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Anarchy

A condition of lawlessness or political disorder brought about by the absence of governmental authority.

Examples: New Orleans after the 2006 Hurricane Katrina; Haiti after the 2010 Earthquake.

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Dictatorship

A form of government in which a ruler or small clique wield absolute power (not restricted by a constitution or laws). Also, a system in which the citizens do not possess the right to choose their own leaders.

Examples: North Korea, Turkmenistan, Hitler's Germany

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6XK-yGi7NA> (Turkmenistan President)

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Monarchy

A government in which the supreme power is lodged in the hands of a monarch (king, queen, prince, duke, etc.) who reigns over a state or territory, usually for life and by hereditary right.

Examples: Kingdom of Tonga
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia <http://www.shura.gov.sa/wps/wcm/connect/ShuraArabic/InternetHome>
 Emirate of Kuwait <http://www.da.gov.kw/>

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Theocracy

A form of government in which a religious leader is recognized as the supreme ruler (Pope, bishops, mullahs, etc)

Examples: Vatican City <http://www.vatican.va/>

Iran <http://www.majlis.ir/>

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Communism

A system of government in which the state plans and controls the economy and a single - often authoritarian - party holds power; state controls are imposed with the elimination of private ownership of property or capital while claiming to make progress toward a higher social order in which all goods are equally shared by the people (i.e., a classless society). In a communist society everyone is, theoretically, treated equally.

Examples: Cuba <http://www.cubagob.cu/>
 Vietnam
 People's Republic of China <http://www.gov.cn/>

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Democracy

A form of government in which the supreme power is retained by the people, but which is usually exercised indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority by elected representatives.

Remember! Democracy means different things in different countries - some countries call themselves democratic, but are not by Canadian standards.

Examples: Canada

Czech Republic <http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/sqw/hp.sqw>

Republic of Kenya

Republic of India <http://india.gov.in/>

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Republic

A representative democracy in which the Head of State is elected into office (typically called a "president"). People's elected deputies (representatives), not the people themselves, vote on legislation.

Examples: United States of America <http://www.whitehouse.gov/our-government>

Argentina <http://www.congreso.gov.ar/>

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Constitutional Monarchy

A system of government in which a monarch (king, queen, prince, duke, etc.) is bound by a constitution whereby his/her rights, duties, and responsibilities are spelled out in written law or by custom. The monarch is not actively involved in policy formation or implementation (i.e., the exercise of sovereign powers by a monarch in a ceremonial capacity); rather, true governmental leadership is carried out by a cabinet and its head - a prime minister, premier, or chancellor - who are drawn from a legislature (parliament).

Examples: New Zealand <http://newzealand.govt.nz/>

Denmark <http://denmark.dk/en>

Jamaica <http://www.jjis.gov.jm/>

Canada <http://www.canada.gc.ca/>

The Netherlands <http://www.government.nl/>

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Socialism

A government in which the means of planning, producing, and distributing goods is controlled by a central government that theoretically seeks a more just and equitable distribution of property and labour.

Examples: Norway <http://www.regjeringen.no/en.html?id=4>

Sweden <http://www.sweden.gov.se/>

Iceland <http://www.government.is/>

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Confederation

A union by compact or treaty between states, provinces, or territories, that creates a central government with certain powers; the states or provinces retain supreme authority over all matters except those delegated to the central government.

Examples: Switzerland <http://www.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en>

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