

# Unit 3: Political Change

## 7.1: Models of Governance



**Social Studies 2201**

# Political Change

- What does this mean?
- Occurs when there is an alteration in the way in which power & authority are exercised in a particular state



# Political Change

Who can provide an example of political change (past or present)?

- Elections (Canada 1 every 5 yrs, USA every 4 yrs)
- Revolutions (America 1776, France 1789, Russia 1917, Cuba '59)
- Civil wars (Yemen, Syria, Yugoslavia)
- Protests, riots, public demonstrations, social movements

We'll see major examples from history of political change in the coming weeks & trace how our modern political system evolved from ancient time .

## SCO 7 Overview

- 7.0 explain how ideas of governance have changed over time
  - 7.1 differentiate between models of governance
  - 7.2 explain the development of governance systems from the Paleolithic Era to the Ancient Era
  - 7.3 explain the concept of citizenship and how it developed in the Ancient Era

## SCO 7 Overview

- The purpose of this outcome is to help students to understand how governance influences the human experience.
- As discussed in unit 2, one of the characteristics of civilization is the presence of complex institutions.
- Government is arguably the most influential institution in a civilization; its actions (or inactions) have profound and lasting consequences for those whom it governs.

# Governance Overview

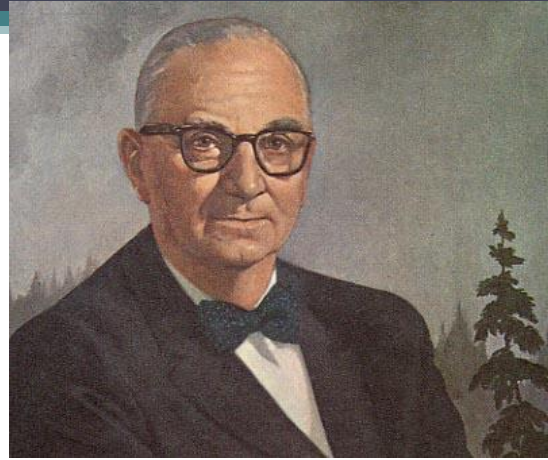
- People have organized themselves into groups at every stage of human history
- When these groups have a special order that is long-lasting and structures life for many people over a large area, it is called government
  - Government is the main concern of politics.
  - Governance, or the power to make decisions for a group of people, is the main purpose of politics
- The action of governments have impacted human experience throughout history

