

Forms of Government

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To study governments, geographers look at the following:

- Types – Who rules and who participates.
- Systems – How the power is distributed.



Classification of States into Unitary and Federal

- **Territorial Division of Powers:-**
- It means to divide the territory of the state into a number of distinctive divisions and sub-divisions each of which is charged with the performance certain governmental functions within its boundaries.
- Such as provinces, shires, cantons etc.

Functional Division of Powers

- It means the distribution to particular organs or authorities is made in accordance with the character of the functions to be performed

Systems of Government are based on one question: How is the power distributed?

- There are three ways governments distribute power:
 - Unitary
 - Confederation
 - Federal



Unitary

- One central government controls everything.
- Power is not shared between states, counties, or provinces.
- Examples : United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Spain

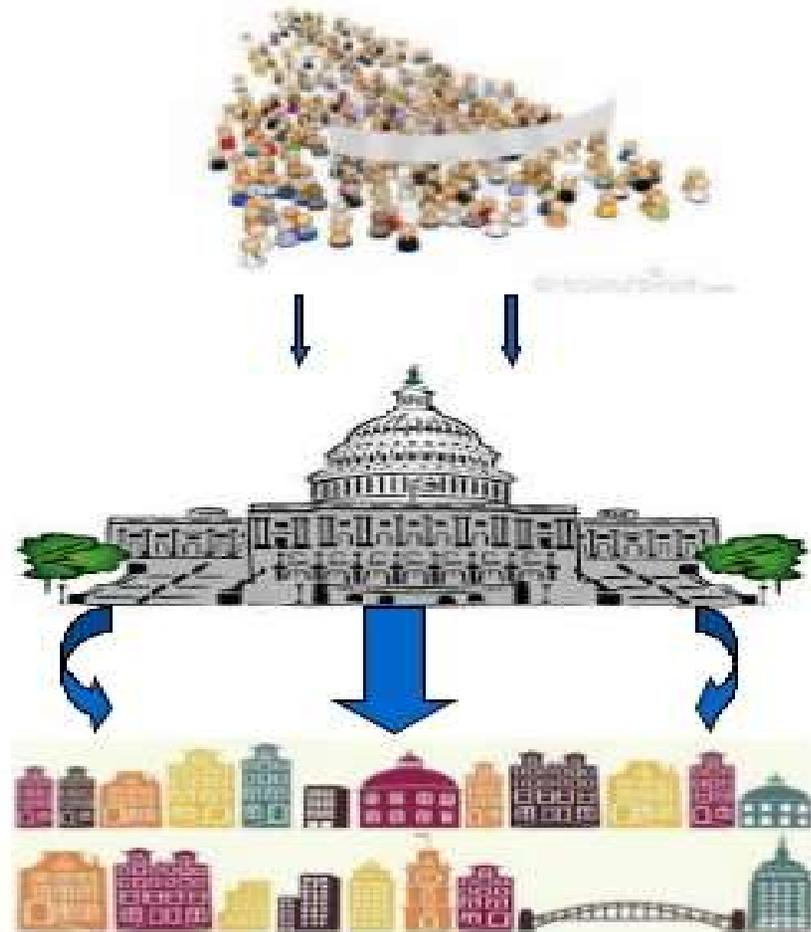


UNITARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

- The government will have a strong central government but weak or non-existent regional governments.
- UK, Cuba, Belgium, France etc.

strong

weak



Unitary Government

- **A unitary government is when a power is held in a single, central agency but has many local governments. The central power, Parliament, has total power over the smaller sub-divisions because it is a local authority for all government functions.**



- **UNITARY GOVERNMENT-**

Leaders can be a King, Prime Minister, or President

- it really doesn't matter who the leader of the country is; what matters, is that the national level of the government has power and runs the country.
- a unitary system can be autocratic, oligarchic or democratic. so, depending on the type of government that is in place, citizen may play a larger role in the country's politics.

