Forms of Government

Unitary, Federation, and Confederation
Global Distribution of Governments

Green: Federation

Blue: Unitary
Unitary Governments

• One central government is in control of smaller states or entities with very little to no shared power
  – Ex. The United Kingdom, China, Saudi Arabia

**Centralized Power**: Power held by a central authority
Forms of Unitary Governments

• Autocracy – Power typically held by one person or a small group of people
  – Dictatorship – Governmental power controlled by one person
  – Monarchy – Governmental power controlled by a hereditary king or queen.
  – Oligarchy – Governmental power controlled by a group of people or particular political party
  – Theocracy – Governmental power and religious power are linked one in the same
Case Study: China

• Has been ruled by the Chinese Communist Party since 1949
  – Idealistic attempt to form Communist State
    • State planned economy and controls
    • Elimination of private ownership
    • Attempted equal distribution of goods
  – Has a National Congress
    • People have very little real power
Federalist Governments

• Power is shared between a large national government and smaller state or provincial governments. Smaller entities are allowed some self rule.
  – Ex. Australia, Brazil, Germany, the United States

De-Centralized Power: Power distributed away from the central authority
Forms of Federations

- Democratic – Government power derived from the people
  - Presidential – The President is constitutionally independent from the legislature
  - Parliamentary – Electors select representatives who then select a prime minister
  - Constitutional Monarchy – Power is constitutionally divided between a monarch and a parliament

- Republic – Electors vote to select representatives to serve in the government
  - As opposed to a direct democracy where citizens vote directly on governmental issues
Case Study: The United States

- Officially the United States is a democratically elected Constitution-Based Presidential Federal Republic
  - Voters select representatives to serve in the legislative branch and indirectly vote for the President.
Confederations

• Power is mostly divided between the individual states with a much weaker central government
  – Ex. The Articles of Confederation, Confederate States of America
Case Study: The Confederate States of America

• Incorporated many of the elements of the US Constitution
• Power divided between Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches
• National power derived from 11 member states