



Class VII
Social Science

Chapter 9

From the Rulers to the Ruled: Types of Governments

The Big Questions?

What are the different types of government?

Where do governments get their power from?

How does a country's government interact with the people?

Why does democracy matter?

The government plays an important role in our lives. This role includes:

- maintaining law and order in society;
- ensuring peace, stability, and security for the people;
- managing relationships with other countries;
- taking care of national defence;
- delivering essential goods and services (education, healthcare, infrastructure);
- managing the economy and economic activities; ?
working for the welfare and improving people's lives.





What is Democracy?

This means that the source of power and authority in a democracy are the people of the country.

The Three Main Functions of Government

**Legislative
Function**

Makes the rules/laws for the country
Example: Parliament passing new laws

**Executive
Function**

Implements the rules and runs the government
Example: Government departments providing services

Judicial Function

Ensures laws are followed and settles disputes
Example: Courts giving justice

What is Democracy?



Democracy means “*rule of the people*”



People **elect representatives** to make decisions and govern

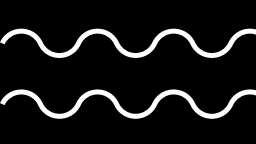


Different countries use different methods to choose leaders

An 1896 mural by the painter Vedder called 'Government' from the Library of Congress, USA.

Abraham Lincoln, a U.S. president in the late 19th century, described democracy as a 'government of the people, by the people, for the people', a phrase still widely used today





What Makes Governments Different?



1

Each country has its **own history, culture, and goals**

2

That's why **governments are not all the same**

3

Governments evolve based on **people's needs and experiences**

Key Differences Between Governments

Governments
differ based
on **four**
important
questions:

- **Who gives authority to the government?**
- **How Is the Government Formed?**
- **What Are the Parts of Government?**
- **What Is the Government Working For?**

Who Decides the Government?

- **Who gives authority to the government?**
- **In a democracy** (like India): The **people** decide through elections.
- **In a theocracy**: Authority comes from **religion** or religious leaders.
- **In a monarchy**: Power is inherited by the **king or queen**.



How Is the Government Formed?



Democracy: Government is formed through **elections**.



Monarchy: Rulers come from the **royal family**.



Even in democracies, **election methods can vary** (parliamentary, presidential, etc.).

What Are the Parts of Government?



Most governments perform three main functions:

Legislative – Makes laws

Executive – Implements laws

Judiciary – Ensures laws are followed



These may be: **Independent** (as in democracies)



Controlled by one person or group (as in dictatorships or monarchies)



Democracies follow a **constitution** (a book of rules).



Monarchies follow the king/queen's decisions.

What Is the Government Working For?

- Different governments have different goals:
- **India's democracy:** Works for **equality and prosperity for all**
- **Other forms:** May focus on **serving a few groups or families**

**Governments
can differ by:**

**Who gives them
power**



**How they are
formed**



**What their parts
are and how
they function**



**What goals they
serve**

Democratic Governments Around the World

- Democracy is the **most popular form of government** today
- Different countries have **different types of democracies**
- But all democracies share some **fundamental principles**





What Is the Government Working For?

- Democracies aim to achieve:
 - **Equality**
 - **Freedom**
 - **Participation**
 - **Justice**
 - **Rights for all citizens**
- 

Fundamental Principles of Democracy

Equality

- All citizens are equal before the law
- Equal access to education, healthcare, and public services

Freedom

- Right to express opinions
- Right to make personal choices

Representative Participation

- People choose leaders through **elections**
- Leaders represent them in government

Voting Rights and Representation

Universal Adult Franchise

- Every adult has the right to vote



Elected Representatives

- Become part of the legislature

Fundamental Rights and Judiciary



CITIZENS ARE GUARANTEED RIGHTS SUCH AS:

- RIGHT TO EQUALITY
- FREEDOM OF SPEECH
- RIGHT AGAINST EXPLOITATION



INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

- PROTECTS RIGHTS
- ENSURES LAWS ARE FOLLOWED BY ALL, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT

Ideals vs. Reality



These democratic principles are **ideals**

➤ **Not all democracies follow them perfectly**



Example:

