

Citizen Participation

SS7CG4 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

- b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.**
- c. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.**

What is a Citizen Participation?

- Different forms of government allow citizens to participate differently, from little to no participation in some forms to citizens controlling large amounts of power in others.
- There are 3 main types of governments (based off of who rules and how citizens participate):
 - ❖ Autocracy
 - ❖ Oligarchy
 - ❖ Democracy

Autocracy



- Government in which the power to govern is held by one person.
- Generally the power to rule is inherited or held by military force.
- There are three types of an Autocracy:
 - ❖ Dictatorship
 - ❖ Absolute Monarchy
 - ❖ Constitutional Monarchy

Autocracy - #1 Dictatorship

➤ The leader has not been elected and uses force to control all aspects of social and economic life, often through military force; citizens (people) have few (if any) rights.

➤ Examples:

- ❖ Adolf Hitler in Germany
- ❖ Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union



Adolf Hitler



Joseph Stalin

Autocracy - #2 Absolute Monarchy

- A monarchy has a king, queen, emperor or empress.
- The power is usually inherited or passed down from family members (hereditary line).
- The monarch has absolute power, meaning they can make all decisions without consulting anyone.
- Example:
 - ❖ Saudi Arabia is ruled by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz

Autocracy - #3 Constitutional Monarchy

- Kings, queens or emperors power is limited by a constitution and they share power with elected legislatures.
- Generally, the monarchs are nothing more than figureheads, with the real power being held by the elected legislature.
- The government is a democratic one where citizens may have the power to elect members of the legislature.
- Example:
 - ❖ Great Britain