Unitary Diagram

**Central
Government**



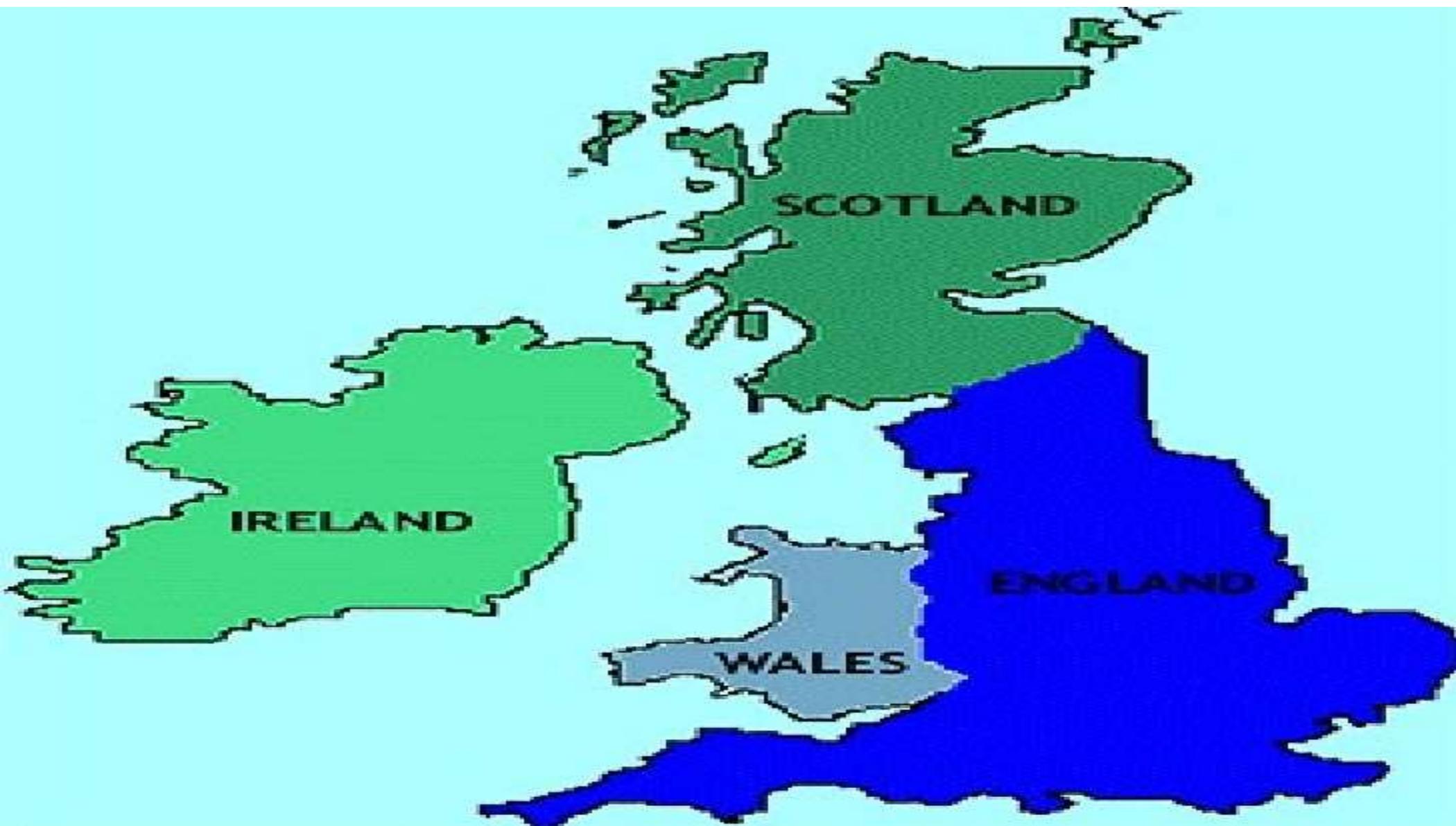
 = Direction of power

 = Political unit ie., state

Unitary System

C o u n t r i e s t h a t a r e u n i t a r y

- Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, England, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, ect.
- These countries choose to be unitary because the government wants power. A unitary government is always poking it's nose around in other countries business because they want control.