➤ India granted **universal voting rights in 1950**

➤ **Switzerland gave women voting rights in 1971**



Citizens must continue to **protect and promote** these ideals

**Democracy can be practiced
in different ways**



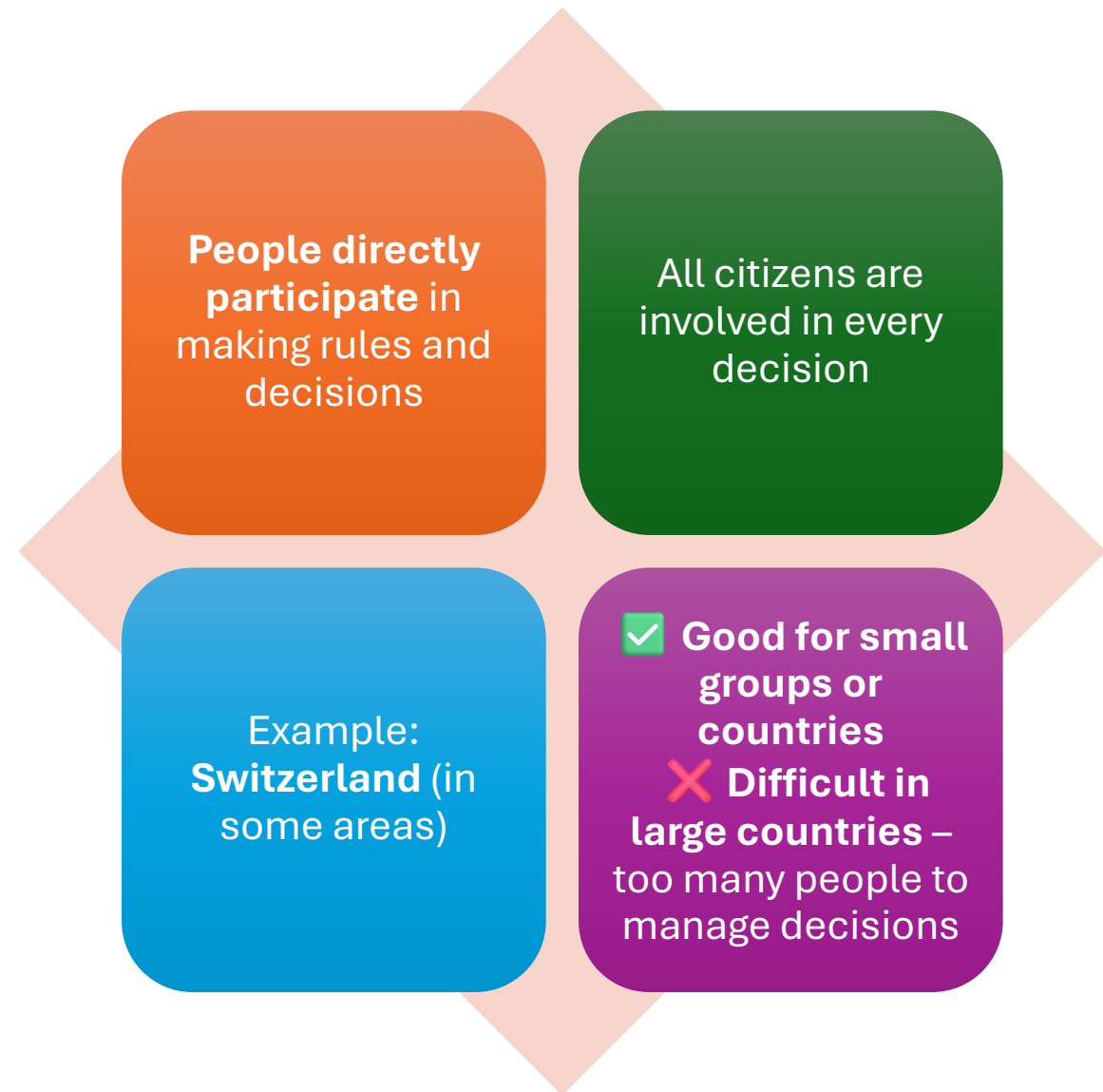
**Forms of
Democratic
Governments**

Two main forms:

**Direct
Democracy**

**Representative
Democracy**

Direct Democracy



Representative Democracy

01

People elect
representatives
to govern on their
behalf

02

Citizens vote
through
**universal adult
franchise**

03

Representatives
form the
government and
make decisions

04

Example: **India,**
USA

Features of Representative Democracy

Regular Elections

- India: every 5 years
- USA: every 4 years

Government is accountable to the people

Citizens can **change their leaders** through voting

Representative Democracies

Most democracies today are
representative

But not all function the same
way

Two main types:
a) **Parliamentary Democracy**
b) **Presidential Democracy**

Parliamentary Democracy

- Executive is part of the legislature
- Example: **India**
 - ✓ **People elect the legislature (Parliament)**
 - ✓ **Ministers (executive) are chosen from elected members**
 - ✓ **Prime Minister and Council of Ministers are part of Parliament**
 - ✓ **They stay in power as long as they have the confidence of the Lok Sabha**



