

Today, students of politics are very much concerned with the concept of state. Many are interested in the principal institutions of the state, such as the legislature, the executive and bureaucracy', and the judiciary.

Power

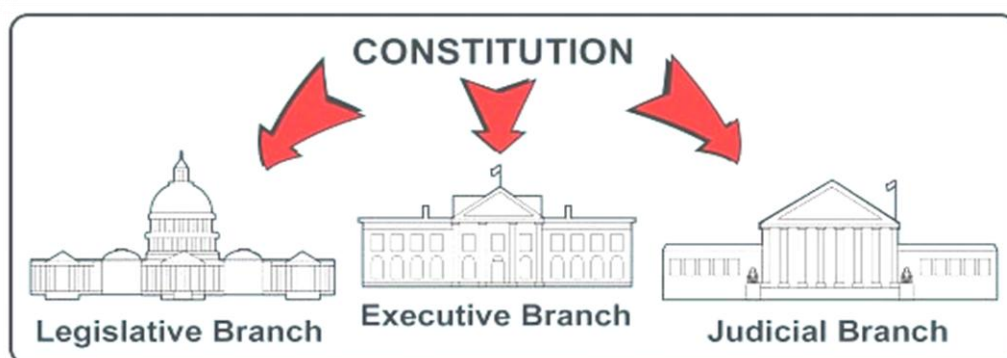
Power is the ability to influence people to do things they may not want to do. In every society, power is distributed unevenly among its members. In other words, Power the demonstrated capacity to compel (or influence) others to alter their-behaviour or to do what they would not do otherwise. Power is derived from different sources, such as information, wealth, force or violence, position, and organization.

Separation of powers

When the institutions of government those perform legislative, executive, and judicial functions are formally separate. The public officials who perform these functions are appointed or elected separately from each other. Their exclusive function is either to legislate, to administer, or to adjudicate (at least in principle). Thus, this system divides the state into three branches and gives each the power to fulfil different tasks. Tasks are assigned to the different branches and their institutions in such a way that each of them can check exercise of power by the others. As a result no single branch can become so powerful as to control the system completely. The separation of powers is typical of presidential forms of government.

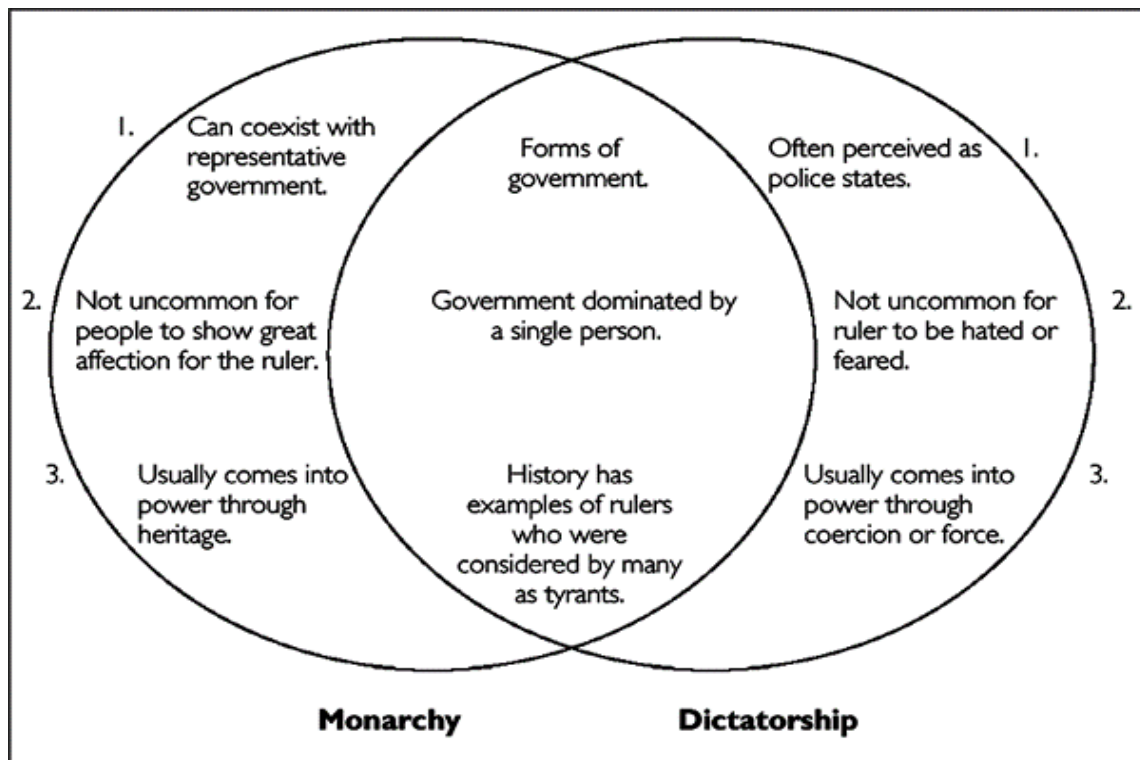
System

A system is a collection of elements or components that are organized for a commor purpose.



Monarchy

Monarchy is a power system that appoints a person as head of state for life or until abdication. Authority traditionally passes down through a succession line related to one's bloodline and birth order within the ruling royal family, often limited by gender. There are two types of monarchies: constitutional and absolute. Constitutional monarchies limit the monarch's power as outlined in a constitution, while absolute monarchies give a monarch unlimited power.



Military Dictatorship

A military dictatorship is a nation ruled by a single authority with absolute power and no democratic process. The head of state typically comes to power in a time of upheavals, such as high unemployment rates or civil unrest. They usually lead the nation's armed forces, using it to establish their brand of law and order and suppress the people's rights. Dictators dismiss due process, civil liberties, or political freedoms. Dissent or political opposition can be dangerous or even deadly for the country's citizens.

Aristocracy

Aristocracy refers to a government form in which a small, elite ruling class — the aristocrats — have power over those in lower socioeconomic strata. Members of the aristocracy are usually chosen based on their education, upbringing, and genetic or family history.

Aristocracy is derived from the Latin terms *aristokratía* meaning the rule of the best. As its etymology suggests, the concept of aristocracy first appeared in ancient Greece, and it referred to the rule by the best-qualified citizens. Aristocracy was a favorable form of governance compared to monarchy. It was only in the later centuries (during Middle Ages) that aristocracy began to be known as a rule by a privileged group – the aristocratic class.

In earlier times, it was believed that moral and intellectual superiority gets passed down from through family lines. This is why the power was vested in one class of people; the leadership qualities and other morals were supposed to be inherited by those in the noble families. Therefore, they were considered to be fit to rule.

Oligarchy

Oligarchy literally means rule of a few. It is a type of government where power is held by a small number of people. These people are usually more powerful and wealthy than the rest of the population. They might be distinguished by royalty, wealth, education, corporate, religious, or military control.

Aristotle said that “oligarchy is when men of property have the government in their hands... wherever men rule by reason of their wealth, whether they be few or many, that is an oligarchy” Oligarchy has always been associated with tyranny and oppression.

ARISTOCRACY VERSUS OLIGARCHY	
Aristocracy is derived from <i>aristokratía</i> meaning the rule of the best	Oligarchy is derived from <i>oligarkhia</i> meaning rule of few
Refers to a power structure where the power is held by the nobility	Refers to a power structure where the power is held by a small group of people
The authority and power to rule may pass from family	Inheritance is not a necessary condition
Aristocracy has been contrasted favorably with monarchy	Oligarchy is associated with tyranny and oppression