Definitions of Unitary State or Government

- **Dicey**:- "Unitary government is the habitual exercise of supreme legislative authority by one central power"
- **Prof. Finer**:-
 - "A unitary government is one in which all the authority and powers are lodged in a single center, whose will and agents are legally omnipotent over the whole area"

- Prof. Willoughby:-

"In unitary government all the powers of government are conferred in the first instance upon a single central government and that government is left in complete freedom to effect such a distribution of these powers , territorially as in its opinion is wise"

- It is clear that in a unitary government the powers are not distributed between the Centre and the states under the constitution, but they are concentrated in the Centre only. It depends upon the will of the central government to give some powers to local government.
- The central government grants only law-making powers to the local authorities thus the supreme of the central power and absence of subsidiary sovereign bodies are the two essential qualities of the unitary government.

- In unitary government there is no question of constitutional conflicts between Centre and the states , because constitutionally the central government is all powerful.
- France is divided into administrative units called "Department", which are divided into cantons and communes.
- In France the local organs are merely agents of the Central government.
- The government of India was unitary government under the Act of 1919. The provinces were given a partial responsible government called diarchy.

Features of Unitary Government

- Supreme Single Central Government
- Provincial and Local bodies under Central control
- Supremacy of Central Legislature or Parliament
- Administrative units
- No Special Courts
- Centre creator and Units creatures is an Integrated system

Merits or Advantages of Unitary Government

- Strong and Powerful Central Government
- Less expensive Government
- Efficient Administration
- More Flexibility
- Useful for Small States
- Single Citizenship
- Prompt Decision
- Administrative Uniformity , simplicity

Demerits or Disadvantages of Unitary Government

- Central Government becoming Despotic
- Overburden of Work
- Lack of Local Autonomy/Initiative
- More influence of Governmental Officials or Bureaucracy
- Not Suitable for the Big States
- Not Political Education in Unitary government

Federalism

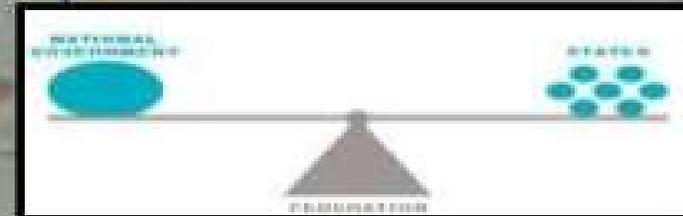
- It is a political concept in which a group of members are bound together covenant with a governing representative head.
- The term 'Federation' is derived from the Latin word 'foedus', which means 'Treaty or Agreement', which is made by the different states intending to federation.
- A federation is an association of states formed by a written constitution.
- Several states having common aims and objectives may form association on constitutional, legal, and permanent basis.

- In this association having two sets of authorities.
- The states surrender their sovereignty for the common good, but at the same time, maintain a large measure of their original independence as far as the regional matters are concerned.
- In a federation , two sets of government which constitutionally coordinate , division of powers between Centre and units
- According to a fairly rigid written constitution , a federal court as a guardian of the constitution and supremacy of the constitution , which is rigid. These are basis of the federal form of government.

What is Federal System?



- Federalism is system of government in which power shared between central government and other units of administration.
- Federalism usually has two level of administration, but some of the countries have more than two levels.
- Each level manages and makes the laws for own territory.
- Each level of government enjoys their power independent to the other.



Definitions

- **Prof. Dicey:-**

"A federal state is a political contrivance(plan) intended to reconcile national unity and power with power with the maintenance of state rights."

Hamilton:- "A federal government as an association of states to form a new state."

Montesquieu:- "A federal government is a convention by which several similar states agree to be members of a large one."

- Prof. K.C. Wheare, “I mean the method of dividing powers so that the general and regional government are within a sphere coordinate and independent.”

Essential Conditions for the Formation of a Federation

- Geographical Contiguity
- Desire for the formation of a union
- Equality among the federating units
- Similarity of social and political Institution
- Adequate Economic Resources
- Political Education
- National Feelings
- Love of Democracy

TYPES OF FEDERALISM

- Coming Together –
 - Independent states come together and form bigger unit
 - It helps to maintain security and sovereignty.
 - Each state is equally strong
 - Ex. USA, Switzerland and Australia



TYPES OF FEDERALISM



- Holding Together –
 - Country is divided into states for better administration
 - It helps for accommodation of diversity
 - Some states might be given more power. The ultimate power lies in the hand of central
 - Ex. India, Spain and Belgium

WHAT MAKES INDIA A FEDERAL COUNTRY?