Presidential Democracy



EXECUTIVE IS SEPARATE FROM THE LEGISLATURE



EXAMPLE: USA



- ✓ **PEOPLE ELECT BOTH THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PRESIDENT**
- ✓ **THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT NEED THE LEGISLATURE'S CONFIDENCE**
- ✓ **EXECUTIVE WORKS INDEPENDENTLY OF THE LEGISLATURE**

Central and State Governments (India)

01

India has a **Union Government** and **State Governments**

02

States like **Rajasthan** or **Kerala** have their own governments

03

But they are **not fully independent** — they work under the Union Government

Different forms of democratic government

Different forms of democratic government			
Institution	Executive	Legislature	Judiciary
India	prime minister and the council of ministers	Lower House (Lok Sabha) is more powerful than Upper House (Rajya Sabha)	independent from executive and legislature (separation of power)
USA	president	equal power between Upper House (Senate) and Lower House (House of Representatives)	independent from executive and legislature (separation of power)
South Korea	president	single house (National Assembly)	independent from executive and legislature (separation of power)
Australia	prime minister and the council of ministers	equal power between Upper House (Senate) and Lower House (House of Representatives)	independent from executive and legislature (separation of power)

Early Republics – A Peek into History



A **republic** = Head of state is **elected**, not inherited



Found in **ancient India** and **other parts of the world**



Ancient Indian Republics



Vajji (Vṛiji)
Mahājanapada – early
form of democracy

Leaders chosen by **election**
and **merit**

Collective decision-
making for public welfare

Chola Period – Local Elections

- **Uttaramerur inscriptions** (10th century, Tamil Nadu)
 - **Village sabhā elections**
 - Use of **ballots**
 - Rules for selection, duties, and **removal for corruption**



Fig. 9.6. Chola period inscriptions on the walls of Vaikuntha Perumal temple, Uttaramerur, Tamil Nadu

Republics in Rome & Greece

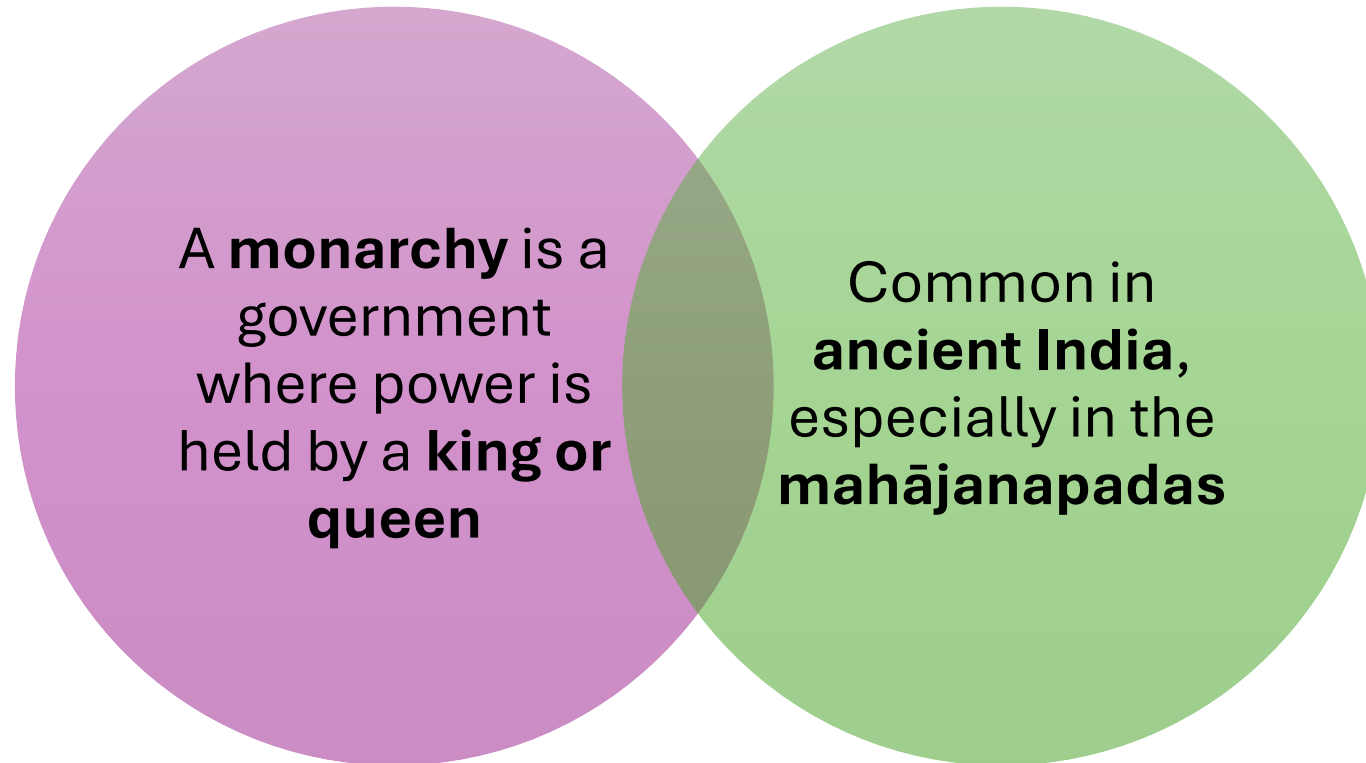
Ancient **Greece and Rome**
had republics

