



Foundations of the United States Government

Instructional Slides



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government

Framing Question: How does the U.S. government differ from other systems of government?



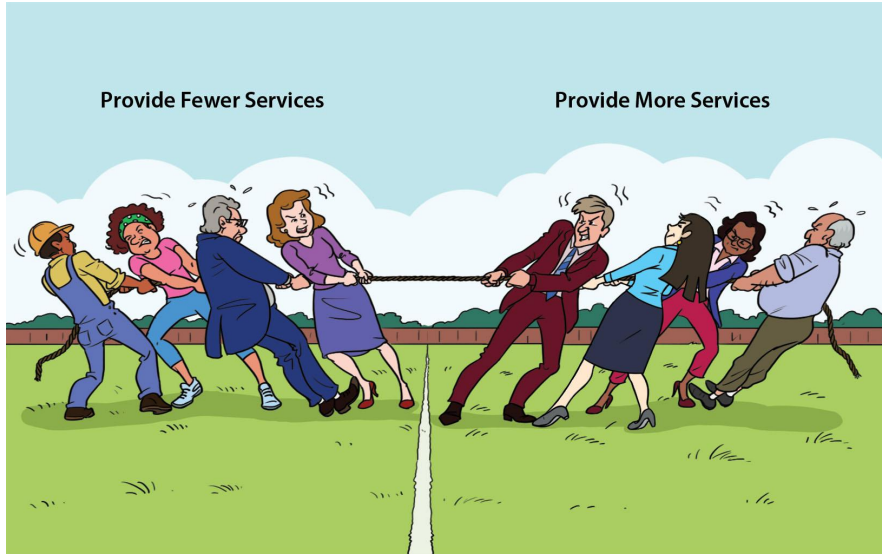
Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



Patrick Henry argues passionately against British overreach before the House of Burgesses, the lawmaking body of colonial Virginia.

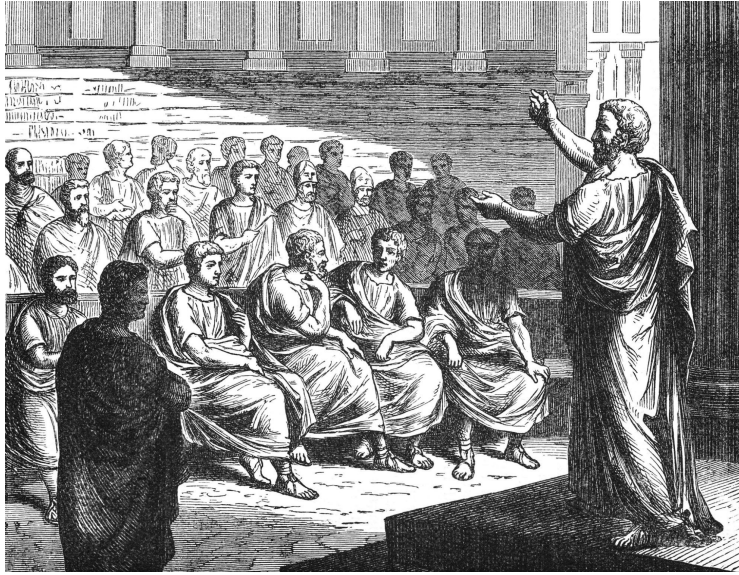


Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



Politics often involves a tug-of-war between providing more government programs — that are funded by taxes — and keeping taxes low for individuals and businesses.

Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



In an assembly, orators argued over political matters before the Athenian citizens.

Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



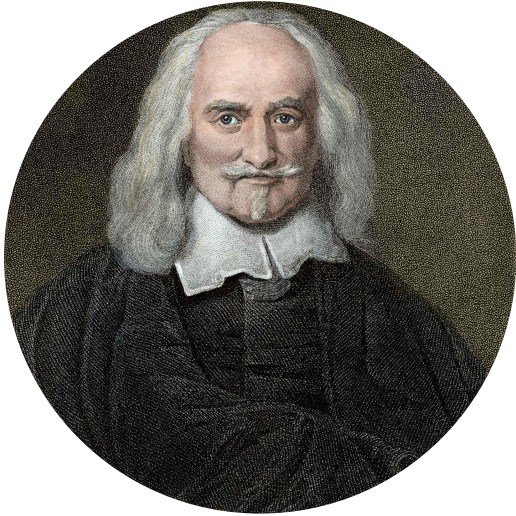
Though officially only an advisory body, the Senate often led the Roman government in acting on issues facing the city and empire.

Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan* (1651) takes its name from a gigantic creature mentioned in the Bible. The book's frontispiece depicts a king whose body consists of many of his subjects. This symbolizes the collective will of the people that Hobbes considered to be the basis of government.

Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government



Thomas Hobbes



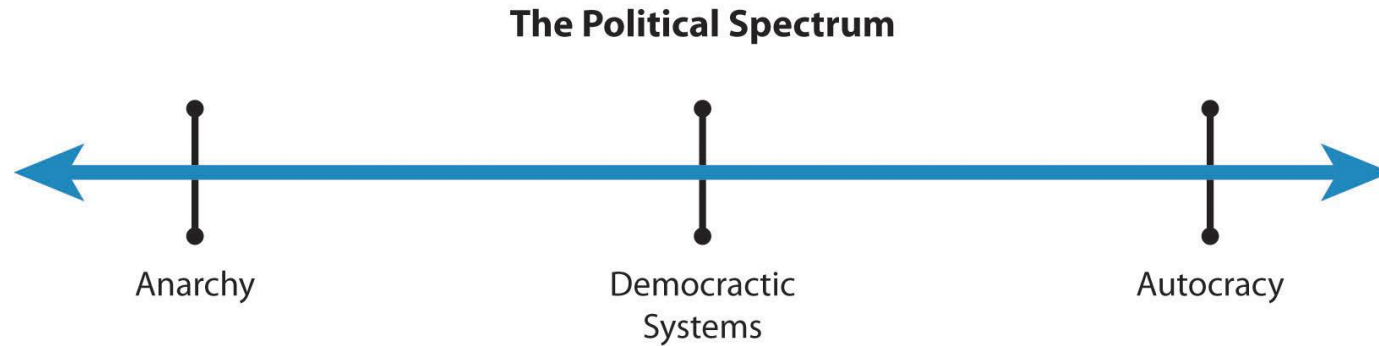
John Locke



Jean-Jacques Rousseau



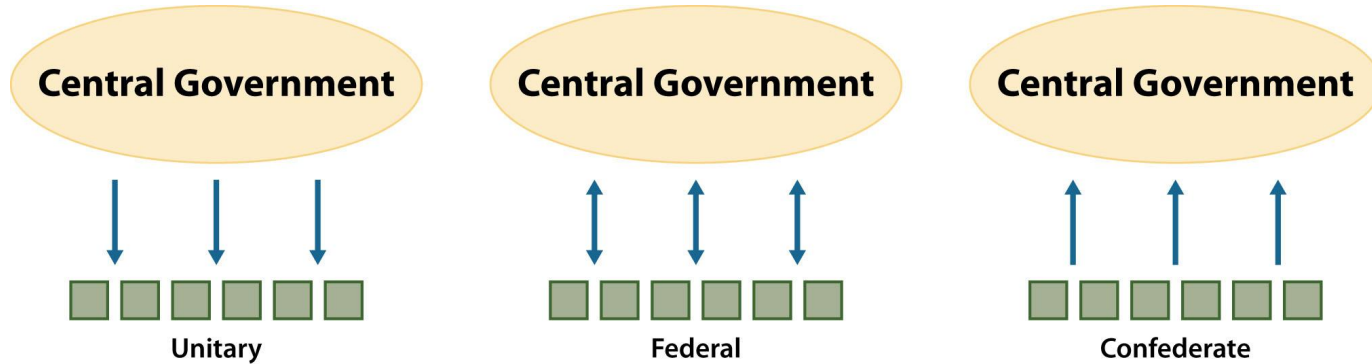
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Anarchy, or the absence of government, falls on one end of the political spectrum, while autocracy falls on the other end. Democratic systems, such as the representative democracy of the United States, are in the middle of the spectrum.



