Forms of Government

Number Who Participate –

1. **Autocracy** 🡪 Rule By One
	* + Auto = Self.
		+ Literally translated it means “rule by oneself”
	* **Monarchy**
		+ Government in which the ruler’s power is hereditary.
		+ One gains power in a monarchy through inheritance.
		+ Their rule evolved during the Middle Ages in absolutism
			- Absolutism - a form of government in which monarchs had no restraints on their power.
		+ This form of government gave way to democratic forms of government.
		+ Even though their power was gone, the titles still remain. Modern monarchs (like Queen Elizabeth) are ceremonial or constitutional and they do not have much power in the government.
	* **Dictatorship**
		+ A form of government in which an absolute ruler controls the power, often through fear or force, and ignores the will of the people.
		+ No political opposition is allowed.
		+ Have many controls over the citizens.
		+ They seize and keep power by force
2. Rule By A Few 🡪 **Oligarchy**
	* **Aristocracy**
		+ Greek meaning “most virtuous, noblest or finest”
			- Elites
		+ Some aristocracies were determined by social position or wealth.
		+ The Greek Philosopher Pluto believed in Philosopher Kings or rule by the highly educated scholars.
		+ Example: Dukes, Lords, etc.
	* **Theocracy**
		+ The power to rule lies in the hands of a religious group.
		+ Today, Theocracies rarely exist in their true form.
		+ In some countries religious groups still have a powerful influence over the government.
		+ Example: Iran
			- Iranian Revolution 1978. The Shah fled the country and the Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile to Tehran. December 1979 the country approved a theocratic constitution
	* **Political Parties**
		+ Control by a political party.
			- Ex. USSR, China
		+ The political party gained complete control over the government/country.
		+ Examples: The Soviet Union or USSR and China when they were under the control of the communist party.
3. **Rule By Many**
	* **Democracy** - A system of government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives.
		+ **Direct Democracy**
			- A democratic system of government in which all citizens participate in politics and decision-making.
			- This form of government isn’t very easy or practical at a national level.
			- It is used in some small New England towns today, they will still gather once or twice a year to vote directly on major issues and expenditures of the town.
				* Example: New England Town Meetings, Ancient Greece
		+ **Representative Democracy**
			- A democratic system of government in which policies are made by officials accountable to the people who elect them.
			- Criticism – Representatives eventually become elites, and they often make decisions.
			- Making this more like a government of the few rather than a government of the many.
			- Others will argue that those individuals were elected to represent a group of people and that those people (the ones who voted for them) respect their judgment.