# The Role of Government

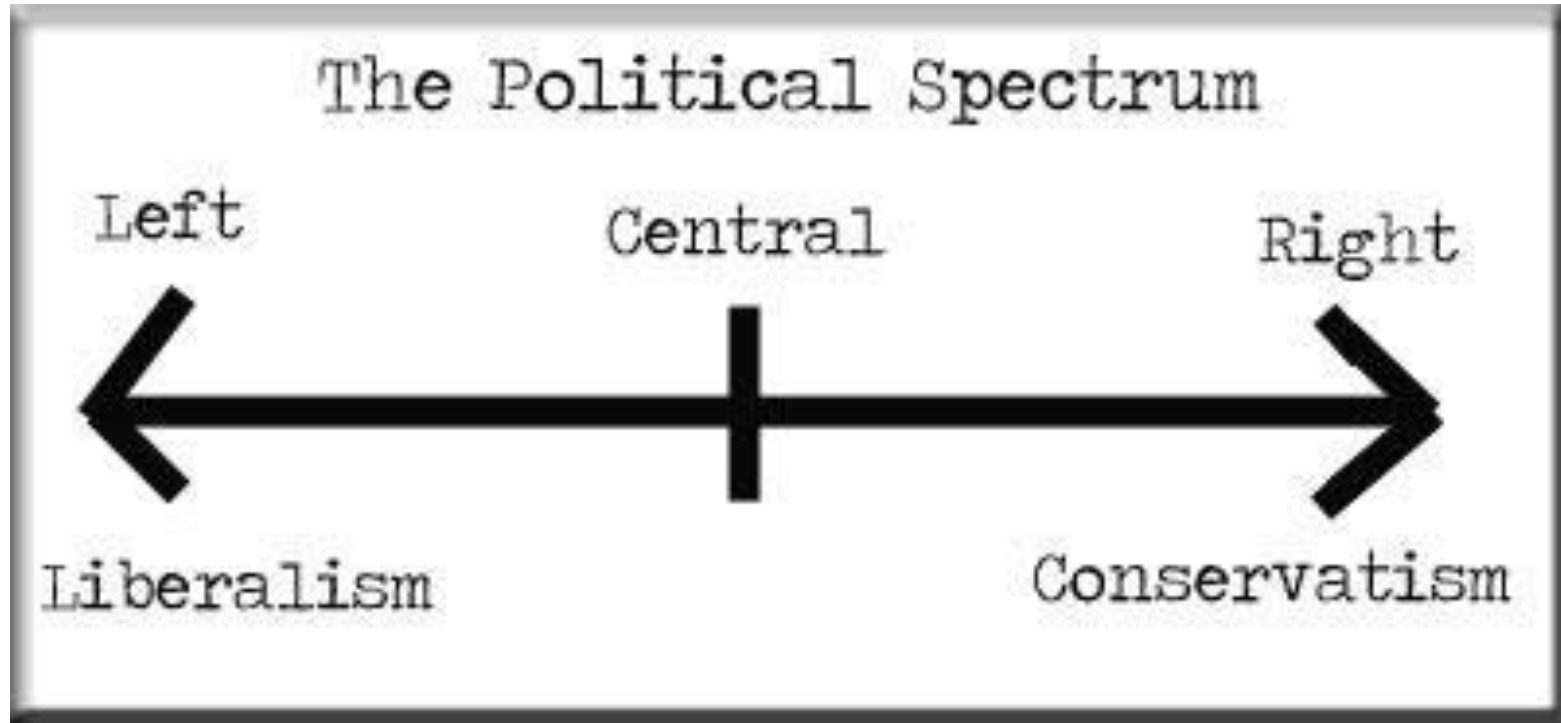
- The institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies
- Governments manage the land, resources and people living within their borders.
  - Create and enforce laws
  - Provide programs and services
  - Make decisions on behalf of the people







# Political views



# Where are you on the political spectrum?

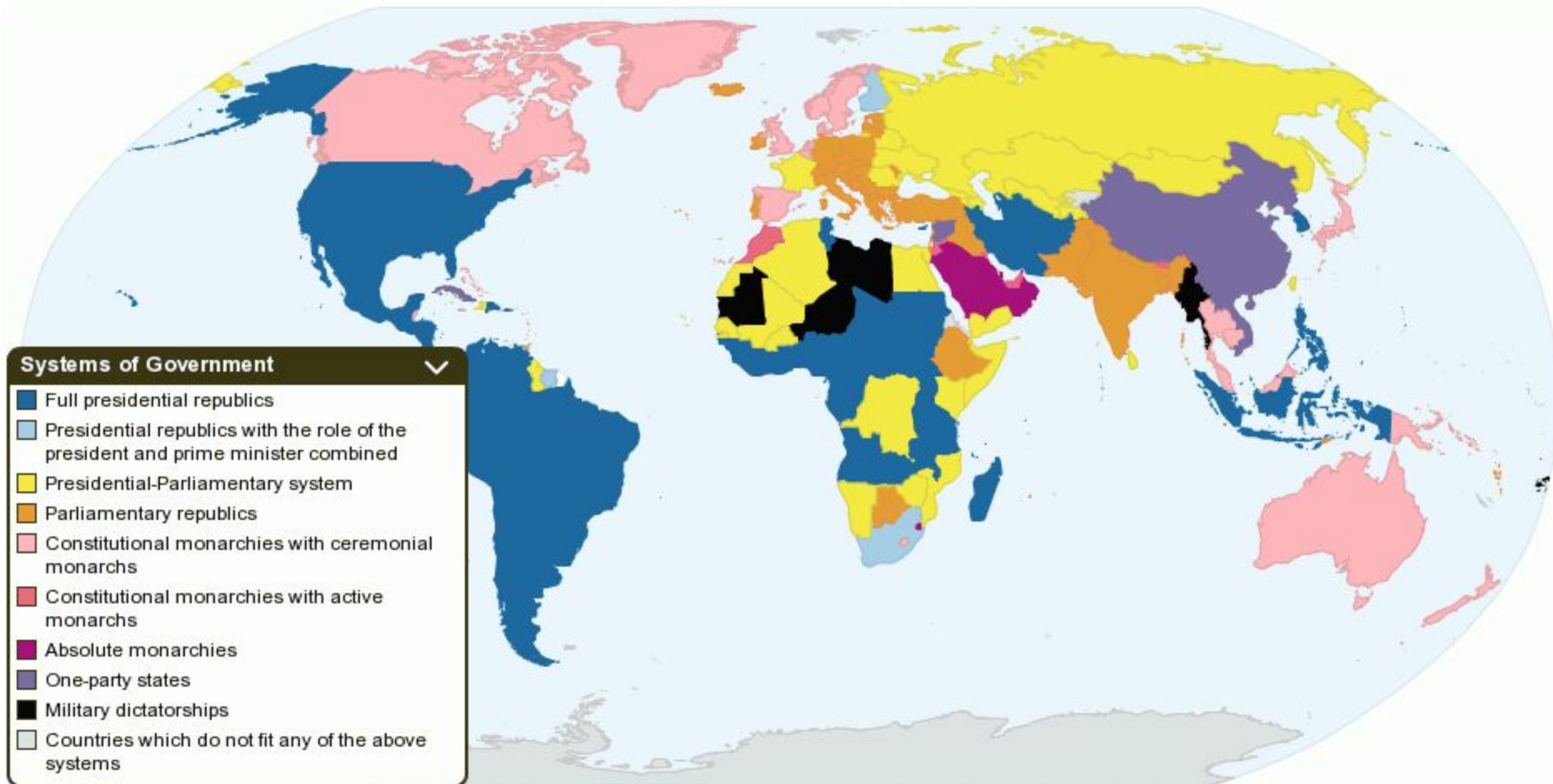
## 3.1: Where Are You on the Political Spectrum?