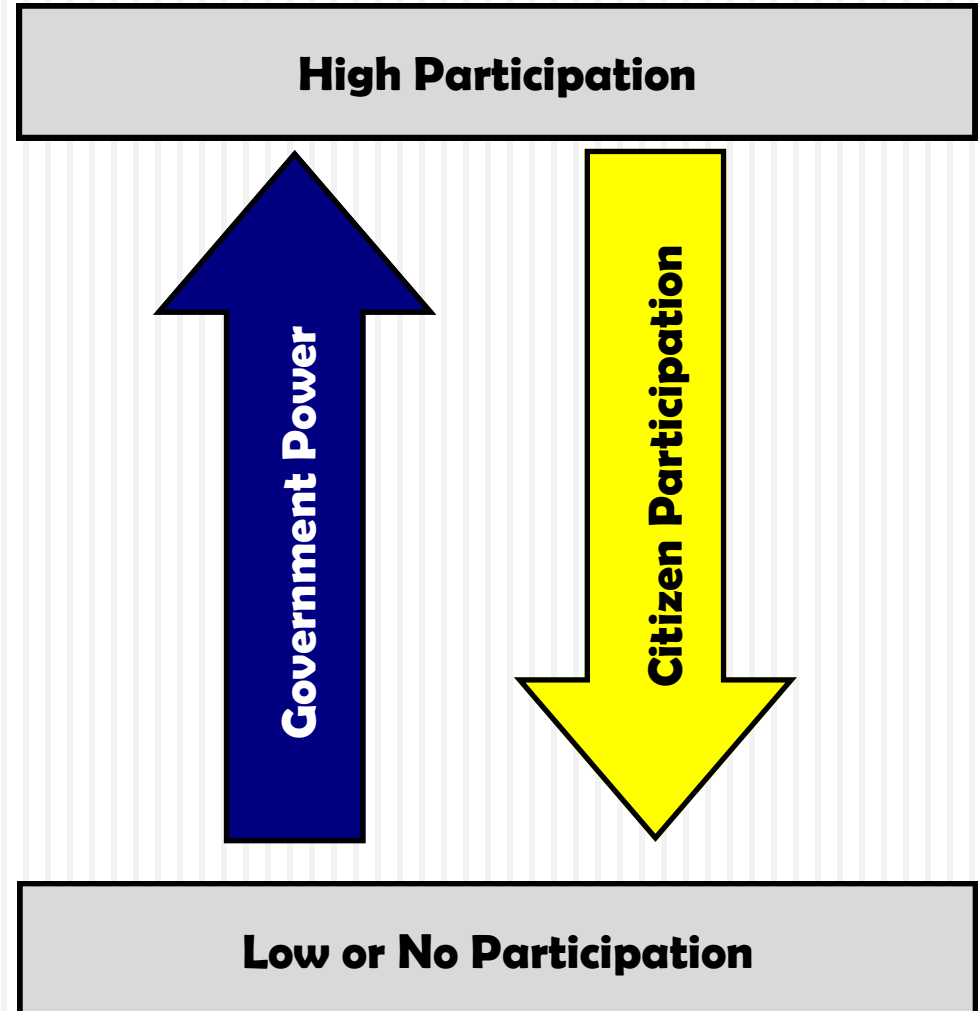
Queen Elizabeth II of
Great Britain

Autocracy

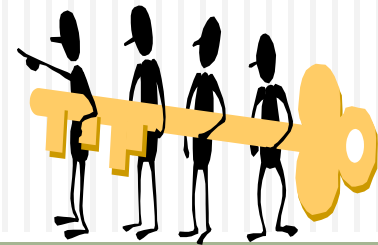


autocratic

- In an autocracy, one person holds the power to govern.
- As a result, that one person has very high government power and citizen usually have low, or no participation in the government.

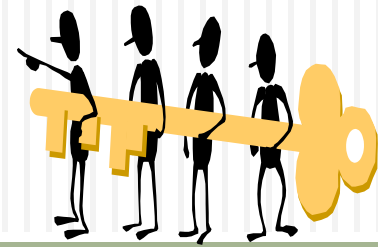


Oligarchy



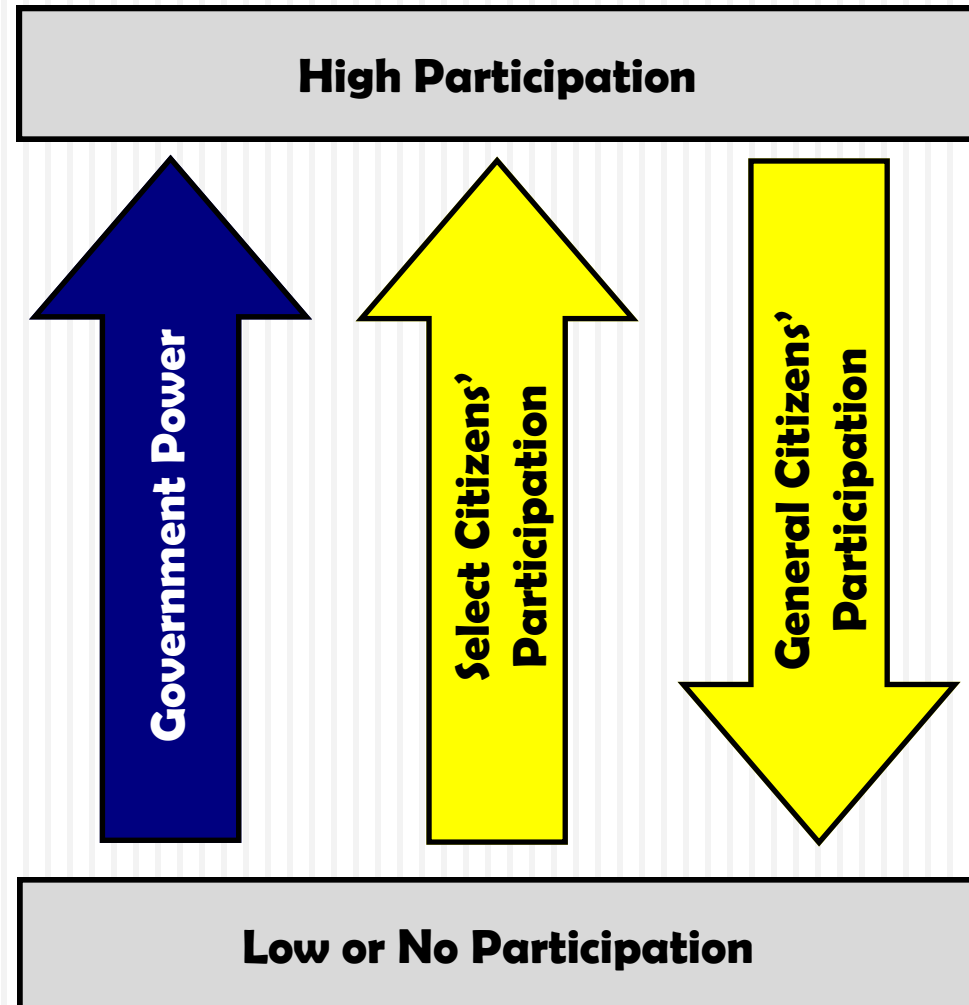
- A government in which a few people such as a dominant clan or clique have power.
- The group gets their power from either military, wealth or social status.
- Elections may be held but offer only one candidate. As a result, countries may call themselves a democracy, even though the people do not have a choice of candidates to vote for.
- Examples:
 - ❖ Egypt, while under control of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (2011-2012)
 - ❖ Iran, which is a theocracy (Definition – a government ruled by religious leaders)

