

SS.7.C.3.1

Compare different forms of government

(direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).

SS.7.C.3.1 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will identify different forms of government based on its political philosophy or organizational structure.

There are many different forms of government around the world. Some governments are more representative of the people, as, in the United States. Others are run by just a few people. Still others are run by just one person. Some governments run both the government and the economy. Other governments allow citizens more economic freedom.

Form of Government	Political Philosophy
Direct Democracy	Democracy is a form of government that means “rule by the people”.
Representative Democracy	A representative democracy is also known as a republic. In this form of government, a country is governed by representatives elected by the citizens. In a republic, all adult citizens have the right to vote. The power of the government is limited by a constitution.
Socialism	A socialist form of government takes an active role in controlling the economy and protecting the people from private businesses that might take advantage of them.
Communism	Communism is a form of government in which the government (in the name of the people) controls the whole economy. Communist countries are usually ruled by a strong Communist dictator and the Communist political party.
Monarchy	A monarchy is a form of government where power is held by one person who has been born into the ruling family. Monarchs may rule for life. Many monarchs have constitutions they must follow.
Oligarchy	An oligarchy is a form of government where a country is ruled by a small group of wealthy people. In this form of government, the power is held by the rich.
Autocracy	An autocracy is a form of government where one leader has unlimited power. Examples of autocracies are dictatorships (such as a military dictator) and absolute monarchies (such as a king or queen who has all the power with no constitution to limit their power).

dictator - a military leader who becomes the head of a country, often by force



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