



Chapter 6

Democratic Regimes



1. Democracy

Clicker question: A state with _____ should be defined as a nondemocracy.

- A. a hereditary monarch
- B. an official, state-sanctioned religion
- C. a legislative body that is not subject to elections
- D. None of the above; a country with any of these features might still be a democracy.



1. Democracy

- Origin of the term
 - *Demos*, “the common people”
 - *Kratia*, “power” or “rule”
- Modern definition
 - Political power exercised either directly or indirectly through participation, competition, and liberty



1. Democracy

- Forms of democracy
 - Liberal democracy
- Direct versus indirect democracy
- Republicanism
 - Separation of powers
 - Indirect representation



1. Democracy

- History of democracy
 - Ancient Greece (Athens): a small community of direct democracy
 - Few fixed institutions
 - Rome: Republicanism
 - Fixed institutions, with divided roles
 - England: Magna Carta (1215)
 - Limits power of monarchy and establishes rights
 - Taxes and borrowing controlled by parliament



2. Democratization

- Why do some countries become democracies?
 - And why not others?
- Several possible explanations
 - Modernization
 - Elites
 - Civil society
 - International relations
 - Political culture



2. Democratization

- Modernization
 - Main idea: as societies modernize economically,
 - A middle class emerges
 - Their population becomes wealthier, better educated, and more urbanized
 - Old traditions of authority and hierarchy weaken
 - New values (tolerance, gender equality) emerge
 - The evidence: *most* democracies are wealthy countries
 - The problem: there are many examples of countries that have modernized without democratizing



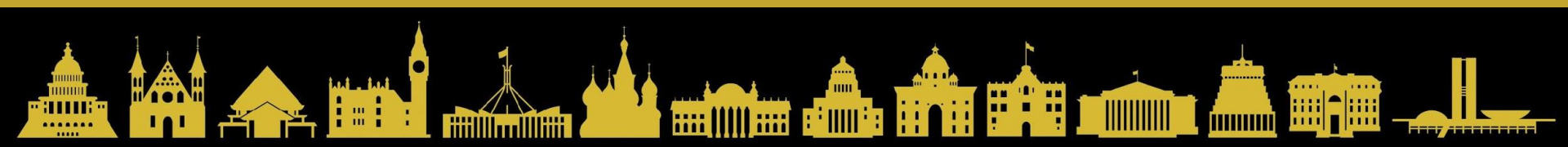
2. Democratization

- Elites
 - Main idea: distributions of wealth and power matter
 - When the state controls wealth, those in power are unlikely to give up control of the state
 - Examples: elites may choose democracy if it
 - Means they can keep their wealth (South Africa)
 - Wins them more international support (Taiwan)
 - Protects their assets from seizure (Chile)



2. Democratization

- Society
 - Main idea: the public will be better able to push for reform if there is a strong **civil society**
 - Civil society: life outside the state
- Examples
 - Civil society groups pushed for the end of communism in Eastern Europe
 - China limits environmental or religious groups, even when they are not explicitly political



2. Democratization

- International relations
 - Main idea: international actors can play a direct or indirect role in promoting democracy
 - Examples
 - Occupation of Japan and Germany after World War II
 - European Union (EU) pressures (including foreign investment and trade incentives) support democratization in Eastern Europe
 - Transmission of ideas through education, media, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) influences the Egyptian Revolution



2. Democratization

- Political culture
 - Main idea: Western-style values are key to democracy.
 - Individualism, secularism, gender equality
 - The evidence: historically, almost all democracies were in Western Europe or North America
 - The problem: democracy exists outside the West



3. Democratic institutions

- Executive
 - Head of state versus head of government
- Legislature
 - Chambers (bicameral or unicameral)
 - Power and selection
- Judiciary
 - Rule of law
 - Constitutional courts and judicial review
- Political parties



