

Reference Sheet: Types of Government

Democracy

- **Power:** People or representatives vote to make decisions.
- **Strength:** Citizens have a say.
- **Weakness:** Decisions can take a long time, tyranny of the majority.

Autocracy

- **Power:** One person (king/queen or dictator) rules, often for life.
- **Strength:** Clear line of leadership.
- **Weakness:** Citizens may have little to no say, arbitrary rule of one person.

Theocracy

- **Power:** Religious leaders govern, laws based on religion.
- **Strength:** Consistent with shared beliefs.
- **Weakness:** Limited freedom for those with different beliefs.

Oligarchy

- **Power:** **Small** group of people (wealthy, military, elite) rule.
- **Strength:** Group decisions, not just one person
- **Weakness:** Ordinary people often excluded, leaders often make decisions for their own good.

Reference Sheet: Types of Economies

Capitalism

- **Who controls resources?** Businesses and individuals.
- **Key idea:** Free market, competition, private ownership.
- **Strength:** Encourages innovation and growth.
- **Weakness:** Can create inequality and poverty.

Socialism

- **Who controls resources?** The government provides many services, but individuals still own some businesses.
- **Key idea:** Redistribution of wealth, government safety nets.
- **Strength:** Reduces inequality, ensures basic needs are met.
- **Weakness:** Higher taxes and government control can reduce incentives.

Communism

- **Who controls resources?** The government owns everything; no private property.
- **Key idea:** Everyone shares equally in work and wealth.
- **Strength:** No class divisions.
- **Weakness:** Often limits freedom and efficiency; historically leads to shortages.

Fascism

- **Who controls resources?** Government and powerful leaders control the economy, but businesses may exist if they serve the state.
- **Key idea:** Extreme nationalism, obedience, government direction of the economy.
- **Strength:** Strong central control, rapid mobilization.
- **Weakness:** Crushes individual freedoms, often violent and oppressive.