

SS.7.C.3.1

Compare different forms of government

(direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).

SS.7.C.3.1 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will analyze scenarios describing various forms of government.

Form of Government	Scenario
Direct Democracy	Some Native American tribes organize themselves by having all male adult members of the tribe vote to make changes to the laws.
Representative Democracy/Republic	In the United States, citizens elect representatives to the national, state, and local levels of government who make decisions for the people.
Socialism	Some believe that socialism is necessary and possible while others believe that socialism makes people depend on government too much.
Communism	In his 400 BC work, <i>The Republic</i> , Greek philosopher Plato proposed that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People of the community who are well educated should own all of the property. 2. The best interest of the government should be above the personal desires of the citizens. 3. The citizens should continue to work rather than be greedy.
Monarchy	In the 20 th century, monarchs have generally become symbols of national unity, while real power is held by elected officials who follow a constitution.
Oligarchy	In England in 1215, a small group of wealthy, powerful men forced the king to share power with them.
Autocracy	Most of the leaders who started World War I were the few remaining absolute monarchs of Europe. In World War II, many who started the war were dictators , such as those in Germany, Japan, and Italy.
Absolute Monarchy	In early European history, government power was held by kings and queens who ruled with unlimited powers.

absolute monarchy - a form of autocracy where a person becomes the sole leader of a country by being born into a family of rulers; there are no limits on the monarch's power

autocracy - a form of government where one person has unlimited power

communism - a form of government in which a single ruling party owns and controls the entire economy, and in which no private ownership is allowed

dictator - a military leader who becomes the head of a country, often by force

direct democracy - a form of government in which the power to govern is directly in the hands of the people rather than elected representatives

monarchy - a form of government headed by a king or queen who inherits the position, rules for life, and holds power that can range anywhere between limited to absolute

oligarchy - a form of government in which a small group (often of wealthy people) has total control and power

representative democracy/republic - a form of government in which the people elect representatives to make laws for them

socialism - a form of government in which the government plays a major role in running the economy, but private ownership is also allowed and leaders may be elected by the people