

# Types of Government

If you compared all the governments in the world, you would find one thing in common: **Someone is in charge.** The question is, who?

There are many different forms of government. Some have one leader who has all the control. Others give power to the people.

# Background

- Each country has a government but there are many types of governments.
  - Throughout history, most places were autocracies (ruled by a single person) or oligarchies (ruled by a small group of people)
  - Today, many states have some form of democracy in which citizens hold political power



# Me, Myself, and I

- An **autocracy** is a government in which one person has all the power. Two types of autocracy:
  1. **Monarchy**: a king or queen rules the country
    - Known as a monarch
    - Usually come to power through their family line: king or queen's oldest child becomes the next king or queen
    - Throughout much of history, the monarch held all the power and had the final say in government decisions
    - Modern day monarchs share power with other parts of government
  2. **Dictatorship (Totalitarian)**: a form of government where one leader has absolute control over citizens' lives
    - If there is a constitution, the dictator has control over that too, so it doesn't mean much
    - Courts and lawmaking bodies may exist but they do not fight for or represent the citizens—rather follow the dictators lead or command



# We, Ourselves, and...um...US

- Oligarchy: small group holds all the power
  - =“rule by a few”
  - Attain power through wealth, military power, social position, or a combination of these
  - Majority of citizens have little or no power
  - Communism is a form of oligarchy

# Power to the People

- In a democracy, citizens hold the political power. There are 2 types of democracy:
  1. **Representative Democracy:** citizens elect leaders to represent their rights and interests in government. (Republic)
  2. **Direct Democracy:** No representatives. Citizens are directly involved in the day to day work of governing the country.