Political parties are made up of people who have similar points of view on one or more important issues or subjects. This questionnaire will indicate to you, in general terms, whether you fall on the left, right, or centre of the political spectrum.

For each question, place an "X" indicating if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree in the table below. Answer the questions as honestly as you can.

1. The death penalty is wrong and should not be allowed under any circumstances.
2. The government should provide a mother with money to allow her to stay at home after she has a baby.
3. Presidents of big companies that pollute the air and water should be fined and sent to prison.
4. Canada should give more financial aid to poorer countries.

# Systems of Government by Country

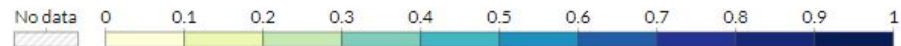
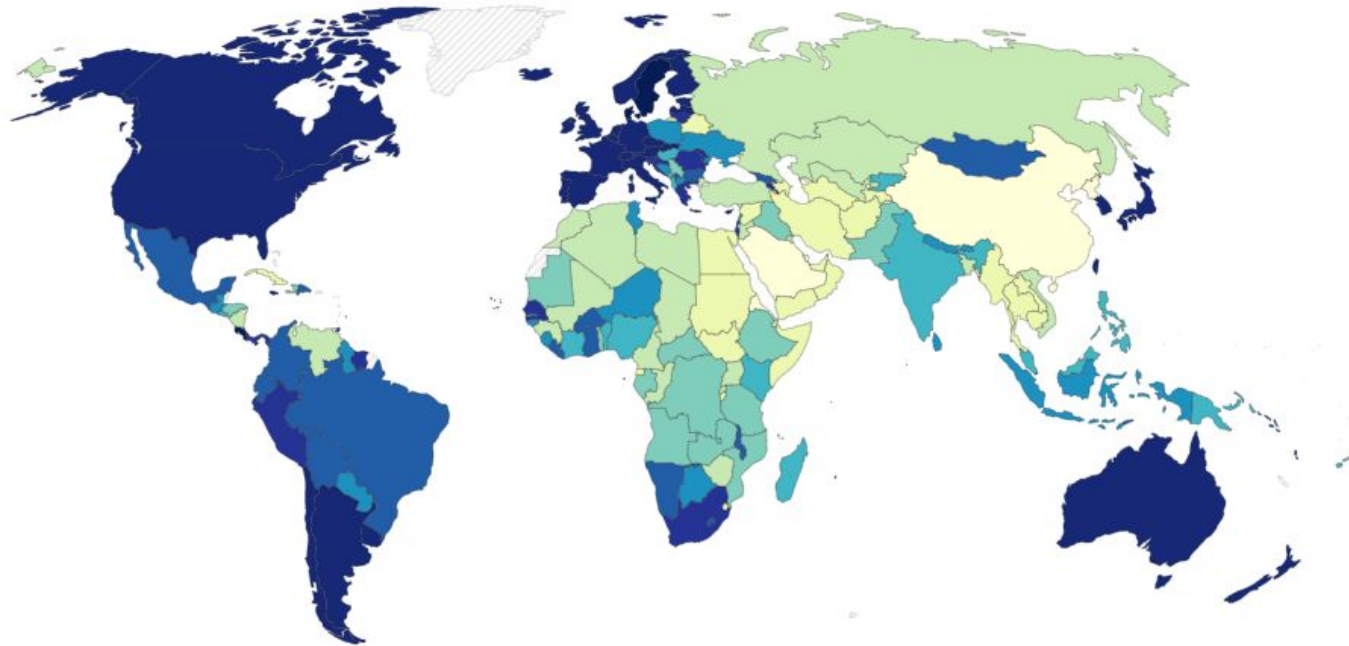