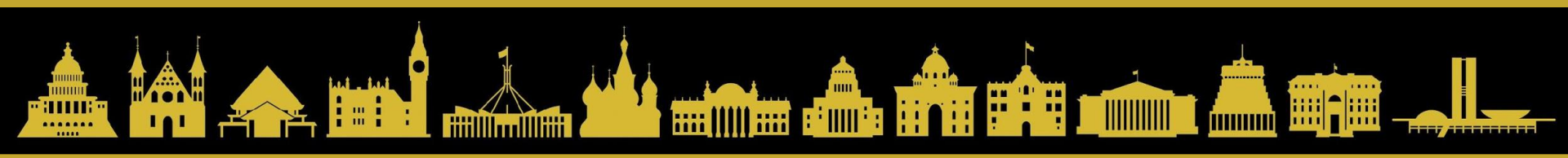
3. Democratic institutions

The executive

- Branch of government that carries out laws and policies of the state

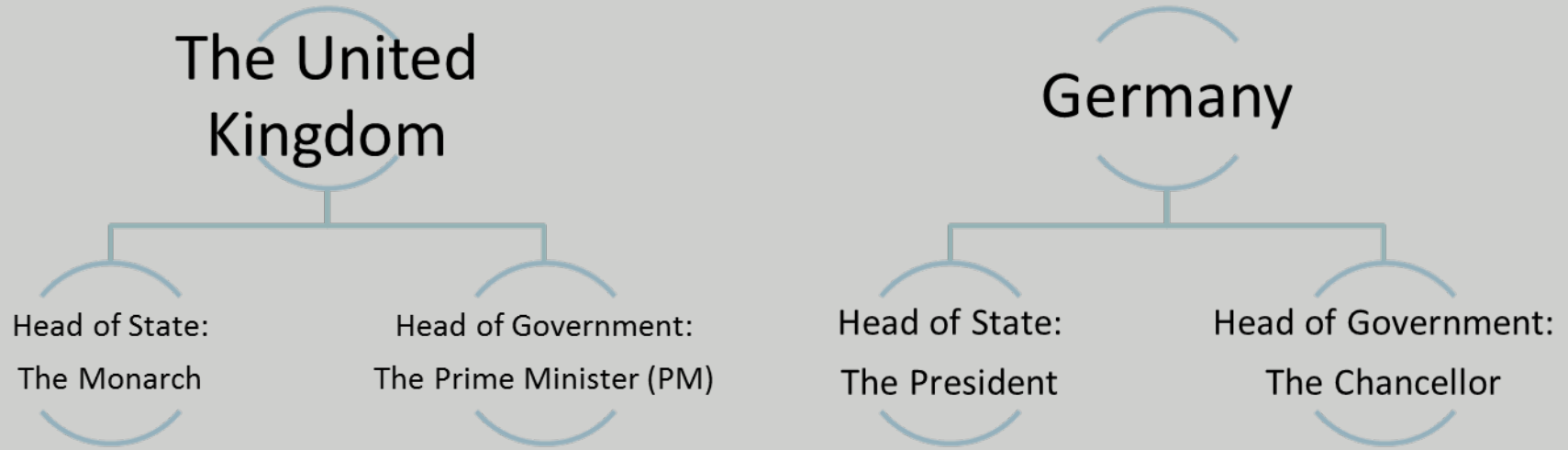
Two distinct roles

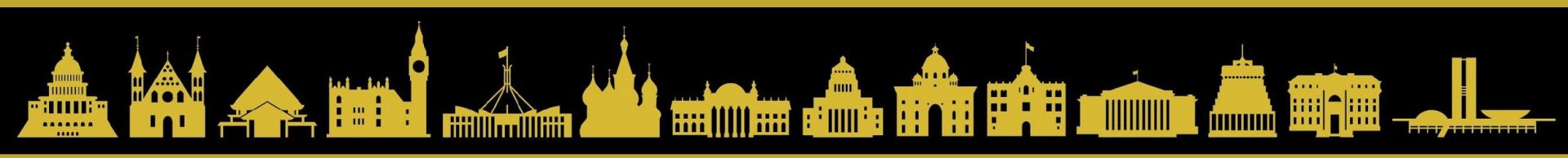
- Head of state
 - Symbolic, embodiment of the people
 - Sometimes conducts international affairs
- Head of government
 - Runs the state and leads the government
 - Makes national policies
 - Directs officers and ministers



3. Democratic institutions

- Examples of countries that divide the role





3. Democratic institutions

- Examples of countries that combine the role...