- Division of Powers
- Some States are given more powers
- Written Constitution
- Union Territories
- Jurisdiction
- Levels of Government



Objectives of Federalism...

- To safeguard /promote the unity of the country.
- To accommodate regional diversity.

Two Crucial Aspects of An Ideal Federalism

1. Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.
2. Trust and agreement to live together must be there.

UNION LIST

Has subjects of National importance.

Union alone can make laws.

Defence, Banking, Currency, Foreign affairs and communication.

STATE LIST

Has subjects of local and State importance.

State Govt. alone can make laws.

Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.

CONCURRENT LIST

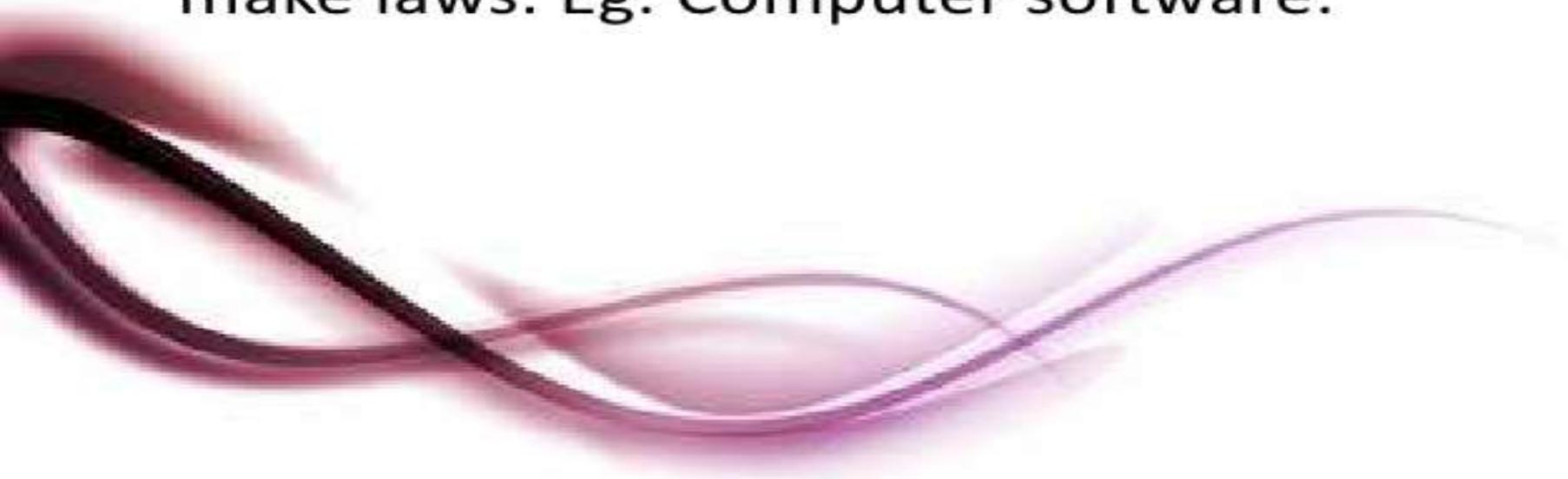
Has subjects of common interest both to Centre and State.

Both the Centre and State can frame laws.

Education, Forest, Trade Union, Marriage, Adoption and succession.

Residuary Powers...

- Are subjects which do not fall under these three lists.
- Union government alone has the power to make laws. Eg. Computer software.



