



## **Types of Government**

### **Anarchy**

Anarchy is a situation where there is no government.

This can happen after a civil war in a country, when a government has been destroyed and rival groups are fighting to take its place.

There are also people called anarchists. They believe that any government is a bad thing - this belief is called anarchism.

Anarchists think governments stop people organizing their own lives. Instead they think people would be better off if they ruled their own lives and worked together to create a society in any form they choose.

### **Federal government**

In this type of system, a central government shares power with a number of small local governments.

The USA is a type of this, called a federal republic.

### **Dictatorship**

This is a country ruled by a single leader.

The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control.

In a military dictatorship, the army is in control.

### **Republic**

A republic is a country that has no monarch.

The head of the country is usually an elected president.

### **Monarchy**

A monarchy has a king or queen.

In some traditional monarchies, the monarch has absolute power.

But a constitutional monarchy, like the UK, also has a democratic government that limits the monarch's control.

**Communist**

In a communist country, the government owns things like businesses and farms. It provides its people's healthcare, education and welfare.

**Totalitarian state**

This is a country with only one political party. People are forced to do what the government tells them and may also be prevented from leaving the country.

**Transitional**

A country that is changing from one type of government to another has a transitional government.

For example, a dictatorship may turn into a democracy after the dictator dies.

The change between governments can take several years.

**Regional or local**

This is a government or council that controls a smaller area within a country.

Some local governments have very limited powers and are mainly controlled by the central government.

Others are powerful enough to make their own laws, like individual states in the USA.

**Revolutionary government**

If a government is overthrown by force, the new ruling group is sometimes called a revolutionary government.

**Democracy**

In a democracy, the government is elected by the people.

Everyone who is eligible to vote has a chance to have their say over who runs the country.

**Capitalist**

In a capitalist or free-market country, people can own their own businesses and property.

People can also buy services for private use, such as healthcare.

But most capitalist governments also provide their own education, health and welfare services.