## Systems of Government

- Full presidential republics
- Presidential republics with the role of the president and prime minister combined
- Presidential-Parliamentary system
- Parliamentary republics
- Constitutional monarchies with ceremonial monarchs
- Constitutional monarchies with active monarchs
- Absolute monarchies
- One-party states
- Military dictatorships
- Countries which do not fit any of the above systems

## Electoral democracy, 2021

Based on the expert assessments and index by V-Dem. It captures to which extent political leaders are elected under comprehensive voting rights in free and fair elections, and freedoms of association and expression are guaranteed. It ranges from 0 to 1 (most democratic).

World 

# Governance Systems

- There are many different types of government all around the world.
- Nations do not always agree about the role of government and the responsibilities of country leaders.
- All types of government can be categorized into **three** different groups:
  - Rule of One
  - Rule of the Few
  - Rule of the Many

## Governance Systems

- The information on the following slides correspond to your 7.1 handouts



## Rule of One

- When supreme power is concentrated in the hands of one person whose decisions are not restricted by any external legal restraints or by any consistent and recognized means of citizen control, it is referred to as an **autocracy**.
- The two primary types of autocracy are *monarchy* and *dictatorship*.





# Rule of One

- **Monarchy:** A monarchy is a form of government in which one member of a **family** (dynasty) exercises **sovereignty** (power and authority).



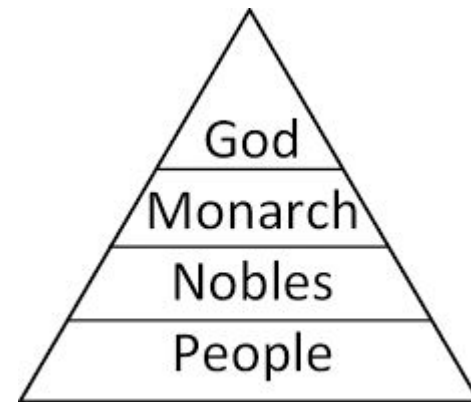
# Rule of One

- In a monarchy, a king or queen rules the country. The king or queen is known as a monarch.
- Monarchs usually come to power through their **family** line:
  - The current king or queen's oldest child becomes the next king or queen.
  - Traditionally the monarch's post is inherited & lasts until death or **abdication** (voluntarily stepping down).



# Rule of One

- In some monarchies, especially those in prior to the 20th century, the monarch held all the power & had the final say over the government.
- Most monarchs throughout history believed they ruled by “divine right”, meaning that they were answerable only to **God**, who put them in a position of power.
- These were “**absolute monarchs**” who held absolute power



## Rule of One - Louis XIV of France (1661-1715)

- Arguably the best example of an absolute monarch in history, Louis XIV of France once proclaimed “I am the state”.
- Indeed, he was simply stating the fact that he totally controlled French society and therefore was the highest and most powerful authority of the nation.



