



**How many countries are  
there in the world?**



# Forms of Government

196

There are (approximately) 196 countries in the world today. It depends on who you're asking and whether or not they consider territories, specific areas, or "countries" as a country. Is it political? Is it geographic? It just depends.

-The United States recognizes 194 countries but over 200 areas claim to be their own.

# Totalitarian

## RULED BY:

- The state or political party
- \*Do not become confused with fascism/dictatorship

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- The state controls public **and** private life, even moral codes
- Media censorship is high
- Coercive

## EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:

- Zulu Nation (Under Shaka)
- Russia (Under Stalin)

Fascism is political thought and dictators may not control private life



# Dictatorship

## **RULED BY:**

- A single person
- Or the military

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Several types of dictatorships have existed (military, civic-military,single-party)
- Illegitimate rule (no voting, no hereditary passing)
- Media censorship to political parties

## **EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:**

- Cambodia (Under Pol Pot)
- Germany (Under Hitler)
- Italy (Under Mussolini)



# Theocracy

## **RULED BY:**

- Religious ideology
- Priests who claim to rule under God's wish

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Ruler claims a personal connection with religion, belief, deity
- Laws and decisions often reflect religious morals

## **EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:**

- Iran (considered to be a Theocratic-republic)
- The Vatican (Under the Pope)



# Monarchy

## RULED BY:

- Kings and Queens

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Power is hereditary, no age requirement
- Some claimed divine right
- Reign lasts until death or abdication

## EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:

- France (Under Louis XIV)
- England (Under King George III)



# Democracy

## **RULED BY:**

- Majority; decisions made through mass voting

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Rules usually apply for voter eligibility
- Democracy is not a "long lasting" government
- Different bodies make different decisions at times depending on the severity.
- Difficult to maintain and corruption often occurs
- Minority is at will of the majority

## **EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:**

- Ancient Athens



# **Pros**

# **Cons**

- I. Established in Athens, Greece c. 594 BC
- II. Thomas Paine, author of *Common Sense* was a proponent of Greek direct democracy
- III. Give power to the people, not a monarch or single ruler
- IV. Citizens should debate and have a voice
- V. James Madison, a primary author of the Constitution, disliked direct democracy as it favors only the majority.



Ancient Greece

# Republic

## **RULED BY:**

- Representatives chosen through voting systems

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Law/Justice is through a system, not voting (as in democracy)
- Avoids tyranny and mobocracy
- Generally has executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- Constitutions and systems "control" the majority

## **EXAMPLES IN HISTORY:**

- Ancient Rome



# Pros

# Cons

- I. Rome has a very rigid class system – struggle between rich and poor
- II. Elected representatives at an executive position and a senate
- III. The senate held the most power
- IV. Corruption was present
- V. Emphasis on establishing and following a set of laws rather than voting on each individual case



