

EXEMPLAR 3.4: COMPARING DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT TYPES

Fill out the graphic organizer below to compare different government types. Select your own categories for comparison.

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	Dictatorship	Oligarchy	Absolute Monarchy	Constitutional Monarchy	Republic
Political power/ authority	A single dictator or ruling group has complete power.	The rule of the few; power rests with a small number of privileged people.	A monarch (or dictator) retains full political power over a state and its people.	Power is shared by all the people. Citizens have access to power and can run for office. The monarch is head of state but authority is limited by the constitution.	Power is shared by all the people. Citizens have access to power and can run for office.
Leadership process	Dictator/ruling group often comes to power through a military takeover (or coup d'état) or control of a mass movement.	Rulers often determined based on family lines or wealth.	Leaders often inherit their role through their family line.	Free and fair elections; democratically elected government with a government leader. The monarch is head of state and not elected.	Free and fair elections; all members of government are elected including the head of state).
Citizens involvement in decisions	No concern for public opinion or for their preferences. Citizens not involved in political decision-making.	No concern for public opinion or for their preferences. Citizens not involved in political decision-making.	No concern for public opinion or for their preferences. Citizens not involved in political decision-making.	Citizens concerns valued and taken into consideration through various democratic processes and practices.	Citizens concerns are valued and taken into consideration through various democratic processes and practices.
Rule of law	Rulers are held above the rule of law. Usually do not have a constitution; authority is not restricted by any constitution.	Rulers are held above the rule of law.	Monarchs are held above the rule of law; citizens must obey.	Existence of rule of law; all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to laws that are fairly applied.	Existence of rule of law; all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to laws that are fairly applied.
Constitution	Individual and civil rights are restricted.	Usually do not have a constitution, authority is not restricted by any constitution.	Usually do not have a constitution; authority is not restricted by any constitution.	Existence of a constitution, which includes basic principles and laws, defines the duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.	Existence of a constitution, which includes basic principles and laws, defines the duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.
Rights and freedoms	Rulers are held above the rule of law.	Citizens have some rights and freedoms.	Citizens are not guaranteed rights and freedoms.	Individual and civil rights are protected.	Individual and civil rights are protected.