

# Government Notes

A government is a set of rules and institutions that people set up to function together as a unified society.

<b>Do we even need government?</b>	
<u>Reasons we DO need them</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They make laws</li><li>• They keep and maintain order</li><li>• They pay for police, teacher, roads, etc.</li></ul>	<u>Reasons to get RID of them</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some laws discriminate/ we don't agree with them</li><li>• Gov. can be too controlling</li><li>• Take people's \$- taxes</li></ul>

From the video, the social contract states: Citizens give up some of their rights and freedoms to the government in order for the government to make laws that protect them

- Government is supposed to get its power from the People.

<b>Forms of governments</b>	
<u>Democracy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government by the people</li><li>• People vote for leaders in elections</li><li>• Elections are held regularly</li><li>• Many freedoms and rights for the people</li></ul>	<u>Autocracy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Government controlled by one person</li><li>• Citizens have no say in who their leader is</li><li>• Very little freedoms and rights for the people</li></ul>

Difference between Parliamentary and Presidential Democracy in a drawing:

## Europe Governments Notes

### United Kingdom

- UK has a **constitutional monarchy** where the monarch has very little power.
  - It also has a **parliamentary democracy** where power in the government resides with who the citizens elect to Parliament (lawmakers).
- Citizens can vote when they are 18 and above for members of Parliament.
  - Parliament will choose one among them to be Prime Minister
- Citizens enjoy many rights and freedoms

### Germany

- Germany is a **parliamentary democracy** where people vote for parliament (lawmakers) and then parliament chooses one among them to be the chancellor.
- People can vote at the age of 18
- Citizens enjoy many rights and freedoms

### Russia

- Russia has a "**presidential democracy**"
- Vladimir Putin, the current president acts more like a dictator. He recently changed the constitution so he is able to stay in power until 2036.
- People can vote at the age of 18 but the votes are not accurately counted.
- Lawmakers in the country have very little power
- Citizens have very few rights and freedoms