BASIC FEATURES

- Division of Powers
- Written Constitution
- Rigid Constitution
- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Independence of Judiciary
- Dual administration
- Bicameral Legislature
- Equality of all federal States

Features of Federal Form of Government

- Distribution of powers between the Centre and the States
- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Supremacy of Judiciary
- Existence of two sets of Governments
- Existence of Bicameral legislature
- Residuary powers to the provincial government
- Dual Citizenship

Merits / Advantages of Federal Government

- For Union of small states
- Scope for Autonomy
- Prevents Rise of Despotism
- Unity with Diversity
- Scope for Training
- State not vulnerable
- Economically profitable
- Release the burden of work

- Model for the world state
- Double citizenship
- More suitable for the big state
- Political education of Local people

Demerits or Disadvantages of Federal Government

- More Expensive
- Lack of Uniformity in Administration
- Controversies and Disputes
- Difficulty in Foreign policy
- Divided loyalty of people
- Fear of the grouping of some Big states to influence other states or Centre (political Bargaining)

Difference between a Unitary and Federal form of Government

- One and Two sets of Government
- Power and Authority
- Constitution written , Unwritten
- Citizenship
- Court
- Expensive
- Good for small and big state
- Supreme

To be Continued.....

- Unicameral/ Bicameral Legislature
- One and Two constitution
- Simple and Complex type
- Administrative
- Local Government
- Unity and Union
- Centralization and Decentralization
- Dispute

Unitary Government

- One integrated set of government power is concentrated
- Political divisions or provinces are integral part of government
- At the Centre there are supreme executive , legislature and Judiciary

Federal Government

- Two sets of Government. Powers are divided between two sets of Centre –state –by a written constitution
- Units have complete autonomy regarding subject under them.
- Centre and states have its own separate organs like executive, Legislature , judiciary

Unitary Government

- Government is highly centralized all decision are taken by the Centre
- Governmental machinery is simple and flexible
- Less expensive
- There is possibility of despotism

Federal Government

- There is much decentralization units enjoy much autonomy within the constitutional framework(Subject lists)
- Complex and rigid
- More Expensive
- Centre and states are bound by the principle of constitution. There cant be despotism

Unitary Government

- Single citizenship
- Discourage local or regional talent , initiative and enthusiasm
- There can be no disputes between Centre and provinces
- Only one legislature and cabinet for the whole country

Federal Government

- Double citizenship
- Encourages local talent, initiative and enthusiasm by giving vast scope for autonomy
- Disputes between Centre and units are settled by the supreme or federal court
- Separate cabinet and legislature in the Centre and state

