

# Governments

I. Government - Political Authority: a group of people who have the power to **form** and **enforce** laws for a larger group of people; management or control of communities, areas, and substances.

II. Elements of Government - Enforcement: execution of powers and authorities

1. Community:
  - a. rules of conduct/behavioral sciences (religion)
  - b. sovereignty/powers and authorities
  - c. legitimacy: reception/acceptance of that power and authority by the community
2. Area:
  - a. jurisdiction of power and authority exercised
  - b. properties: private/common/restricted
3. Substance:
  - a. goods/produce
  - b. furnishings/apparels
  - c. weapons
  - d. monies/taxation

III. Scope of Government - Relations: this defines the relationship between the public and the government; the relationship that the community has with the government defines the type of government that exists at large. The type of government defines its scope, that is, the extent that it can or will govern and what activities are governed. There are a number of factors which include all aspects of society that are decided upon, such as, economics, social classes, land ownership, corporations and lobbying, labor unions, education, media, farming, ethnicities, defense, taxation, and basic services, etc.

1. Anarchism: little to none functioning jurisdictions; public and private sectors govern the activities of the elements of the government with regards to their special needs. This type of government is ruled by the choices of its elements.
2. Totalitarianism: the demand of total loyalty to the centralized government, the private sector, with regards to the elements of the government. This type of government is ruled by force.
3. Pluralism: both public and private sectors have a legitimate, though not always balanced, contribution to the elements of the government.

IV. Character of the Government - Rulers: determining who rules determines the character and quality of the government; the various characteristics of the government are decided by a variety of factors, but all fall within the purview of three categories: rule by the one, rule by the few, or rule by the many. There are positive and negative aspects of each.

1. Monarchy: a form of government in which a single ruler holds power either as an emperor, a king, or a queen; this form of government can be actual or ceremonial.

- a. positive aspect: quick and easy to govern, supply lands, and exert control;
  - b. negative aspect: tyranny; corruption in a monarchy leads to unrestricted power abuses for personal gain; the overall output of the many serves to satisfy the ruler's appetite for wealth and increased power;
2. Aristocracy: a form of government that is controlled, maintained, and operated by a few people, usually the wealthy members of society;
- a. positive aspect: fairly quick and easy to govern, supply lands, and exert control; contains slightly more legitimacy than a monarchy;
  - b. negative aspect: oligarchy; corruption in an aristocracy leads to the increase of wealth in only a few individuals who cannot manage the affairs of the government properly leading to the demands of the many outweighing the ability of the few to provide;
3. Polity: a form of government that is operated by its many constituent members; usually chosen/elected by the many or by the several individual political entities (parties);
- a. positive aspect: the infrastructure remains strong, albeit a bit slower in operation than a monarchy or an aristocracy, as it is under the control and maintenance of the several bodies that make up its elements;
  - b. negative aspect: democracy; there are two types of democracies: direct democracy, and political democracy;
    - i. direct democracy: The people govern themselves enacting and enforcing laws for the community together. This type of democracy works for smaller communities where the people can meet in a single place. Larger groups have difficulty in maintaining this democracy effectively and create councils, legislatures, congresses or parliaments to rule in their place.
    - ii. political democracy: Political parties who either control or seek to control a government through the heavy influence they muster through their own private members. Certain/several parties compete for this control and work to form public opinion to capture and control the government. They recruit candidates and adopt policies to sway public opinion.

The corruption of the polity becomes a tug of war over counterproductive issues that stagnate growth and development.

V. Systems of Government - Arrangement of Powers and Authorities: the systems of government include central, national, and international factions that fall within the realm of governmental control.

1. Unitary System: gives principal powers to the central government; the state, provincial, and local governments are formed, maintained, and operated by the central government.
2. Federal System: a union of states or provinces which form a nation; the power is shared between central and state/provincial governments.

VI. Aspects of Government - Conditions: governments traverse a diverse number of forms, each pervading various aspects simultaneously. Owing to this extensive spectrum of bureaucracy, it is difficult to define a single government or describe any government as this or that.

<b>Authoritarianism:</b> power used without the consent of the governed	<b>Bureaucracy:</b> the confederation of officials who carry out the functions of a government	<b>Despotism:</b> individuals exercise unlimited power over the government	<b>Parliament:</b> a legislature or cabinet which is led by a prime minister who is chosen by the parliament and remains until another is chosen
<b>Autocracy:</b> a single authority in control of all branches of the government	<b>Capitalism:</b> an economic system in which individuals or private businesses own most of a nation's means of providing goods and service	<b>Fascism:</b> governmental control of the economic and social activities of the governed, but not their properties	<b>Republic:</b> the citizens of the government elect representatives to manage the affairs of the government
<b>Autonomy:</b> self-governed, but not usually totally independent	<b>Communism:</b> government control of economic activity	<b>Imperialism:</b> political entities that control other political entities	<b>Socialism:</b> an economic system in which the primary means of subsistence and production are controlled by a public government or by co-operatives

VII. Phenomenon of Government - Effects: the ramifications of government upon the life of humanity.

A man, whose life was quite ordinary, received an invitation from the king to visit him at the palace.

Pleased by the prospect of seeing the king and his abode, the man went directly to the entrance of the palace grounds. Walking through the open gateway he was fascinated to see, for the first time in his life, the splendor of the extensive lawns, beautiful flower gardens, and cascading water fountains.

So enamored was he of the panorama, that he completely forgot the purpose of his visit. With his mind and senses satiated with his new experience, he returned home. He did not actually get to meet the king or see the interior of the palace, nor in his lifetime did he receive another invitation to return.