The United States



South Africa





3. Democratic institutions

Clicker question: Who is the head of state in Canada? Hint: the person appears on Canadian coins.

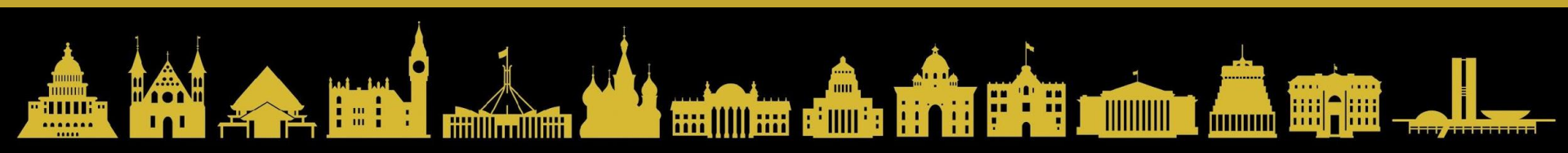
- A. prime minister
- B. governor general
- C. British monarch
- D. Speaker of Parliament



3. Democratic institutions

- Legislature:
 - The branch of government that makes laws

- Legislatures can be
 - Unicameral
 - Common in small, homogenous countries
 - Bicameral
 - Common in larger, more diverse countries
 - Often related to federalism
 - Houses may be elected using different rules



3. Democratic institutions

Unicameral Legislatures

- Denmark
- Norway
- Tunisia
- Greece
- New Zealand
- Estonia
- Nebraska state legislature

Bicameral Legislatures

- United Kingdom
- United States
- Germany
- Belgium
- Brazil
- India
- South Africa



3. Democratic institutions

- Variation in how representatives are chosen
 - **Direct election**
 - United States (House and Senate)
 - France (Assembly)
 - Germany (Bundestag)
 - United Kingdom (Commons)
 - **Indirect election**
 - France (Senate)
 - Germany (Bundesrat)
 - **Heredity and appointment**
 - United Kingdom (House of Lords)



3. Democratic institutions

- Judiciary
 - Maintains and upholds the rule of law
 - **Rule of law:** all individuals and groups, including those in government, are subject to the law irrespective of their power or authority
 - Courts interpret applications of laws
 - Judge criminal complaints
 - Rule on civil suits
 - National courts have a hierarchy
 - The losers in a case can usually appeal to a higher court



3. Democratic institutions

- Judiciary: constitutional courts
 - Possesses **judicial review**
 - Abstract review
 - Political leaders can refer questions to a court, often before laws are passed.
 - Example: French Constitutional Council
 - Concrete review
 - Citizens use court cases to challenge a law after its passage.
 - Example: U.S. Supreme Court
 - Ninety percent of democracies have a constitutional court



3. Democratic institutions

- Political parties
 - Promote
 - Participation
 - Competition
 - Governance and policy making
 - Accountability
 - Some countries have two parties and others have more
 - Party systems are impacted by electoral systems



4. Executive Systems

Clicker question: When are governments most responsive to voters?

- A. When powers are divided between branches of government so that no one branch is powerful enough to subvert the public will
- B. When power is unified in one single branch so the public can more easily control it through elections



4. Executive Systems

- How do the three branches of government relate to one another?
- Three models
 - Parliamentary systems
 - Legislative and executive branches are fused
 - Presidential systems
 - Separation of powers between executive and legislature
 - Semi-presidential systems
 - A hybrid; two executives



4. Executive Systems

- Major comparisons

	Parliamentary Systems	Presidential Systems
How is the executive chosen?	<p>Indirect Election</p> <p>Voters → Parliament → Government (PM and Cabinet)</p>	<p>Direct Election</p> <p>Voters → Parliament</p> <p>Voters → President</p>
How frequent are elections?	<p>Fluid election cycle</p> <p>Vote of no confidence</p> <p>PM calls new election</p> <p>Time's up</p>	<p>Fixed election cycle</p>



