**Forms of Government**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Governing Style Summary: | Strengths: | Weaknesses: | Examples: |
| Anarchy: |  |  |  |
| Aristocracy: |  |  |  |
| Dictatorship:  \*Totalitarian: |  |  |  |
| Constitutional Monarchy: |  |  |  |
| Monarchy: |  |  |  |
| Oligarchy:  \*Theocracy:  \*Plutocracy:  \*Timocracy: |  |  |  |
| Socialism: |  |  |  |

**Aristocracy:**

**Q: How could one define an Aristocracy?**

* An aristocracy refers to “a government in which a privileged upper class rules.” (Canadian By Conviction, 2001, p. 13).

**Q: What determines whether or not someone is privileged?**

* Usually “birth, intelligence, culture, or wealth” influence who is considered “privileged” (Canadian By Conviction, p. 13).

Examples: pre-England 1215

**Anarchy:**

**Q: How can an anarchy be defined?**

* An anarchy is the “condition of lawlessness or political disorder brought about by the absence of governmental authority” (Waterdown Civics).

Examples: New Orleans after the 2006 Hurricane Katrina; Haiti after the 2010 Earthquake.

**Dictatorship**

**Q: What is a dictatorship?**

* It is the most dominant form of authoritarianism.
* It is when a single person or group have unlimited authority over the citizens in a nation or state.
* This form of government can override/ignore laws.
* The military usually reinforces the power of a dictatorship.
* There are frequently human rights violations in places ruled by dictatorships.

**Q: Is a Totalitarian leader like a dictator?**

* A Totalitarian ruler is very similar to a dictator.
* A Totalitarian government is just a more radical form of a dictatorship.
* This type of leader “controls all aspects of society” (Learningtogive.org)

Examples: Nazi Germany (WW2) and Castro in Cuba

**Monarchy**

**Q: What is a monarch?**

* A monarch is a leader of a government in a nation or state.
* In most cases, one becomes a monarch by being born into a royal family.
* The head of the royal family is the monarch.
* Therefore, it is safe to say that a monarch is a “hereditary head of state” (an inherited position of authority).
* A monarch is generally not an elected government position.

Examples: The Kingdom of Tonga, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Constitutional Monarchy**

**Q: What is a constitutional monarch?**

* A constitutional monarch “has only the powers given to him or her by the nation’s Constitution and laws” (Canadian By Conviction, 2001, p. 13).
* For example, Queen Elizabeth is Canada’s Head of State. However, she must obey the Canadian Constitution and legal system.

Examples: Canada, Denmark, New Zealand

**Oligarchy**

**Q: What does oligarchy refer to?**

* It is a governing style.
* It is when a small, specific category of people have control over a government.
* An oligarchy is a bit of a juggling act (attempts to please a variety of people).
* Rights and freedoms are not always given out to all citizens.

**Q: What are the different types of oligarchies?**

* Theocracy: when religious individuals rule
* Plutocracy: when wealthy individuals rule
* Timocracy: when intelligent individuals rule

Examples: Upper Canada in the pre-1837 era, Iran, Vatican City

**Socialism**

**Q: What defines a socialist government?**

* A socialist government is one “in which the means of planning, producing, and distributing goods is controlled by a central government that theoretically seeks a more just and equitable distribution of property and labour” (Waterdown Civics).

Examples: Norway, Sweden, Iceland