Types of Political Systems

Democracy

A system of government of a country whose leaders have been elected by the people. Democracy has two forms. It can be direct, in which all decisions are taken by all adult citizens, or it can be indirect, or representative, in which case citizens elect their leaders who represent them in the government.

Monarchy

A monarchy is a form of government led by an individual who holds the position for life, having inherited the position, and who passes it on to a relative, usually a son or daughter.

Republic

A republic is a country whose head of government is an elected or chosen president.

A republic may or may not be democratic. In a democratic republic, the people choose their leaders through elections, although in countries where president is a ceremonial role, it may be by government appointment rather than by election.
Military Dictatorship

In a military dictatorship, the army has absolute power. Sometimes a country run by dictatorship may be called a republic. Such republics have only one political party and the Dictator makes most government policies and decisions.

Oligarchy

An oligarchy is a form of government in which only a few wealthy people hold power. A republic may be an oligarchy if just a few people have the right to vote. In most oligarchies, the power of the leadership is supported by the wealthy and the military.

Theocracy

In theocracy, religious leaders rule the country. In theocratic countries, one religion is proclaimed to be official while other religions are typically discouraged or even persecuted.
Empire

System where a centralized ruler or government has control over diverse peoples outside of its immediate borders.

The Roman Empire