- Voting only for **free men**
- Others (women, slaves) **excluded**

Key Idea

- **People's voice** mattered in many ancient societies
- India has a **long tradition** of public participation in governance

Other Forms of Government – Monarchy



Features of Monarchy



King ruled with advice from **sabha** or **samiti**



Council of ministers and **officials** helped in governance



Scholars advised on matters of **dharma**



Some kings ruled fairly, while others **misused power**

Power of Kings in Monarchies

- In some regions, kings had total power
 - Made laws, enforced them, and gave punishments
 - Some claimed power came directly from God (divine right)



Fig. 9.7. Adoration of the pillar of Sanchi Stūpa



Monarchy in Ancient India

In India, kings were not all-powerful

- Expected to follow **rājadharma** (rule with justice and duty)
- Should work for the **welfare of all people**
- Ideal not always achieved in practice



Monarchies Today

A **monarchy** is ruled by a **king or queen (monarch)**

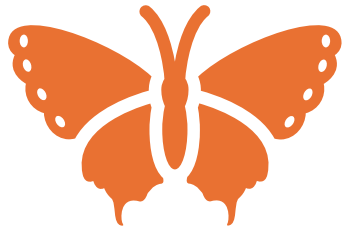
Power is usually **hereditary** (passed down in the family)

Two main types:

Absolute Monarchy

Constitutional Monarchy

Absolute Monarchy



Monarch has full control over laws, decisions, and punishments



Example: **Saudi Arabia**

- **King rules according to Islamic law**
- **Has a council for advice, but not bound by it**

Constitutional Monarchy



Monarch is only a **symbolic head of state**



Real power lies with **elected leaders**



Example: **United Kingdom (Britain)**

- **Parliament** makes laws
- **Prime Minister and ministers** run the government
- A form of **parliamentary democracy**

Theocracy

Government ruled by **religious laws** and **leaders**

Religious beliefs guide **laws**, **decisions**, and **leadership**

Example: Iran

Combines **theocracy** + **democracy**

Supreme Leader (chosen by clerics) holds top authority

Also has **elected president** and **parliament**

Laws based on **Islamic principles**

Other examples: Afghanistan, Vatican City

Dictatorship

1

Government where
**one person or
group holds
absolute power**

2

No limits by **law or
constitution**

3

No elections or
only
**fake/controlled
elections**



*Fig. 9.10. Caricature
of Adolf Hitler*

Example – Adolf Hitler (Germany)

- Became **dictator** in **1933**
- **Eliminated opposition** and took full control
- Believed in **racial superiority**
- Caused **World War II (1939–1945)**
- Responsible for **Holocaust** – killed **6 million Jews** and others



More on Dictatorship – Impact

Dictatorships often lead to **violence, fear, and loss of freedom**

They can cause **wars, mass killings, and forced migration**

Example – Idi Amin (Uganda)

- **Military dictator** of Uganda (1970s)
- Responsible for **thousands of deaths**
- Forced **many Indians** to flee the country
- Ruled with **brutality and fear**



*Fig. 9.11. Caricature
of Idi Amin*

Oligarchy

- Origin: Greek word meaning ‘**rule by a few**’
- Government where **a small, powerful group** makes key decisions
- Usually wealthy families or influential people rule
- Examples:
 - Ancient Greece had oligarchies ruled by aristocratic families
 - Some modern democracies show oligarchic traits when few powerful people dominate politics and business