Parliamentary/Cabinet/West minister Government

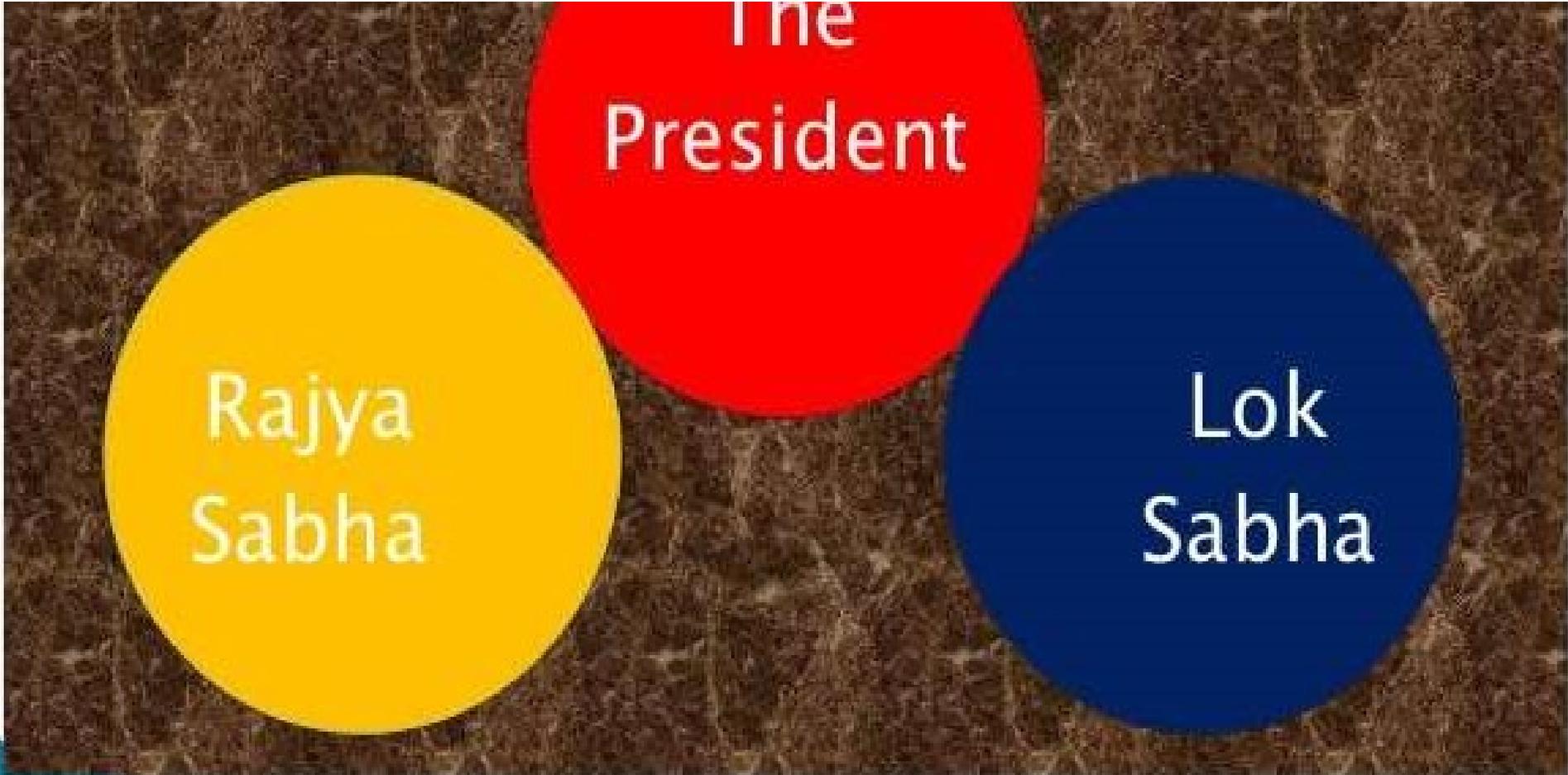
- Modern democratic governments are further divided into cabinet/ presidential governments
- This classification is made on the principles governing the relations between the executive and the legislature
- The relation between the executive and legislature is the only way to know whether a government is parliamentary or presidential if **real executive is responsible to the legislature or parliament**, the form of government is parliamentary

- Parliamentary government is also called responsible or cabinet form of government, because the cabinet enjoys the real powers of the government .
- It is under the control of parliament.
- In presidential government all executive powers are in the hands of president, who is not responsible to the legislature.
- In parliamentary system in India is borrowed from the British

- According to **Dr. Garner**, “Cabinet government is that system in which the real executive – the cabinet or ministers is immediately and legally responsible to the legislature are or one branch usually the more popular chambers for its political policies and acts, and electorate, while the titular or nominal executive – the chief of state occupies a position of irresponsibility. ”

Example of Parliamentary government

- England was copied by other countries like India, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden etc.



The
President

Rajya
Sabha

Lok
Sabha

DEFINITION OF PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF GOVERNMENT

- Parliamentary form of government represents a system of democratic governance of a country, wherein the executive branch is derived from the legislative body, i.e. the Parliament. Here, the executive is divided into two parts, the Head of the State, i.e. President, who is only the nominal executive and the Head of the Government, i.e. Prime Minister, who is the real executive.



- ▶ **Union legislature is also known as “PARLIAMENT”**
- ▶ **The parliament consists of the president, the council of states i.e Rajya Sabha and the house of people i.e Lok Sabha**
- ▶ **The members of both the houses is known as MPs or members of the parliament**
- ▶ **The parliament has to meet at least twice in a year**

Features or Pre-Requisites of Parliamentary Government

- A Nominal Head or Titular Head
- Leadership of the Prime minister
- Political Homogeneity
- Collective Responsibility
- Clear and Stable majority
- Secrecy
- Individual responsibility
- Membership of the Parliament

- Right of the Executive to dissolve the Legislature
- Election of legislature
- No clear separation of powers and Institutions
- Majority party rule
- Accountability of the political executive to the legislature

