Origins of Democracy

1. The Evolution Theory
	* Centered around the idea of family
	* Tribes eventually emerged
	* Creating a system where parents/elders assumed leadership.
		+ Think of your family and who is in charge within your family unit.
2. The Force Theory
	* Governments were forced on people
	* Conquests led to people ruling over each other.
		+ Winners = rulers
		+ Losers = subjects
	* Example: WWII 🡪 Hitler’s blitzkrieg forced other countries to surrender power to Germany.
3. The Divine Right Theory
	* Popular in Europe from the 15th – 18th century
	* Rulers were said to be granted their powers from God.
	* The royals were said to be God’s representation on earth and therefore had the sole right to rule over the people.
		+ Disobeying the King would be like disobeying God.
		+ In other countries, outside of Europe, they also believed that it gave rulers godlike qualities.
4. The Social Contract Theory
	* Government was established and named rulers in order to protect the people from the outside world.
	* This is a result of decisions made freely by the people.
	* Developed in response to the divine right theory.
	* John Locke would say that people gave up certain rights to the government in order for protection, and in exchange for giving up these certain rights to the government; the government had to protect its citizen’s rights of life, liberty, and property.

Geographic Distribution – All countries have capitals, but they differ in how much political power is actually held in the capital.

Systems of Government

1. Unitary System
	* A form of government in which all of the powers of the government are held by a single unit or agency.
	* Local units of government have limited powers, granted to them by the central government.
	* These powers can be easily changed or eliminated by the central government
	* Organized in a variety of different formats.
		+ From Dictators to modern democracies.

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| --- | --- |
| Advantages* Laws and policies are applied in the same way to each citizen
* Avoids costly duplication of government efforts.
 | Disadvantages * If a country becomes too large, geographically, running the government from one location can be very difficult.
	+ Example: Ancient Roman Government
 |

1. Federal System
	* A form of government in which governmental powers are divided between a central authority and a number of regional political subdivisions.



1. Confederations
	* A political system in which a weak central government has limited authority, and the states have ultimate power.

Legislative & Executive Branches

1. Parliamentary System
	* A form of government in which the executive leaders are chosen by and responsible to the legislature.

Case Study – Great Britain

* Bicameral Legislature
	+ Two House
* House of Lords
	+ Upper House
	+ Less Power
* House of Commons
	+ Lower House
	+ More Power
		- PM usually comes from this house
* There is no constitution
* Elections must be called every 5 years
	+ But the PM can call for elections early
* Or the parliament can cast a vote of no confidence in the government
	+ Which usually leads to new elections
* Two Major Political Parties
	+ Conservatives
	+ Labor
* Major third party – Liberal Democrats
* The party that has a majority will be in charge the of government
1. Presidential System
	* A form of government in which the legislature and executive branches are separate and function independently

Case Study – The United States

1. Authoritarian System
	* Depend on the authority of a single figure
	* Citizens are not given free choice

5 Measures of Authoritarian Systems

1. Citizens as subjects
2. Restrictions of Communications and Speech
3. Narrow recruitment of political leaders
4. Rule of individuals, not law
5. No Competitive Elections

Case Study – Communist China