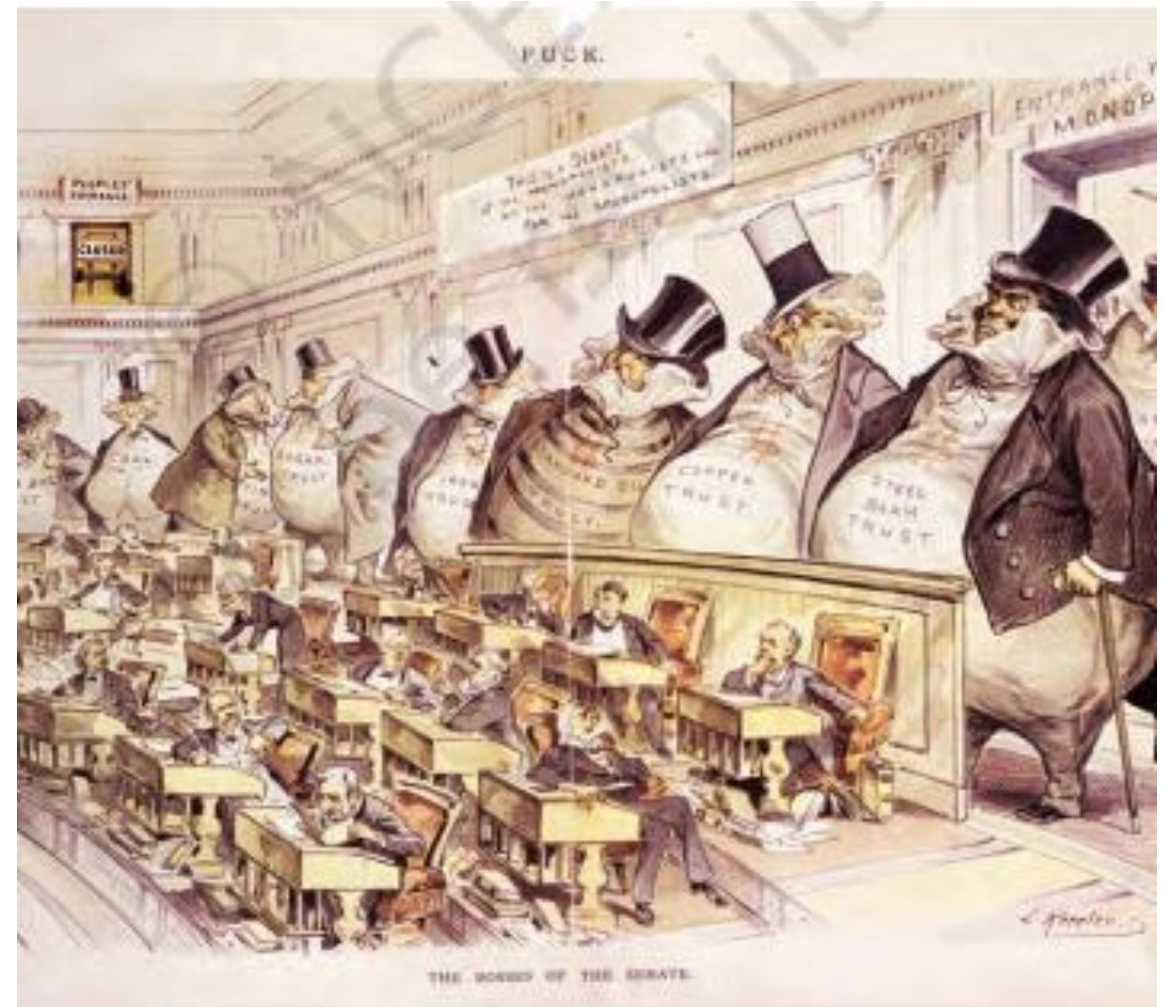


Fig. 9.13. A cartoon from 1889 depicting an oligarchic situation.

Consider the characteristics below in different forms of government and fill in the blank boxes with Yes or No:

Characteristics	Democracy	Dictatorship	Absolute Monarchy	Oligarchy
Universal Adult Franchise	Yes	No	No	No
Equality amongst citizens				
Freedom of speech				
Separation of powers				
Wellbeing and Prosperity of all citizens				

Democracy – The People's Power

In a **true democracy**, people freely choose their way of life — what to speak, wear, believe, and express — as long as it doesn't harm others.

Citizens **elect their government**, which must protect rights and provide basic needs.

If the government fails, people can **change their representatives** through elections.

Democracy focuses on the **well-being of all people**.

Over **half of the world's countries** follow democratic systems.

However, democracies face challenges like:

- Corruption
- Wealth disparity
- Control by a few over institutions
- Weakening judiciary independence
- Manipulation of information

Our Role in Democracy

Stay	Stay vigilant and informed as citizens
Hold	Hold leaders accountable
Promote	Promote fairness and equality
Protect	Protect democratic institutions
Work	Work together to minimize issues and build a better society



THANK YOU