

SS.7.C.3.1

Compare different forms of government (direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).

Direct Democracy

- every citizen votes on almost every decision
- no protection for rights of minorities
- used in ancient Athens
- seldom used in modern times
- not practical for large populations

Representative Democracy

- can be a "Republic" (USA) or "Constitutional Monarchy" (England)
- citizens elect leaders to make most decisions
- elected legislature makes laws

Absolute Monarchy

- King/Queen runs the country

Constitutional Monarchy

- King/Queen has only limited power
- elected legislature has more power than the monarch

Socialism

- Government runs much of the economy & owns some businesses & factories
- some countries have partial socialism, such as government runs health care

Communism

- most complete form of socialism
- only a few communist countries remain after collapse of USSR in 1991

Oligarchy

- a small group has complete power

Autocracy

- one person has total power
- All communist countries have been autocracies
- Absolute Monarchy is a type of autocracy
- Synonyms: dictatorship, totalitarian, authoritarian, tyranny