4. Executive Systems

- Major comparisons

	Parliamentary Systems	Presidential Systems
Who is the primary initiator of legislation?	Prime minister and cabinet	Legislature
Relations between the branches of government	<p>Fusion of legislature and executive</p> <p>Parliament and judiciary may be weaker branches</p> <p>Prime minister can easily be replaced between elections</p>	<p>Separation of powers</p> <p>Co-equal branches</p> <p>Difficult to replace the executive between elections</p>



4. Executive Systems

- Major comparisons

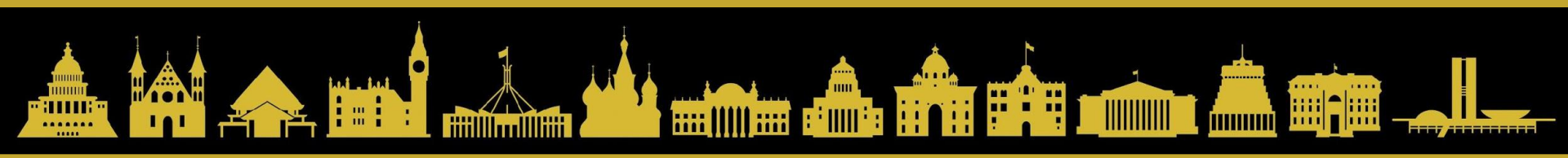
	Parliamentary Systems	Presidential Systems
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More responsiveEasier to pass legislationEasy to replace executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National mandatePresident is directly elected by voters
Drawbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Due to indirect elections, public may feel it has less control over the executive and passing of legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Divided government may deadlock legislationDifficult to remove the president



4. Executive Systems

- The hybrid system

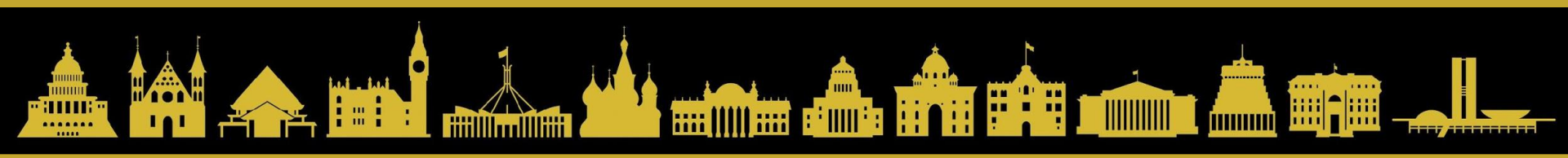
Semi-Presidential Systems	
How is the executive chosen?	Direct Election <pre>graph LR; Voters --> Parliament; Voters --> President; Parliament --> Prime_minister[Prime minister];</pre>
How frequent are elections?	Fixed election cycle



4. Executive Systems

- The hybrid system

Semi-Presidential Systems	
Who is the primary initiator of legislation?	Depends on the country
Relations between the branches of government	Dual executive Neither fused nor separated



4. Executive Systems

- The hybrid system...

Semi-Presidential Systems

Benefits

President and PM share power and responsibilities and create a public mandate (president) plus support of parliamentary coalition

Drawbacks

Conflict between PM and president may deadlock system

Presidents can use powers to dismantle democracy



5. Elections



An Indonesian voter casts her ballot

- How do voters choose their representatives?
- We might compare
 - Do they elect candidates, parties, or both?
 - How many people represent each constituency?
 - ***District magnitude***
 - How do they calculate the winner or winners?



