

# **SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT**

**A  
Comparative  
Analysis**

# ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

- Rule by one individual
- Power passed down through generations
- Authority is usually unquestioned
- Only way to remove is usually through revolt

# CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

- Governed by a traditional Monarch AND a separate legislative body
- A constitution LIMITS the power of the Monarch
- Legislative body is usually PARLIAMENTARY
- Often, the Monarch handles ceremonial responsibilities

# PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

- An elected body that serves as both the legislative and executive branches of government
- Members of the Parliament choose a “Head of Government” to act as a “chief executive”
- The power of the “chief executive” comes from the legislative body

# DEMOCRACY

- **A system in which all eligible people have a direct say in the government**
- **Originated in Ancient Greece**

# REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

- **Eligible citizens choose delegates to act on their behalf in the government**
- **Based on the Roman Republic**

# CONFEDERATION

- **An organization that consists of a group of parties or states in an alliance or league**
- **More or less permanent**
- **Central ruling body often has VERY limited power over the group**

# OLIGARCHY

**Government by the few**

**Often influenced by wealth, family ties, educational background, corporate ties, and/or military control**

**May be dictatorial, but not necessarily**