



6th Grade Government Notes

Ramsey/Miller/Wise



• **Monarchy**

- **Single leader – queen or king**
- **Right to rule is inherited**
- **Inheriting the right to rule provides stability because quick decisions can be made. Disadvantage is that citizens do not have the opportunity to change government decisions.**
- **Most power of leader is limited by a constitution**




• **Types of monarchies:**

- **Constitutional monarchy** – monarch is considered head of state while the country is run by representative democracies. Usually a prime minister runs the country. Examples: the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden & Norway.
- **Absolute monarchy** – the ruler has all the power with no laws or legally organized opposition telling him/her what to do. Examples: Brunei & Swaziland.



• Dictatorships

- One person has complete power
- This person is above the law and is not required to respect the rights of citizens
- The average citizen has no say in government
- Rights and freedoms are NOT guaranteed
- Power is often gained through force or an election with no choice

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- Government often ignores the laws
 - Dictator is often associated with the military and wear military uniforms
 - Advantage – possible to make quick decisions in times of crisis
 - Disadvantages – average citizens have no freedoms.
 - Example: Raul Castro, Cuba



• **Democracy**

- **DEMOCRACY MEANS “THE PEOPLE RULE”**
- **GOVERNMENT IS RUN BY THE PEOPLE**
- **OFFICIALS ARE ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE TO ACT AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GOVERNMENT**
- **RIGHTS OF CITIZENS ARE GUARANTEED BY LAW**
- **DECISION MAKING IS SOMETIMES SLOW**
- **BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE FOLLOW THE LAW**



•Theocracy

- Theocracy is a government in which authority over the people is held by religious leaders who represent divine power and retain authority through religious beliefs
- States based on a state religion where the head of the state is selected by some form of religious hierarchy



• **Theocracy.....**

Advantages- citizenry is likely to be more united, everyone agrees the law should be based on divine law, wars of a theocratic state are holy wars, so the soldiers may feel more inspired to fight fiercely and may have less fear of death, God is ultimate head of state so they command more loyalty from the citizens

Disadvantages- much less freedom and fewer civil liberties, a person with a different religion from the dominant one may be persecuted or even killed, restrict the freedom of women, freedom of speech is severely restricted

Example: Iran, Vatican City and Saudi Arabia