# Rule of One

- In modern times, monarchs usually share power with other parts of government and are also subject to the country's constitution. These are **constitutional monarchies**
- More than 40 countries, including Canada, are monarchies, but most of these countries are constitutional monarchies.
- [Which Countries Still Have Monarchies?](#)



# Rule of One

- Constitutional monarchy is a form of democracy (rule of many), with the king or queen mainly **symbolic** with limited powers.
- King Charles III is the constitutional monarch of Canada.





**Question 1.** What are the strengths and limitations of a monarchy? Think of two ideas for each and fill in the table below.

<b>The Rule of One: Monarchy</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
1.	1.
2.	2.

# Monarchy

## STRENGTHS:

- Decision making is quick
- Experienced leader
- Only one person

## LIMITATIONS:

- Could abuse power
- Rules for life
- Decision making falls to one person



**Question 2.** Up until the early late 19th century, the most common form of governance system was absolute monarchies. Yet today they are very rare.

Try to think of and briefly explain one reason why absolute monarchies have largely disappeared as a form of governance?

# Monarchy Review



# Rule of One

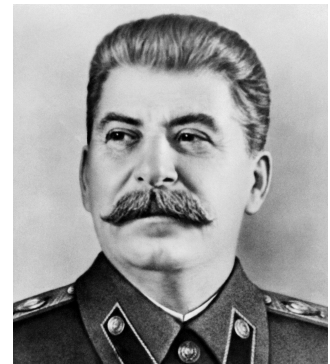
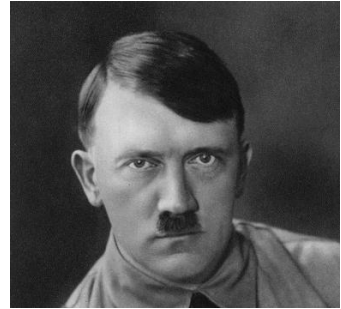
- **Dictatorship**: is a form of government where a group of countries (or a country) is ruled by one person or one person heading a political party.
- In a dictatorship, politicians **regulate** nearly every aspect of the public and private behavior of citizens.
- The ruler or rulers have extensive powers, and their decisions are typically **not subject** to meaningful checks and balances, legal constraints, or democratic processes. If there is a constitution, the dictator has control over that, too—so it doesn't mean much.

# Rule of One

- Although other parts of the government may exist, such as courts or a lawmaking body, these branches always do what the dictator wants them to do. They do not represent citizens.
- The dictator often has complete power over people's lives and employs a variety of mechanisms to ensure power remains in their hands (e.g., **laws, military, secret police, propaganda**, etc).

# Rule of One

- Notable dictators in the 20<sup>th</sup> century:
  - e.g., Adolf Hitler – Germany (1933 – 1945 CE)
  - e.g., Joseph Stalin – USSR (1927 – 1953 CE)



# GREAT FOR REVIEW



# Dictatorship in North Korea

- In North Korea, the Kim family dynasty has ruled for more than 70 years.
- Kim Jong-un is the third member of the family to be leader.
- He maintains a rigid dictatorship through intimidation, informers, a secret police and a large military.



**Question 3.** In Canada we often take our rights and privileges for granted, however the majority of the world's population live in countries that do not provide its citizens with the freedoms which we enjoy. If you found yourself living in a country such as North Korea tomorrow, think of three ways that your life might be altered by the restrictions placed upon you in a dictatorship.

Restrictions in a Dictatorship	
1.	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>



# Rule of the Few

- ★ In the Rule of Few, a select group of individuals or an elite class holds power and influences decision-making in a society or organization.
- ★ These few individuals may come from privileged backgrounds, have access to resources, or possess specific qualifications that grant them authority
- ★ When a small group of people rule over everyone in a country it is referred to as an **oligarchy**.
- ★ Rule of the Few can take a variety of forms.