Ancient Rome

# What about America?!?!

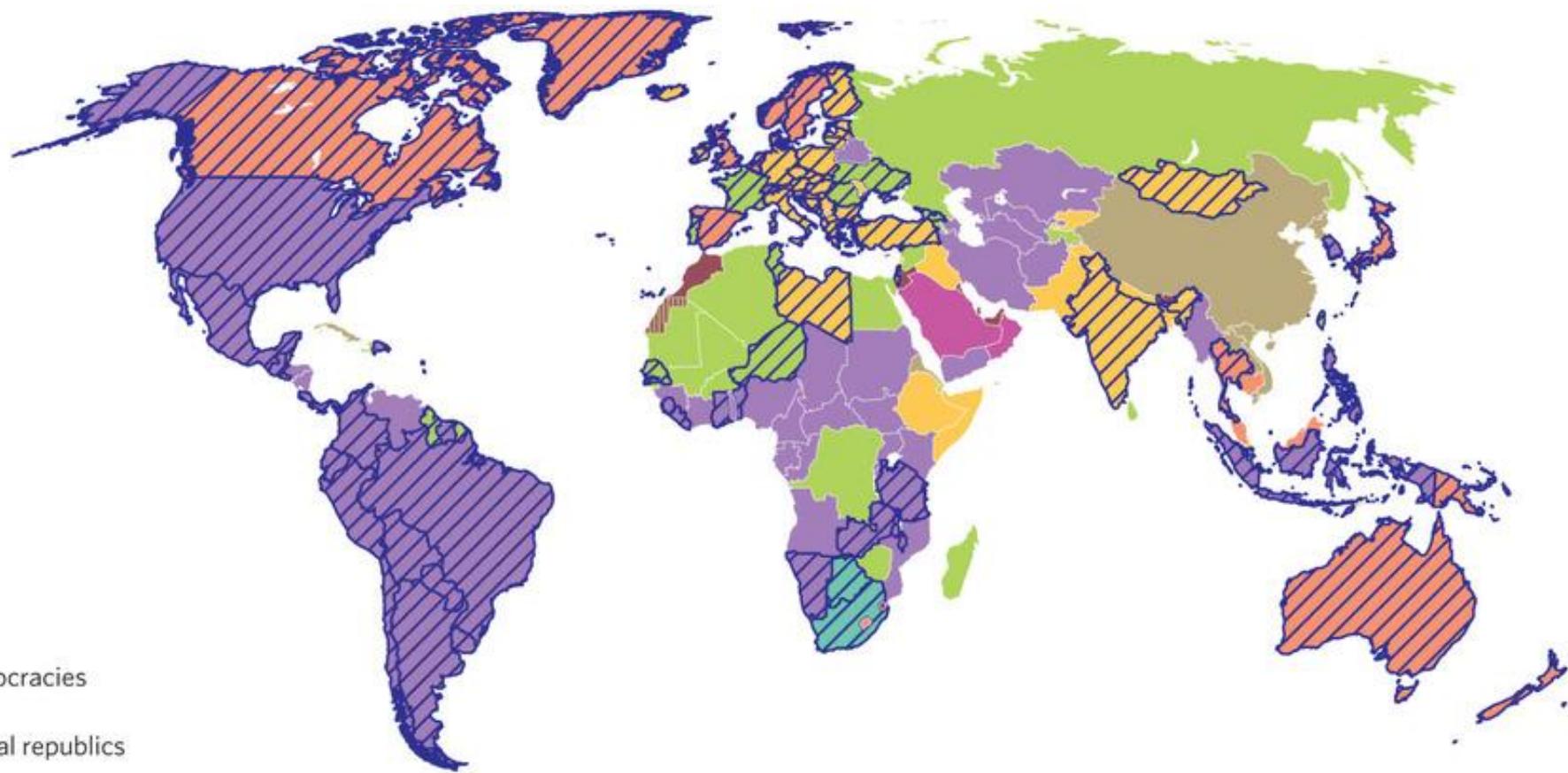
Most countries operate under a mixture of 2 or more forms of government and/or economic systems.

What about Communism? It's an economic system.

The United States is *considered* to be a **democratic republic** but some political scientists and historians debate that.

Some consider it a plutocracy because you "have to be rich to win."

In our form of government, the constitution limits the power of government. We elect representatives, so it's not a pure democracy. But we do elect them by majority rule so it is democratic and "everyone" can vote (this has changed throughout time as you know).



Electoral democracies

Full presidential republics

Republics with an executive president dependent on parliament

Semi-presidential republics

Parliamentary republics

Parliamentary constitutional monarchies in which the monarch does not personally exercise power

Parliamentary constitutional monarchies in which the monarch personally exercises power (often alongside a weak parliament)

Absolute monarchies

Single-party republics

# Quick Write

- Should people under 18 be allowed to vote?
- Should criminals (now free) be allowed to vote?
- Should you be able to sell your vote?
- How could all of these factors affect local, state, and federal levels of government in the United States?

\*Use complete sentences, defend and justify your responses with insight.

