

Role of Government

Section 1: Government and the Public Good

Section 2: Forms of Government

Section 3: Foundations of Democracy

Section 1: Government and the Public Good

Government has...

- the power to make and enforce rules
- the duty to create laws to protect and promote the public good

Section 1:

Government and the Public Good

Nature and purpose of the state

- Early philosophers:
 - God-given governance: “Divine right of Kings”
- Thomas Hobbes:
 - The **people** create the state through a **social contract**
 - The people surrender their individual sovereignty to the state in exchange for peace and order
- John Locke:
 - The power of the government comes from the people governed
 - Government’s role is to **protect individual rights**

Section 1:

Government and the Public Good

Functions of government:

- maintaining order
- providing services
- resolving conflict
- promoting values

Section 2: Forms of Government

- In what ways are monarchies, republics, and dictatorships different from one another?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of unitary, federal, and confederal systems?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of presidential and parliamentary forms of government?

Section 2: Forms of Government

- **Monarchy:** Power is based on inheritance
- **Republic:** Representatives are chosen by the people
- **Dictatorship:** Control is in the hands of a single person or small group

Section 2: Forms of Government

- **Unitary:** Central government holds all power
- **Federal:** Legal powers are shared among national, state, and local governments
- **Confederal:** Independent states join together to accomplish common goals *with no central government*

Section 2: Forms of Government

Presidential:

- The legislative and executive branches remain separate and independent of each other
- The executive branch is headed by a president, who is chosen independently of the legislature and acts as head of state

Parliamentary:

- The executive branch is headed by a prime minister, who is chosen by the legislature
- The chief executive and head of state are separate offices

Section 3:

Foundations of Democracy

Principles of democracy:

- allowing choice
- recognizing individual worth
- promoting respect for the law
- protecting minority rights
- promoting the public good

Section 3: Foundations of Democracy

Direct democracy vs. representative democracy:

- **Direct democracy:** Citizens make and vote on laws directly
- **Representative democracy:** Citizens elect representatives to make laws and run the government

Chapter review

1. How is government authority distributed in unitary, federal, and confederal systems?
2. What is legitimacy and where does a government get it?
3. What is the source of authority in a monarchy? in a democratic republic? in a dictatorship?

Chapter review

4. How does feudalism differ from an absolute monarchy? from a constitutional monarchy?
5. What is the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy?
6. Why is it important that democracy gives people the opportunity to make choices? Does equality of opportunity mean the same thing as equality of results? Why or why not?