5. Elections

- Single-member district (SMD) systems

	Plurality (First past the post)	Majority (Runoff)
Voters select candidates or parties?	Candidates	Candidates
How many representatives for each constituency?	One	One
Who wins?	The candidate with the most votes	The candidate with a majority of votes • May require a runoff election

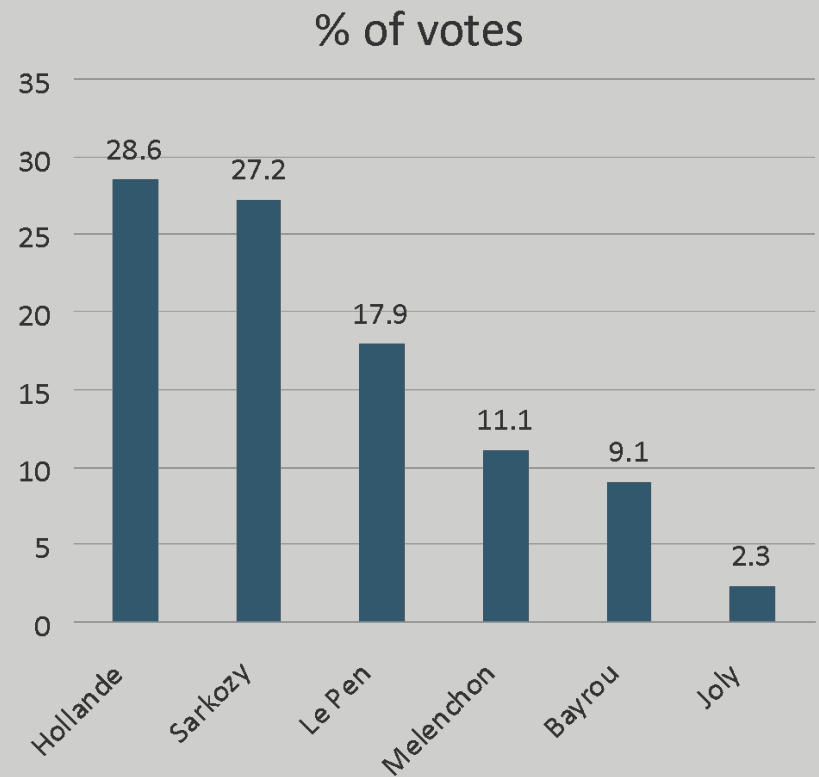


5. Elections

Round 1

2012 French Presidential Election

- Nathalie Arthaud
- François Bayrou
- Jacques Cheminade
- Nicolas Dupont-Aignan
- François Hollande
- Eva Joly
- Marine Le Pen
- Jean-Luc Mélenchon
- Philippe Poutou
- Nicolas Sarkozy



