Government Systems of Europe

THERE ARE THREE TYPES.

EQ: How is power distributed?

1. **Unitary**
   - This is where the central (the main) government has all of the power.
   - There is a constitution that outlines the duties, powers, and the people of the central government.
   - They can create states or communities.
   - The central government can take back power at any time.
   - Examples are **United Kingdom & France**.
2. **Confederation**

- This is a group of states or communities that come together and work on common problems.
- It is normally formed by a treaty.
- The members join voluntarily and are equals.
- They have to meet before taking any action on an issue.
- One example is the **British Commonwealth**.
3. Federal

- This form of government has a constitution that explains the rights, responsibilities, and duties of the central government and the states.

- The power is divided between the central government and lower governments, and power cannot be taken away by the central government.

- One example is Germany.
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

THERE ARE THREE WAYS.

EQ: HOW CAN PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT?

1. AUTOCRATIC
   - THERE IS A SINGLE RULER.
   - THE RULER HAS UNLIMITED POWER (DICTATOR).
   - THE CITIZENS DO NOT CHOOSE THE RULER.
   - THERE ARE NO ELECTIONS AND NO CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.
2. **OLIGARCHIC**

- The rule is by a small group of people.
- The group only answers to each other.
- The rulers are selected by the group.
- There is no citizen participation or elections, only group members participate.
Citizen Participation in Government Continued

3. **Democratic**

- The citizens rule the country.
- The voters hold the power.
- Any one can be elected as long as they are old enough and not in jail.
- Any citizen can vote as long as they are a certain age and not in jail.
- The citizens elect the people in charge.
Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government

There are two main forms of democratic governments

1. Parliamentary
   - This is the most common in Europe.
   - Head of State - no real power, ceremonial duties and is a symbol (Queen of England)
   - Prime Minister - Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the country. This is the chief executive.
   - In Germany the Prime Minster is called a chancellor (chief executive) and the President is the Head of state (ceremonial and a symbol).
Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government Continued

2. **Presidential**

- The President is the Head of State and chief executive.

- The President is ceremonial, a symbol, and runs the day-to-day operations.

- In France, the President is elected by the people to be Head of State, the Prime Minister runs the government but is chosen by the President.
Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government Continued

Similarities of Presidential and Parliamentary

• Citizens elect lawmakers
• Leader heads the military and runs the government

Differences of Presidential and parliamentary

• Prime Minister is the leader in Parliamentary and President is leader in Presidential.
• Parliament is the law making body and legislature is the law making body(not the President) in a Presidential system.
• Parliament elects the Prime Minister and people elect the President.
• Head of State has little power and President has a lot.
• Prime minister can dissolve Parliament and the President cannot get rid of Congress.
Parliamentary System of the United Kingdom

- Two Chambers of Government = House of Lords and House of Commons
- Monarch = Queen with little power = ceremonial
- House of Lords has little power = appointed by the monarch
- People elect House of Commons – controls the budget
- The Prime Minister = the leader of the political party with most members in the House of Commons
- Citizens are free and get to vote
Federal System of Germany

• Two Houses of government = Bundestag and Bundesrat

• Bundestag is the most powerful

• Citizens elect the members of the Bundestag

• Chancellor is chief executive and head of military

• President is Head of State = ceremonial duties

• Bundesrat = interests of state governments

• Constitution = Basic Law

• Power split between central and state = federal system = people free

• Welfare state = provide for needy
Federation System of the Russian Federation

- Has a constitution
- Head of State = President = elected by the people
- Prime Minister = selected by the President
- Federal Assembly = two parts(houses) = Federation Council and State Duma
  - Federal Council members elected by federal assembly
  - State Duma is elected by the people
- The president and the Prime Minister both split duties in running the country
- Human and civil rights for all citizens and all are equal
- They are free
European Union

- There are 27 countries
- Created the euro = European common currency (money)
- The euro helps make trade easier
- The United Kingdom is in the European Union but still use the British pound, not the euro
- 12 European Union countries do not use the euro
- Each country handles its own government
- EU is only for trade, education, farming, industry
- Large Free Trade Zone = no taxes on goods shipped