Merits of Parliamentary Government

- Co-operation between the parliament and the Cabinet
- Responsible government (public opinion and legislature)
- The government does not become autocratic
- Head of the state gives impartial advice
- Alternative government
- In parliamentary government the ministers get an opportunity to show their worth and ability
- This system is more educative
- Good leadership

Demerits of Parliamentary government

- Cabinet dictatorship
- Unstable government
- Formation of the government becomes difficult in a multiple party system
- Weak separation of powers
- National interest are scarified sometimes at the alter of party interests
- Ministers pay more attention to the politics than the administration

- Undue influence of Bureaucracy
- Much time is wasted in discussion during war and emergency

DEFINITION OF PRESIDENTIAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

- When a country follows the Presidential form of Government, it denotes that there is only one person as the head of the state and government, i.e. the President. The election of the President is made directly by the citizens of the country or sometimes by the members of the electoral college for a fixed period.

- The presidential executive is also called non-responsible or fixed executive
- The presidential system , the head of the state is also the head of the government (pm in India)
- The best method of the presidential type of government is the USA, other countries like Philippine, Liberia, Brazil, Argentinian, Chile, Mexico, south Korea etc.

- According to **Dr. Garner**,

“presidential government is that system in which the executive (including both the Head of the state and His ministers) is constitutionally independent of the legislature in respect to the duration of his tenure and irresponsible to it for his political policies. He is real executive and actually exercise the powers which the constitution and laws confer upon him”

- The members of the president, cabinet are not members of the legislature and they do not belong to the parliamentary majority
- They neither take part in its debates nor do they go there to initiate. Nor have they any power to dissolve the legislature

Features of Presidential government

- Real Authority of the president
- Separation of powers
- Checks and Balance
- Process of Impeachment
- Elected by people
- Fixed Tenure
- The ministers subordinates to president
- Executive and Administrative duties only
- No Dissolution of Legislature

Merits of presidential Government

- Stability of government
- Prompt Decision/ efficiency in administration
- Most suitable for emergencies
- Less influence of parties
- Most suitable for multiple party system
- Continuity of policy
- Separation of powers

- Selection of capable men
- Good for countries with Diverse groups

Demerits of presidential government

- Executive Autocracy, irresponsible
- Non-cooperation between the Executive and the legislature
- Government is not responsible for daily administration to the parliament
- Theory of separation of powers is not good for the sound working of the government
- Rigidity of constitution
- Ministers does not get opportunity to show their worth stability
- Difficulty in pursuing foreign policy

- ✓ **Dual Executive**
- ✓ **Majority Party Rule**
- ✓ **Collective Responsibility**
- ✓ **Political Homogeneity**
- ✓ **Double Membership**
- ✓ **Leadership of the Prime Minister**
- ✓ **Dissolution of the Lower House**
- ✓ **Fusion of powers**

- ✓ **Single Executive**
- ✓ **President and legislators elected separately**
- ✓ **Non-Responsibility**
- ✓ **Political Homogeneity may not exist**
- ✓ **Single Membership**
- ✓ **Domination of President**
- ✓ **No Dissolution of the Lower House**
- ✓ **Separation of powers**

A Parliamentary System of Government

No single person has supremacy over others in policy or decision-making in a parliamentary system. A Prime Minister cannot force his own ideas over his own party, much less the whole parliament itself because **Prime Ministers are purely *first among equals*** within parliament.

Vested interests need to individually influence and pressure a majority of members of parliament. Hence, it is extremely expensive & difficult for influence-peddlers and vested-interest groups to influence or control policy.