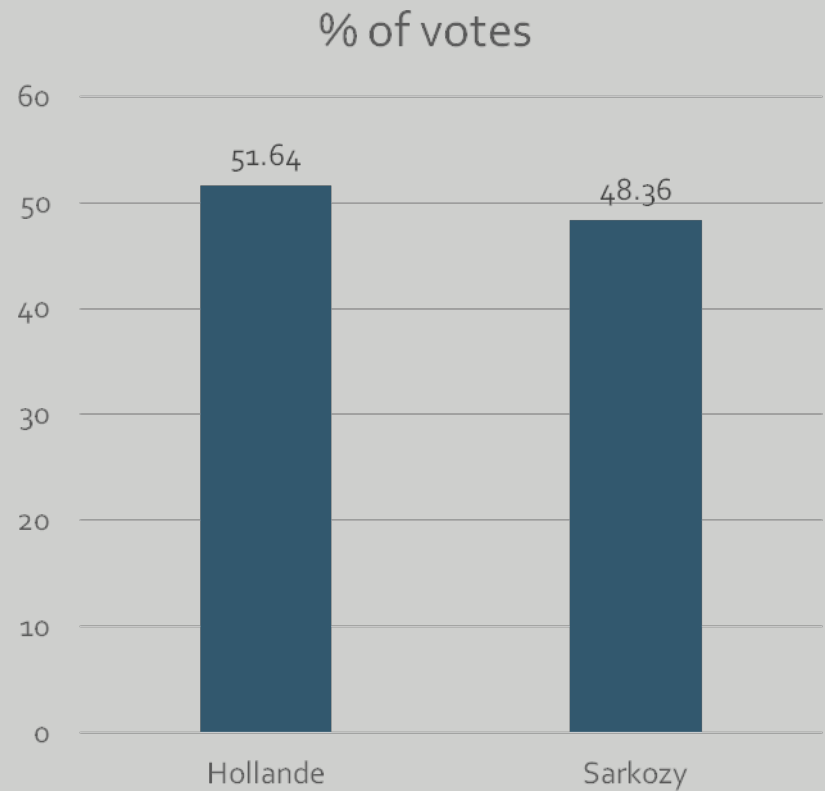


5. Elections

Round 2

2012 French Presidential Election

- François Hollande
- Nicolas Sarkozy





5. Elections

Preferential voting

- Voters *rank-order* candidates
 - Low-ranking candidates are eliminated
 - Votes are redistributed to the voter's second choice
- Variants
 - Alternative voting
 - Instant runoff
 - Single transferable vote (STV)



5. Elections

- Multimember district (MMD) systems

	Proportional Representation (PR)	Mixed
Voters select candidates or parties?	Parties	Both
How many representatives for each constituency?	Many (2+)	One and many
Who wins?	Parties receive seats based on percentage (proportion) of the votes they receive •Some countries use thresholds	It depends •Parallel voting •Mixed member proportional



5. Elections

PR

Examples

Netherlands

- 150 members of parliament
- 1 national list
 - All 150 members
- District magnitude = 150

South Africa

- 400 members of parliament
- 2 PR Lists:
 - National list □ 200 members
 - Regional list □ 9 districts
 - 4–43 members
- District magnitude = 4–200



5. Elections

Mixed Examples

Mexico

- 500 members of parliament
- Parallel voting
 - SMD list: 300 candidates
 - 200 from 1 nationwide, PR constituency
- District magnitude = 1 and 200

Germany

- 598+ members of parliaments
- Mixed member proportional system
 - SMD list: 299 members
 - 299+ from 1 nationwide, PR constituency
- District magnitude = 1 & 299+



5. Elections

Majority/Plurality Systems

- Fewer and larger parties
 - Clear mandates
 - Political accountability
- Less representative
- Disproportional results

