

Global Perspectives
Political Science Unit
Section 2

Power is needed in order to govern

No government can exist without power, or control over others.

Before you read any further, what are some ways governments can keep control over their people?

Amounts of control:

Range from “totalitarian” –

To “free” –

Societies may change the degree of freedom citizens have when conditions change. What are some limitations even the U.S. government has used in the past?

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Relativity of power:

Read paragraph and then explain this saying: “He’s a big fish in a little pond.”

Uses of power:

Explain this famous quote: “Power tends to corrupt [to make dishonest, crooked, or shady], and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Why did early American leaders think that a government with limited powers was the best type of government?

Some governments rule without the people's consent

Define "monarchy":

What is the difference between an "absolute monarch" and a "constitutional monarch"?

The ancient Greeks thought that a monarchy was corrupted (or spoiled) by a "dictatorship" or "tyranny." How does a dictator/tyrant rule? How does he (or she) gain power?

Name three 20th century dictators who ruled during the time of WWII.

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

What two things did all 3 men do once they got power?

Define “aristocracy”:

What made these people “the best”?

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**The Greeks thought the bad form of the aristocracy was the “oligarchy.”
What type of government is this?**

What is the modern-day form of an oligarchy?

Some governments are chosen by the people

Define “democracy”:

What was the world’s first democracy?

Define “republic”:

What was the world’s first republic?

What is the difference between a democracy and a republic?

Why is the United States often called a “representative democracy” or a “democratic republic”?

Define “anarchy”:

In your opinion, can anarchy last a long time? Why or why not?

Governmental structures vary

Diagrams of three types of governmental structures

1. Parliamentary systems (Great Britain)

2. Presidential systems (United States)

3. Autocratic systems (Cuba, North Korea)