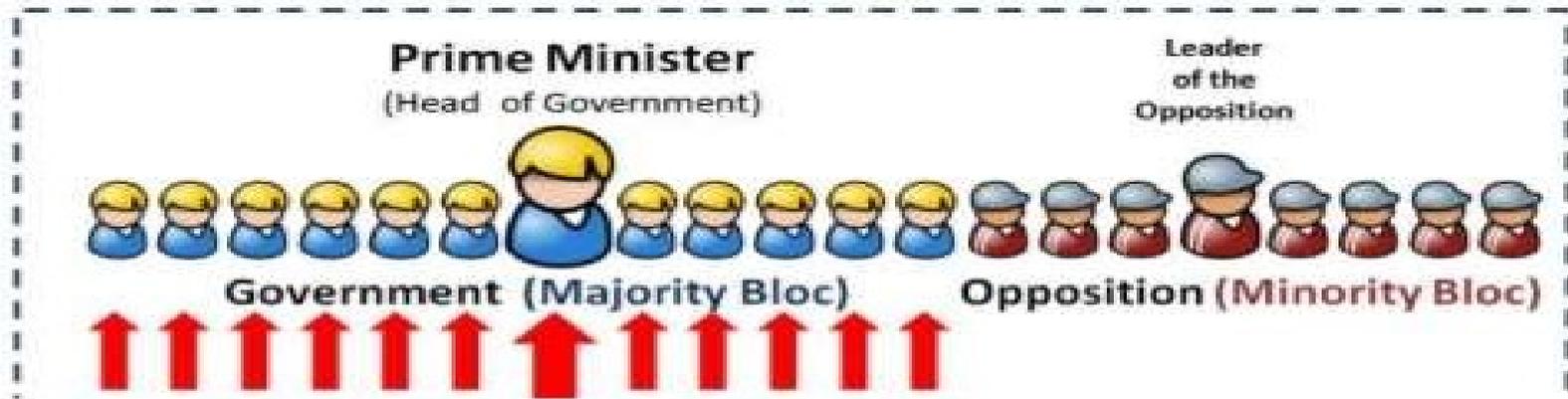


Head of State

(Ceremonial President or Ceremonial Monarch)
No real decision-making or policy-making powers

Parliament

Executive & Legislative Branch



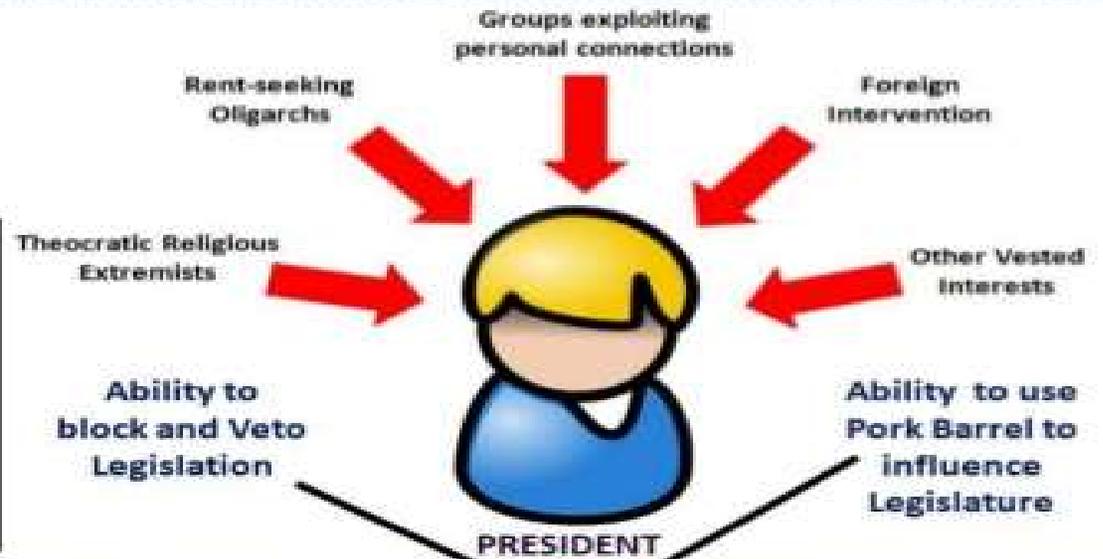
A Presidential System of Government

Executive Branch

President

Head of State
and
Head of Government

The President's sole supremacy in decision and policy-making makes him the single point of contact for influence-peddlers and vested interests who wish to influence policy.



Legislative Branch

Senate

(Legislative Upper House)



Senate President

Senate Minority Leader

House of Representatives

(Legislative Lower House)



House Speaker

House Minority Floor Leader

