

Name: Date:

Class: ECS

**Do Now:** *What does government mean to you?*

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**Forms of Government**

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| **Duties of government** | **Tools of Government** |
| To protect from famine | Irrigation systems like canals |
| To protect people from each other | Laws, social classes, religion |
| To protect from invasion | Military, fortifications like walls |

**Why do we have Governments?**

When people first settled down after developing **agriculture**, or farming, and learning to **domesticate**, or tame, animals, this was the beginning of the Neolithic Era. This was also the beginning, or **origin**, of **civilization** because people were settling down to live together for the first time. The first settlers were farmers. They had a **surplus**, or more than what is needed, of food because they were able to make it for themselves, rather than hunting and gathering for whatever they found like they did when they were **nomads,** or people who moved from place to place with no home. Nomads saw how the farmers were living, so they would occasionally invade a village of farmers to steal food and tools because the farmers had these goods and the nomads did not. This was the origin of war as we know it. As a result of these invasions, the farmers formed **governments** to protect their villages and the food that they produced. Governments protect the **citizens**, or people who live in a civilization, from outsiders and even from others within the civilization who may commit crimes against other citizens.

**The First Form of Government**

**Monarchy** was the first **political system**, or form of government, to ever take responsibility for the safety and survival of a civilization. In a Monarchy, there are royal families with a King or Queen making all decisions for the Kingdom. Whenever a **King** or **Queen** dies, their child or closest relative takes **absolute power**, or total authority, after the death of the **Monarch**, or ruler. The way that the first Monarchies were began was very simple. The farmers needed protection from raids, so the biggest, and strongest warrior became the King and commanded the warriors that would protect the civilization as members of the army. An example of a monarchy would be the **Pharaohs** who ruled ancient Egypt.

Pharaohs in Egypt were also examples of another type of government called a **Theocracy.** In a theocracy citizens are ruled by religious laws and ideas. Egypt was a theocracy because the Egyptians believed that the Pharaohs were gods on earth who ruled with religious and royal authority. Whatever citizens do in a theocracy, they must obey the laws of the God(s). People in this type of society greatly respect priests. However, this can make ruling tricky because every priest must agree on a solution to each problem for it to pass. (It would look bad to the Gods if the priests could not agree – plus, what if one priest disagreed and somehow convinced the Gods that he was right and the rest of you were wrong? You would not want the Gods to be against you…) It is clear why theocracies are complicated to rule.

**Modern Forms of Government**

A **Dictatorship** is when one person is an absolute ruler called a **Dictator** who has all authority over every aspect of a civilization. The difference between a monarchy and a dictatorship is that a Dictator takes power by force with a military, while a monarch receives all of their power from their parent or relative who ruled before them. Dictators often have advisors that they go to for advice on difficult decisions. However, if the advisors really think the dictator is making bad decisions, they can have a *coup d'etat.* (This is where you overthrow the leader and one someone else becomes the new leader.) A well known example of a Dictator is Adolf Hitler of Nazi Germany. He took power by brute force with the Nazi’s supporting him and acting as his personal army.

An **Oligarchy** is a form of government in which a small group of wealthy, powerful people make all of the decisions for a civilization. These people each rule a different part of society: the army, the builders, the farms, the upper classes, the workers, etc. In order for a solution to occur to any problems facing the civilization, all oligarchs need to play a role in its solution. So any solution they come up with must utilize each group in society. If it does not, one oligarch might be so upset that they start a civil war for complete power over the government instead of sharing power with the rest of the group. An example of an oligarchy would be the internet myth of the “Illuminati.” The myth is that a group of wealthy people meets in secret each year to make decisions for every country using the control of the flow of money in society. Another example would be the ancient greek city-state of Sparta, in which a small group of wealthy, land owning leaders made all of the decisions for the city-state.

Finally, **Democracy** literally means, “Power belongs to the People.” Everyone with voting rights, or **suffrage**, must vote on solutions to problems or to elect people who will come up with solutions to the problems that a democratic civilization is faced with. The United States is a type of democracy called a **Republic**, which means that we elect people to represent us and vote on issues for us. This is a **representative democracy**. In a **Direct Democracy**, there are no representatives. Everyone’s vote counts the same as everyone else’s. An example of this was the ancient greek city-state of Athens.

**Exit Ticket:** Which economic system is the most fair and why?

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