Oligarchy



oligarchy

- In an oligarchy, a small group of people hold the power to govern.
- As a result, that small group has very high government power while some citizens (usually members of the same race, clan or clique) are able to participate in government, while the other citizens are left out.





Democracy

- In a democracy, the government is “Ruled by the people.” Government gets its power to govern from the people, usually through voting.
- There are two forms of democracies
 - ❖ Direct Democracy – Citizens (people) vote on all the issues.
 - Example: Appenzell Innerrhoden (one of the 26 states in Switzerland)
 - ❖ Representative Democracy – Citizens elect representatives and give them the power to vote on issues.
 - Example: United States

Direct vs. Representative Democracy

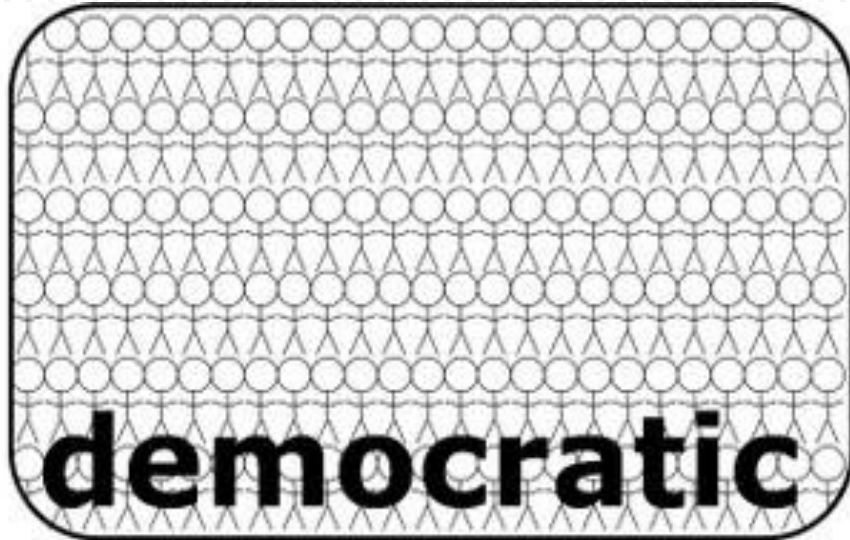
- Many democracies, including the United States, chose a representative form of democracy in order to protect the rights of the few (minority) from the many (majority).
- If the United States was a direct democracy, which it isn't, the majority could decide to vote to take rights away from the minority.
- Since we are a representative democracy, our elected representatives work to protect the rights of all citizens.

In A Democracy...

