

Topic 17.1 Geopolitics: Government and Society

- **democracy**, democracies (COUNT NOUN)

democratic (ADJ)

democratically (ADVERB)

In a **democracy** the leaders of the society are elected or chosen by its people.

- **communism** (NON COUNT NOUN)
communist (COUNT NOUN)
communist (ADJ)

In a **communist** state there are no social classes, and goods and services are available to all.

- **socialism** (NON COUNT NOUN)
socialist (COUNT NOUN)
socialist (ADJ)

In a **socialist** society the goods and services are controlled by the people.

- **dictator** (COUNT NOUN)
dictatorship (COUNT NOUN)

A **dictatorship** is a type of government ruled by a dictator, who rules over society with complete control and force.

- **totalitarianism** (NON COUNT NOUN)
totalitarian (ADJ)

A **totalitarian** state is one in which the state holds total authority over the society and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life wherever possible.

Tolokonnikova called the charges against them a "political order for repression" and denounced Putin's totalitarian-authoritarian system.

- **theocracy** (COUNT NOUN)

In a **theocracy** the clergy rule and there is no separation between state and religion.

There's no question of the theocracy's hold over certain highly visible aspects of daily life in the towns in Iran.

- **clergy**

The **clergy** are a group of people who perform religious services.

- **constitutional monarchy** (COUNT NOUN)

constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a king or queen acts as Head of State. The ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament, not with the Monarch.

- **executive branch**

The **executive branch** of federal and state government is broadly responsible for implementing, supporting, and enforcing the laws made by the legislative branch and interpreted by the judicial branch.

- **legislative branch**

The **legislative branch** is the branch of the government that writes, debates, and passes laws. Making laws can be called **legislating**.

- **parliament** (COUNT NOUN)
parliamentary (ADJ)

The **parliament** is the national representative body that has legislative powers within the state. The **parliament** is responsible for making and changing laws.

- **judicial branch**

The judicial branch refers to the court systems of local, state, and federal governments, which are responsible for interpreting the laws passed by the legislative branch and enforced by the executive branch

- **court** (COUNT NOUN)

A **court** is a place where cases are settled by a judge.

- **transitional** (ADJ)

If a structure is **transitional**, the need for it is temporary before something permanent is put in place.

In a ceremony late on Wednesday, Libya's first elected assembly took over power from the transitional council that has ruled the country since last year's uprising against longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

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1. Complete each gap with one of the expressions from the box.

government (2x)	democracy	election	transitional	prime minister
presidential elections	constitution	parliamentary		

Four years after street protests forced Ben Ali and his entourage to flee into Saudi Arabian exile, driven out by anger over corruption and repression, Tunisia's _____ is one last step along a shaky path from autocracy to _____.

While in other Arab Spring nations, from Libya, Yemen to Syria, the gun still rules, Tunisian political adversaries have reconciled with the past, approved a new _____ and worked out compromises between once bitter rivals.





"If there is a chance of a _____ of national unity, then I am all for it," Morjane said after his party's Sousse event. "Just as we don't want to be excluded, we will not exclude anyone else. We can take the lessons from the past."

Sunday's _____ vote will elect the 217-member assembly, and that will choose a new _____ to lead the _____ to replace Tunisia's _____ administration. _____ will follow next month.

<http://news.yahoo.com/tunisia-election-tests-transition-autocracy-democracy-154731108.html>

2. Match each person's description with a type of government or society.

totalitarian regime theocracy democracy constitutional monarchy

 Fatima	The law in my country requires that all women, including non-Muslims and tourists, cover our hair and all skin except that on the face and hands when in the presence of men other than close relatives. The law applies to females age nine and up, although some parents cover even their younger daughters.
 John	I mean, the Queen's role in government today is largely ceremonial. She has to act with the advice of ministers, so she's really only doing what she's been told to do when she opens Parliament or appoints the Prime Minister.
 Ivan	When I asked my grandmother, who grew up under Stalin, what it was like to have people in her town just <i>disappear</i> , she said that no one talked about it as no one wanted to ever get <i>caught</i> talking about it.
 Samuel	Citizens in my country have rights. For example, we have the right to speak freely, to practice our religion, to vote, and so on. But we also have responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to choose our leaders. Another is to keep informed about what is going on with our government. It is also the responsibility of citizens to help make their community and neighborhood good places in which to live.

3. Read the text and answer the questions.

separation of powers, division of the legislative, executive and judicial functions of government among separate and independent bodies. Such a separation, it has been argued, limits the possibility of arbitrary excesses by government, since the sanction of all three branches is required for the making, executing, and administering of laws.

<http://www.britannica.com>

- When there is a separation of powers, what are the three separate powers in government?
- Why is it good to separate them?
- How does the system prevent the concentration of power?