Proportional Representation

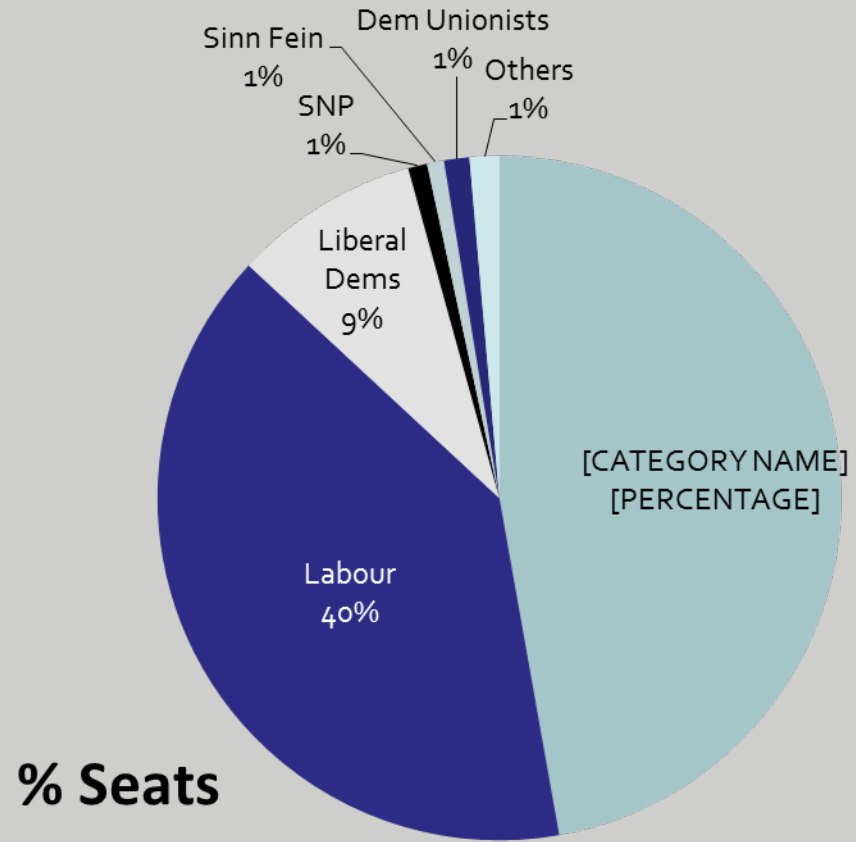
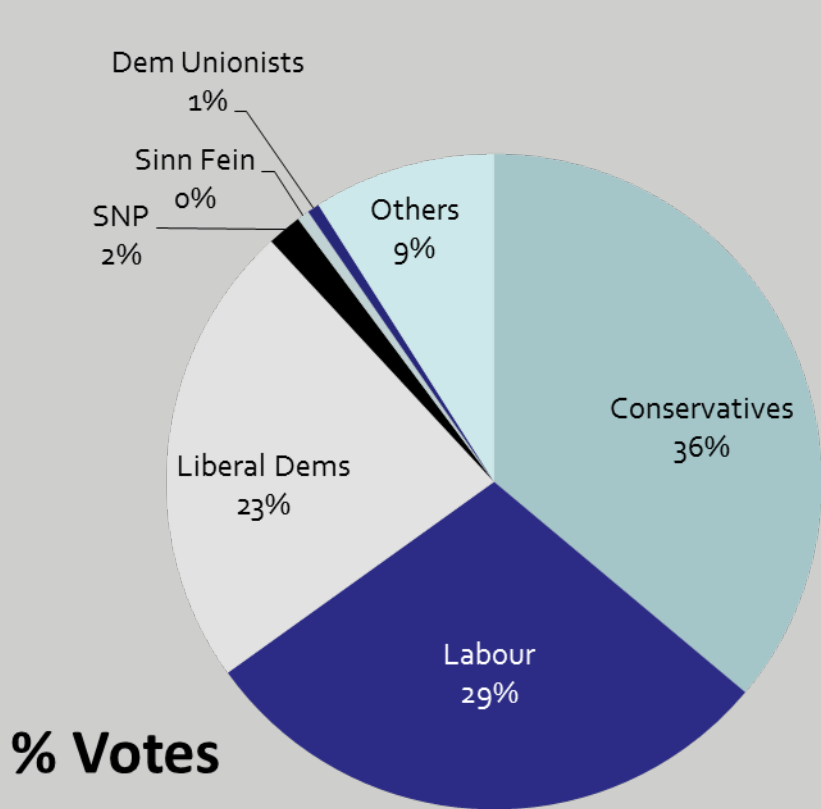
- More and smaller parties
 - More representative
- Risk of fragmentation