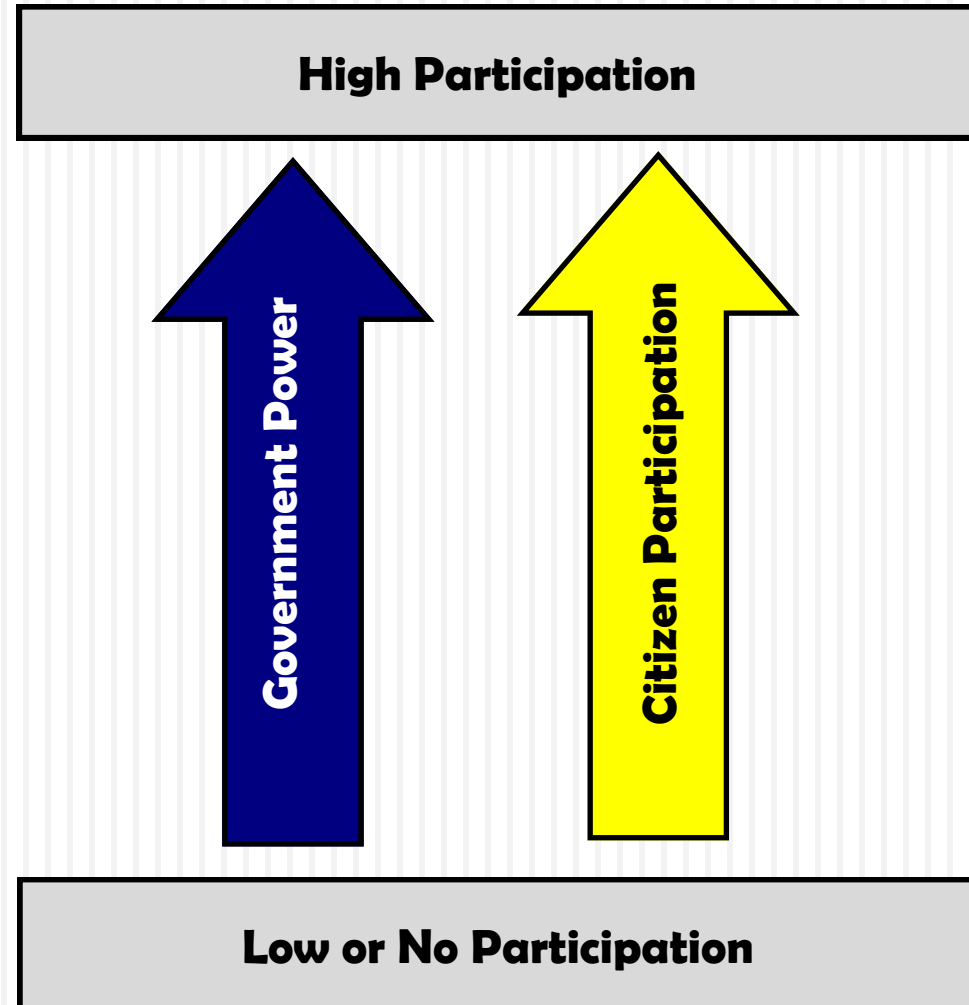


- Individual freedom and equality is valued
- Free elections are held
- Decisions are based on majority rule, after citizens or representatives vote
- All candidates can express their views freely, without fear of repercussions from the government.
- Citizens vote by secret ballot, to protect their anonymity (so no one knows who you voted for).

Democracy



- In a democracy, the government gets its power from the people, through voting.
- As a result, there is a high level of citizen participation, through voting, which give the government its power to make decisions.



Autocracy, Oligarchy, or Democracy?

Scenario 1: My relatives like to work together to control our household. Instead of just my mom or dad giving orders, they both rule over me and my brothers and sisters. And sometimes, even my aunts or uncles come over and help my parents. Then we never get away with anything, because FOUR people are watching us! Also, we don't have much choice. For example, if we ask to stay up late to play video games, my mom, dad, aunt, and uncle all shout: "NO! What do you think this is? A democracy? Wrong! DO YOUR HOMEWORK AND GO TO BED!" These types of decisions are made very quickly, and we don't have any say.

If this household were a country, the government would be an oligarchy.

Autocracy, Oligarchy, or Democracy?

Scenario 2: Things in our household are pretty fair. Don't get me wrong, my mom and dad are in charge. They manage the household and make the rules. However, they do allow me and my brothers and sisters to have some say in what goes on. For example, if the family is trying to decide what to do on weekends, my parents will make suggestions, then let me and my brothers and sisters vote for what we want to do. Also, if there are problems in our family, we have a discussion to come up with the best solution. Sometimes these decisions take long to figure out, but at least we get to participate.

