

Forms of Government

I. What is Government?

- A. There are several Definitions
- B. Simple one – That which makes and enforces laws.

II. What kinds of governments exist?

- A. For Aristotle, Governments are different depending on who rules.

B. Rule by...

C. Dangerous?

B1

C1

B2

C2

B3

C3

B1 One Person

- a. Monarchy –
- By a Monarch (King or Queen)
- b. Tyranny =
- Dictatorship =
- Despotism
- By a Tyrant, Dictator, or Despot

C1 Dangerous?

- a. Yes
- Because the one can abuse everyone else

B2 A small group

- a. Aristocracy
 - By an educated upper class
 - (called the aristocrats, the nobles, the gentry, or the gentlemen)
- b. Oligarchy
 - By the wealthy
 - (called the Oligarchs)
 - [The difference between them may be more semantic than actual]

C2 Dangerous?

- a. Yes
- Because the ruling minority can abuse the majority

B3 The (usually poor) majority

- a. Democracy

C3 Dangerous?

- a. YES!
- Because the majority can abuse minorities
- b. Examples
 - 1.) Slavery!
 - 2.) Class warfare against the rich (because the rich are a minority too).

B. Rule by...	C. Dangerous?
<p>B1 One person</p> <p>a. Monarchy – By a Monarch (King or Queen)</p> <p>b. Tyranny = Dictatorship = Despotism - By a Tyrant, Dictator, or Despot</p>	<p>C1</p> <p>a. Yes - Because the one can abuse everyone else</p>
<p>B2 A small group</p> <p>a. Aristocracy -By an educated upper class (called the aristocrats, the nobles, the gentry, or the gentlemen)</p> <p>b. Oligarchy - By the wealthy (called the Oligarchs)</p>	<p>C2</p> <p>a. Yes - Because the ruling minority can abuse the majority</p>
<p>B3 By the majority</p> <p>a. Democracy</p>	<p>C3</p> <p>a. YES! - Because the Majority can abuse minorities</p> <p>b. Examples</p> <p>1.) Slavery!</p> <p>2.) Class warfare against the rich (because the rich are a minority too).</p>

III. Other Problems with Democracy According to the Founders

- A. It can be dangerous to minority rights
- B. It is inefficient for large communities
(how can 300 million people work as a group to make laws?)
- C. Most people (the majority) ...
 - 1. don't have the expertise to make good political decisions
 - 2. are too emotional, too easily become a dangerous mob when riled up by fiery speakers (called demagogues)

III. Other Problems with Democracy

- D. But...
- Although the majority of people are not good rulers themselves, they can be good at selecting others who are.

IV. The Founders Solution

- A. A new form of government which mixes the other forms of government together
- 1. Rule by 1. Who in America is kind of like a monarch?
 - a. The President
- 2. Rule by a small group. What in America is kind of like an Aristocracy?
 - a. Congress
- 3. Rule by the majority. How is America a democracy?
 - a. The People choose the President and Congress

IV. The Founders Solution

- B. Two Types of Democracy
- 1. Direct Democracy (or simply "democracy")
 - - The people vote directly for their laws.
- 2. Indirect / Representative / Republican Democracy
 - - The people vote for other people who will make their laws for them.
- 3. America is a **Republic**.
- We believe in **Republicanism**.

V. Advantages of a Republic

- A. It is more efficient for a large nation.
- B. Wise leaders can be selected who will make wise decisions rather than rash, emotional ones.
- C. Since they are elected by the people, they will, hopefully, serve the people rather than abuse them.
- D. These leaders can protect minority rights from majority abuse.

VI. Dangers that remain

- A. Once elected, can't this government still abuse everyone else just like a tyranny or an oligarchy?
 - 1. Example – The Russian Revolution
- B. Even though the majority cannot violate minority rights directly anymore, can't they just elect people who will do it for them?
 - 1. Example – Early American Southern Politicians

C. Can a government be created
that minimizes these problems
too?

Stay
Tuned!!!!!!