

## Student Activity

Read STUDY TASK CARD 9 to help you complete this activity sheet



# Democracy versus Totalitarianism

Type of Governance	Who has power?	Are there limits on the power?	Examples of Countries
<p>A <b>monarchy</b> is a form of government led by an individual who holds the position for life. They have usually inherited the position, and pass it on to a relative, usually a son or daughter. In the past, all monarchs held great power and made all the decisions and laws of the country. This is known as an <i>absolute monarchy</i>. Today, thanks to <i>Magna Carta</i>, most monarchs act as head of state, filling a ceremonial role with little or no power in the involvement of the decision-making process of the country.</p>			
<p>A <b>representative monarchy</b> is where a monarch is head of state; however, the people elect representatives to form a parliament. A written constitution may be included and follows the rules of a parliamentary democracy.</p>			
<p><b>Fascism</b> is a form of government usually headed by a dictator. It involves total government control of <i>political, economic, cultural, religious, and social</i> activities. Industries are owned by individuals, but under government control. This form of government has warlike policies and exercise extreme <i>discrimination against minority groups</i>.</p>			
<p>A <b>representative republic</b> is a system of rule where the head of government is a chosen president. Presidents are elected by the citizens of the country and serve over a specific length of time, called <i>a term of office</i>. In some countries, a president may only be allowed to serve for a few terms. This enables change for the people and avoid long-term control.</p>			



<p>A <b>parliamentary democracy</b> involves a system of fair representation for the people living within a society. Fairness in ensuring the outcomes of elections are regarded as legal and fair. Also, the parliament accepts the decisions of the people who elected it, and forms government to follow the will of most people – the majority.</p> <p>The government is accountable to all the people through free and transparent elected parliaments, and representative of the people. A written constitution is included, and this sets out the rules for how the country will be governed, including detailing the rights and responsibilities of its people.</p>			
<p>An <b>oligarchy</b> is a form of government in which only a few wealthy people hold power. A republic may be an oligarchy if just a few people have the right to vote. In most oligarchies, the power of the leadership is supported by the wealthy and the military.</p>			
<p><b>Communism</b> is an economic system in which there is little or no private ownership of anything. Property is held by the community rather than by individuals.</p> <p>All economic activity is controlled by the government, including what food crops are grown, what goods are manufactured, and to whom they are sold – and at what prices! Personal freedom of individuals is allowed but limited; including where they can travel and how they spend their money.</p>			
<p>In a <b>republic</b> the leaders are chosen by a small number of highly influential people and can stay in office for a long time. There may be elections, but these can be conducted in corrupt ways, or electors are not given a free choice of who to vote for. An example of this is a <i>Dictatorship</i> which involves one person who has <i>absolute power</i>.</p> <p>It is very controlling and suppressive to citizens. Such republics have only one political party and the dictator makes most government policies and decisions. To remain in power, dictators must continue to use force or threats and suppress the peoples' freedom.</p>			