If this household were a country, the government would be a democracy.

Autocracy, Oligarchy, or Democracy?

Scenario 3: My dad is the BOSS. He rules the house himself, and has the first and last say on everything that happens. He gives the orders. He makes the decisions. He tells everyone what they can do or can't do. If we try to disagree, he pretty much ignores our opinion. It is pretty much impossible to change his mind. Now, sometimes he does make good decisions for us, but sometimes he makes decisions that are unfair. He reminds me of a king or something.

If this household were a country, the government would be an autocracy.

Forms of Representative Democracy

- Democracy is one type of government that is common around the world. However, democracy can come in different forms.
- There are two major forms of representative democracies:
 - ❖ Parliamentary
 - ❖ Presidential

Parliamentary Democracy

- In a parliamentary democracy, voters elect members to the Parliament (legislature), which is the lawmaking body (legislative branch) of the government.
- Parliament (legislature) is bicameral (two houses):
 - ❖ House of Commons: The Political Party with the most votes in the House of Commons chooses the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the government's leader who has no set length of term.
 - ❖ House of Lords: Little power with most members being nobles who have inherited their titles

Parliamentary Democracy (Cont.)

- In a parliamentary democracy, the executive powers (veto laws, grant pardons, etc.) are not given to a separate branch of government. Instead, the executive power is held by members of the legislature (executive + legislative = one branch of government)
- Prime minister (leader/chief of state), is elected by the legislature, NOT by the people
- The head of state (ex. king or queen) has a ceremonial role, but the chief of state (Prime Minister) usually has the power. These are two separate people.
 - ❖ Example: Israel – The head of state is the President (Shimon Peres), but the Prime Minister (Binyamin Netanyahu) is the chief of state/head of the government.



Israeli President
Shimon Peres



Israeli Prime Minister
Binyamin Netanyahu

Presidential Democracy

- In a presidential democracy, voters elect legislators through a popular vote.
- Voters elect the president. In some cases, the presidential election is done indirectly.
 - ❖ Example: In the United States, the president is elected by the Electoral College, which is made up of elected representatives and senators. When a person votes for president they are actually voting to tell their representatives who they would like them to cast an electoral vote for. In the U.S., a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes to be elected president.
- As a result, in a presidential system voters have a more direct say about those who serve in the Legislative and Executive branches of government.

Presidential Democracy (Cont.)

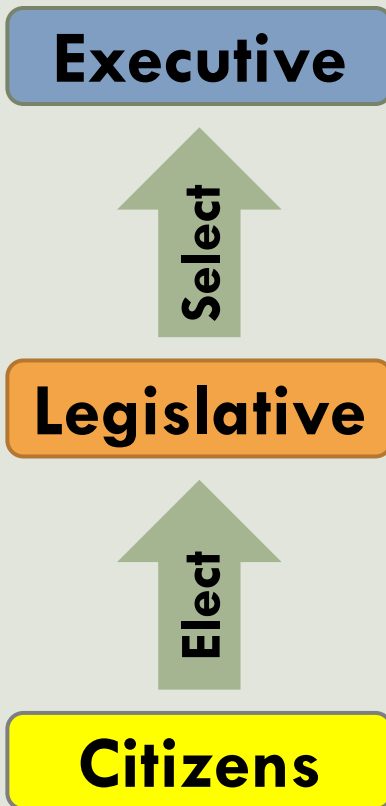
- The president and legislature are separate branches of government and powers are divided between them. The president possesses the executive powers (veto laws, grant pardons, etc.) and is responsible for enforcing laws, while the legislature has the power to make laws.
- President is head of state and chief of state. As a result, the president serves as the ceremonial head of state (meets with other world leaders, etc.) and controls the executive powers.
- Example: United States – The president of the United States (Barak Obama) serves as the ceremonial head of state (meeting with other countries, etc.) and controls the executive powers for the U.S.



American President Barak Obama

Parliamentary vs. Presidential Democracy

Parliamentary Democracy



Presidential Democracy

