Monarchy



Elizabeth, Queen of England and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

**Definition:** A form of government with a single king or queen (monarch) at the head.

**Modern/Historical Example:** England has had the same monarchy since 1066 AD when William the Conqueror took the throne.

**Positives:** Eliminates elections, which can be expensive, monarchs rule for life, and can be efficient.

**Negatives:** Eliminates elections, which takes the voice away from the people, and kings and queens will serve for life whether they deserve to or not.

Military Junta



General Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Army

**Definition:** A group of military officers who rule a country after seizing power.

**Modern/Historical Example:** In 2014, the Royal Thai Armed Forces, led by Prayut Chan-o-cha, overthrew the government and took over.

**Positives:** Strong military and discipline. Also, promotes a neutral party.

**Negatives:** Takes away many rights of the citizens and creates a permanent state of emergency.

Democracy



**Definition:** A form of government in which the supreme authority rests with the people.

**Modern/Historical Example:** The United States is a Representative Democracy, meaning we vote for individuals that we believe will represent voters in the government.

**Positives:** Provides consent to the governed and gives the people a voice.

**Negatives:** Moves slowly and can be inefficient because many parties need to be in relative agreement, which is hard to do.

Dictatorship



North Korean Dictator Kim Jung Un

**Definition:** A form of government in which a single leader has the absolute power and authority.

**Modern/Historical Example:** Adolf Hitler was the dictator in NAZI Germany.

**Positives:** Incredibly efficient and stable government that results in lower crime rates. No need to seek out agreement from the people or any other groups.

**Negatives:** Dictatorships lead to abuse in power and, in most cases, violence

Fascism



Fascist Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini

**Definition:** An authoritarian and nationalistic right-wing system of government and social organization.

**Modern/Historical Example:** World War II Germany and Italy were fascist governments due to their extreme patriotism and focus on military.

**Positives:** Rise in patriotism and the focus on military results in stronger economy.

**Negatives:** Promotes discrimination toward minority groups and often leads to xenophobia.

Communism



Russian Communist Leader Joseph Stalin

**Definition:** An ideology which calls for the collective, or state, ownership of land and other productive property.

**Modern/Historical Example:** Communist Russia, under Joseph Stalin, wanted to create an equal society but was also incredibly violent.

**Positives:** All members of society are meant to be equal. In principle, this eliminates a world of “haves and have nots”.

**Negatives:** Does not promote competition or invention because an equal society removes motivation for a “million dollar idea”

Socialism



United States Senator Bernie Sanders claims to be a Democratic Socialist

**Definition:** A philosophy based on the idea that the benefits of economic activity should be fairly distributed.

**Modern/Historical Example:** Norway, along with other Northern European countries, govern in a socialist democracy. They also are considered the happiest country in the world.

**Positives:** Very low levels of poverty, which lowers crime, drug use, and suicide rates. Also, creates a strong social safety net for the citizens.

**Negatives:** Very high taxes, which take away hard earned money, especially among the wealthy.

Theocracy



Turkish President Recep Erdogan is showing tendencies of a Theocracy

**Definition:** A system of government in which holy people rule in the name of a God or gods.

**Modern/Historical Example:** Ancient Egypt was a theocracy because they believed the pharaoh ruled with orders from their gods.

**Positives:** Very few people will question the government if they believe it is coming from a higher power.

**Negatives:** People do not seek their own solutions because they believe it is against the will of the higher power.

Oligarchy



Political Cartoon Describing an “American Oligarchy” of wealthy elite

**Definition:** A small group of people having control of a country, organization, or institution.

**Modern/Historical Example:** Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, privately owned Russia-based billionaires have had heavy influence over the government.

**Positives:** Big business thrives, which creates a strong national economy.

**Negatives:** The common man and woman have little opportunity to thrive or improve their social standing.