Advantages and Disadvantages



5. Elections

FPTP rules

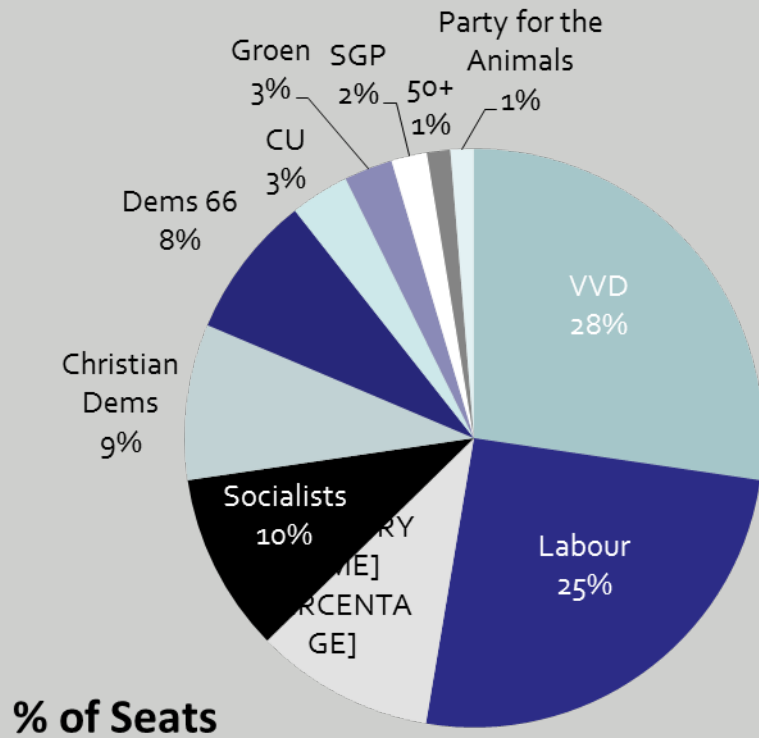
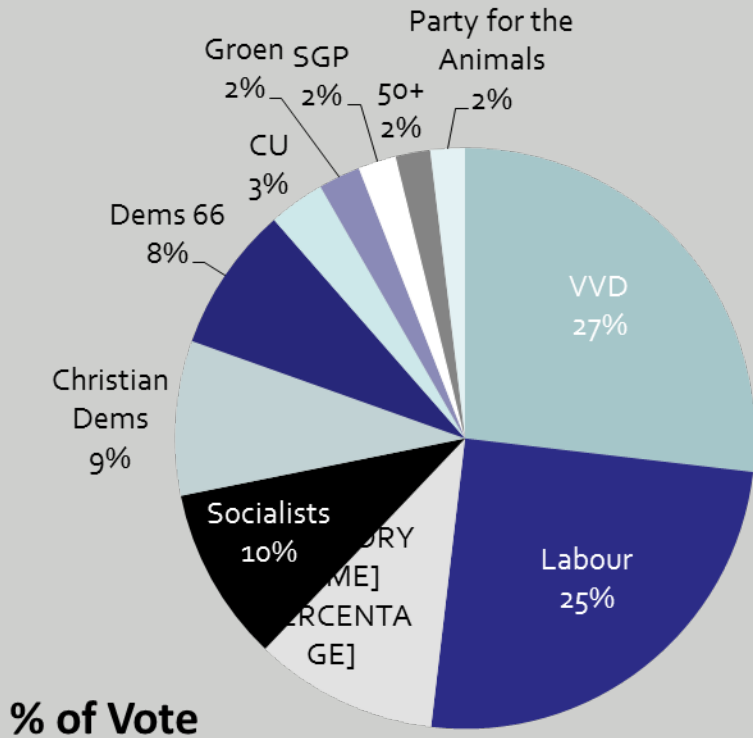


The 2010 UK election



5. Elections

PR rules



The 2012 Netherlands election



5. Elections

Clicker question: Which electoral system does the United States use?

- A. proportional representation
- B. first past the post
- C. majority voting
- D. preferential voting



5. Elections

Clicker question: Which of the following countries uses a mixed electoral system?

- A. United States
- B. United Kingdom
- C. South Africa
- D. Mexico



6. Rights and Liberties

Clicker question: Where do rights come from?

- A. Rights are natural; people have them whether or not states recognize them.
- B. Rights are created by states; they are chosen as a result of a political process, so people only have those rights that get recognized politically.



6. Rights and Liberties

- Civil rights: promotion of equality
- Civil liberties: promotion of freedom
- Differences across states
 - Specificity of constitutional protections
 - Actions by courts to defend rights and liberties
 - Ideas about central role of state



6. Rights and Liberties

Clicker question: Is universal health care a right?

- A. Yes
- B. No



7. Summary

1. Modern democracy is based on participation, competition, and liberty. It can be practiced directly or indirectly.
2. Democratization is shaped by economic, political, social, and international forces.
3. While all democracies have these institutions, they differ in how their executive, legislative, judicial, and political party systems are constructed.



7. Summary

4. Parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems offer different choices on legislative-executive relations.
5. There are many different ways to elect representatives.
6. Democracies vary in terms of the specific rights and liberties they include in their constitutions.