## Rule of the Few

- ★ **Aristocracy**: a form of government that places power in the hands of a small, privileged ruling class. These people often have family connections to power and inheritance of this power is a common feature of aristocracies.
- ★ The ancient Greeks originally considered aristocrats to be the best qualified citizens, however in more recent times aristocracy has usually been seen as rule by a privileged group

# Rule of the Few

- ★ In Ancient Rome, different social classes appeared & the Patricians were the aristocracy a privileged group

The Roman Republic had two classes of citizens: Patricians and Plebeians.

## Patricians

- Ruling class (small percentage of the population)
- Wealthy powerful citizens
- Born into their class
- Controlled most aspects of governance
- Forbidden to marry Plebeians for some time

## Plebeians

- Ordinary people (majority of the population)
- Workers, merchants, artisans, etc.
- At first, not allowed to participate in governance
- Over time gained some political rights
- Not permitted to hold political office

The Patricians were the aristocracy of Rome

# Rule of the Few

- ★ **Junta**: refers to a form of governance in which a state has been taken over by force and is being controlled by a small group of individuals.
  - Juntas are often associated with **military states**, as high ranking military officers may use their influence and power within the army to forcefully seize power through a coup d'état (removal of an existing government, typically, through illegal and violent means)



**Junta in Argentina: 1976 - 1983**

Seizing power in 1976, military and security forces hunted down political opponents and anyone believed to be associated with socialism and communism. Over 30,000 citizens "disappeared" during their time in power.

# Rule of the Few

- ★ **Theocracy**: In this form of government, religious leaders or religious institutions hold political power and authority, and the legal system and governance are based on religious laws or doctrines.
  - The religious leaders, often acting as both spiritual and political figures, claim to rule on behalf of a divine authority or deity
  - The laws and regulations of a theocracy are often derived from **religious** texts, such as the Bible, the Quran, the Torah, or other sacred scriptures. These texts are considered the ultimate authority in matters of governance

# Rule of the Few

- ★ As the legal and moral standards of society are typically governed by religious principles and values, behaviors and practices that go against these religious teachings may be considered illegal or sinful.
- ★ Two of the most well-known theocracies are Iran and Saudi Arabia



## Rule of the Few

- ★ In Iran, Islamic clerics have a substantial role in political decision-making,
- ★ In Saudi Arabia, a monarchy maintains control with over 200 princes of the royal family holding all major positions of power in the country.
  - The Koran and the Sunna serve as the country's constitution which is strictly enforced. Anyone in the country caught breaking Islamic or Sharia law is subject to strict punishment, which may go as far as death.

# Rule of the Few

- ★ Take a few minutes to complete the multiple choice review questions about the Review the Rule of the Few



# Rule of the Many

- ★ Rule of the many means that a large segment of the population has input into governance and decision making or have voted to place people in charge of the country or its government. This is referred to as a democracy.
  
- ★ The two most common forms of democracy are:
  - Direct Democracy & Representative Democracy

# Rule of the Many

- ★ Direct democracy: (also known as pure democracy) is a form of democracy in which **people** decide on issues of public concern or policy initiatives directly.
  - In other words, eligible citizens have the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes and vote on laws, policies, and other government matters themselves.

# Rule of the Many

- ★ Review the information on your handout and complete Question 1

**Question 1.** What problems might be associated with a voting system that is public and requires a show of hands, as opposed to a secret ballot voting system where no one can find out how a person voted?

---

# Rule of the Many

- ★ Representative democracy: a form of government in which citizens elect individuals to **represent** their interests and make **decisions** on their behalf.
  - In a representative democracy, elected officials, such as members of a parliament or congress, act as representatives who participate in the legislative process, make and pass laws, and execute government functions.

# Rule of the Many

- The elected representatives make decisions for all citizens for a certain time period (typically 4 to 5 years), after which they can be either removed or returned to office by voting in an **election process**.
- The actions of the representatives are subject to scrutiny and **criticism** by the public and the media.

# Rule of the Many

- Representative democracies are typically governed by the **rule of law**, where laws and regulations are applied equally to all citizens.
- In this form of rule, there are different **branches** of government, such as the legislative, executive, and judicial branches which each prevent the other from becoming too **powerful**.

# Rule of the Many

Complete Questions 2, 3 and 4 to end that section