. Slave trade would continue until 1808, then it would be regulated

B. Other Issues Decided

1. How many years should the President serve?
2. How should the courts be organized?
3. Should congress be paid?

- September 17, 1787 delegates came forward to sign the Constitution
- George Washington would be the President (executive branch)
- The Constitution is an amazing framework that has lasted over 200 years with only 27 amendments