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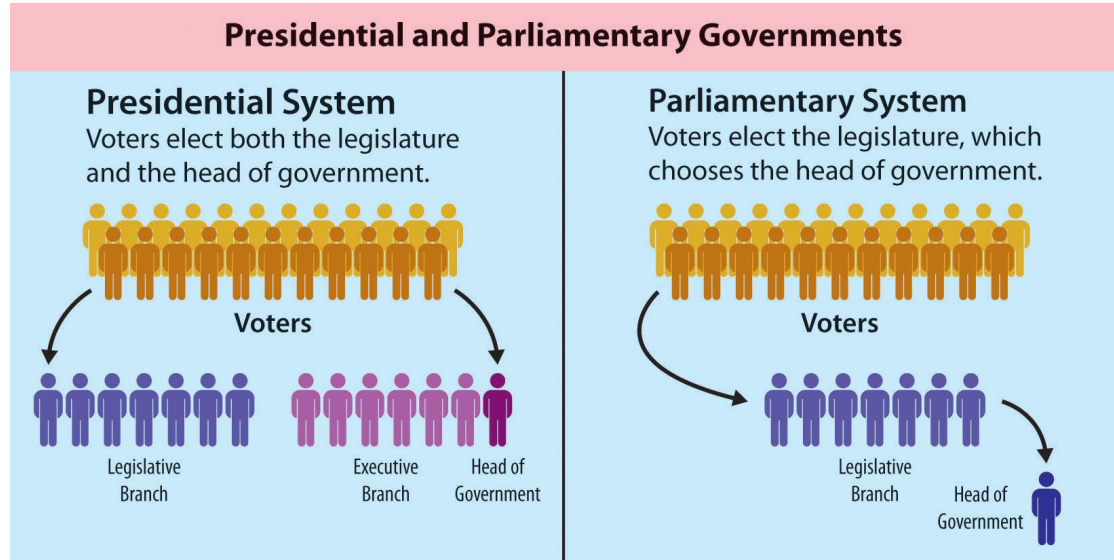


 = Direction of Power  = State or Local Government

Unitary, federal, and confederate systems differ in their degree of centralization.

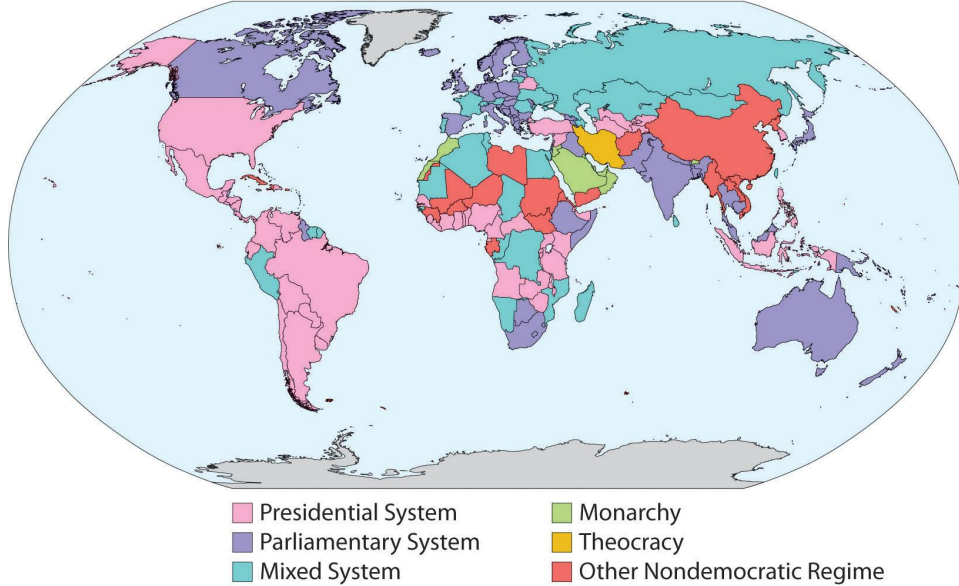
Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government

The head of government is chosen differently in the presidential and parliamentary systems of government.



Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government

Systems of Government Around the World



A variety of government systems exists around the world.



Topic 1: Purpose and Types of Government

The United States has a tripartite, or three-part, government.

Three Branches of Government



Legislative
(Makes laws)



Executive
(Carries out laws)



Judicial
(Evaluates laws)



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Jean Jacques Rousseau, 18th century (pastel
on paper)/Tour, Maurice Quentin de la
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Portrait of John Locke (1632–1704) (see also 1419)
(oil on canvas)/Kneller, Godfrey (1646–1723) (after) /
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Title Page of ‘Leviathan, or The Matter, Forme, &
Power of a Common-Wealth Ecclesiasticall and
Civill’ by Thomas Hobbes, 1651
(engraving)/Fototeca Gilardi / Bridgeman Images: 8

