



PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

1.1, 1.2

Basic Powers of Government

- **Governments must have the power in order to make and carry out public policies.**
- **Power is the ability to command or prevent action, the ability to achieve a desired end**

Basic Powers of Government

- **Every government has and exercises three basic kinds of power**
- **Legislative Power: The power to make laws and to frame public policies**
- **Executive Power: The power to execute, enforce, and administer laws**
- **Judicial Power: The power to interpret laws**

Government as Human Invention

- **Government appeared when human beings realized that they could not survive without some way of regulating their own actions, as well as those of their neighbors**
- **The earliest evidence of government can be found all over the world like in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, and India,**

Government as Human Invention

- **Politics is the process by which a society decides how power and resources will be distributed**
- **Politics enables a society to decide who will reap the benefits, and who will pay the cost of its public policies**

The State

- **The State can be defined as a body of people living in a defined territory, organized politically, and with the power to make and enforce law without the consent of a higher authority**
- **The word country is a geographic term, referring to a particular place, region, or area of land**
- **The word state describes a legal entity**

The State

- **Population is needed to make up a state**
- **For a state to exist, people may or may not be homogenous**
- **Homogenous describes members of a group who share customs, common language, and ethnic background**

The State

- **Every state is sovereign, it has the supreme and absolute power within its territory and can decide its own foreign and domestic politics**
- **Thus, every country can determine its form of government, its own economic system, and shape its own foreign policies**

What Government Does

- **Establish Justice: Justice is a concept or an invention of the human mind**
- **Other concepts like truth, liberty, fairness along with justice mean what people want it to mean**

What Government Does

- **Insure Domestic Tranquility: Order is essential to the well-being of any society, and keeping peace at home has always been prime function of government**

What Government Does

- **Provide for the common defense:
Defending the nation against foreign
enemies has always been one of government
major responsibilities**

What Government Does

- **Promote the General Welfare: Services and infrastructure to ensure the people can live a productive life**
- **Ex: Schools, air quality, steel mills, airlines, highways, etc.**

Types of Government

Democracy: The people hold the sovereign power, and government is conducted only by and with the consent of the people

Democracy and be either direct or indirect

Types of Government

WHAT MAKES A STATE?



POPULATION

Large or small, every state must be inhabited—that is, have a population.



TERRITORY

Every state must have land, with known and recognized borders.



SOVEREIGNTY

The state has absolute power within its territory. It can decide its own foreign and domestic policies.



GOVERNMENT

Government is the mechanism through which a state makes and enforces its policies.

Types of Government

- **Republic: In a republic sovereign power is held by those eligible to vote, while political power is exercised by representatives chosen by and held responsible to those citizens**

Types of Government

Authoritarian forms of government such as a dictatorship exist where those who rule can't be held responsible to the will of the people.

These types of governments are not accountable for policies, nor for how they are carried out

There are 2 types of dictatorships: an autocracy and oligarchy

Types of Government

- **Autocracy: a government in which a single person holds unlimited political power**
- **Oligarchy: a government in which the power to rule is held by a small, usually self-appointed elite**
- **Theocracy: Legal system of a state is based on religious law (may or may not fall under the concept of a dictatorship. Usually not)**