Government - Systems and Types

**Systems of Government: Who has the power????**

**Confederation:**  Weak central power – regional/states have all the power and make their own rulers

Participation in confederation is voluntary (Ex. European Union, British Commonwealth)

**Federal**: Power is shared (divided) between central government and regional/state governments. (Ex. Germany, USA, Brazil, Mexico, Canada)

**Unitary:** Strong central government has all the power. (Ex. United Kingdom, Cuba)

**Types of Government:**

**Who participates in the government? (making the rules)**

**Autocracy** : One Ruler (Dictator or Monarch) Absolute power – No citizen (people) participation – (Ex. Cuba)

**Democracy** : People (citizens) vote for their leader (directly or indirectly)- Most citizen participation (Ex. United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, USA)

**Oligarchy** : Small group – makes all the rules/laws – this group is normally based on wealth and/or power – Little citizen participation (Ex. medieval governments – there are no oligarchies today)

**Democracy: Parliamentary v. Presidential**

**Parliamentary:**

People vote for the parliament (legislature)

The Parliament elects the leader Prime Minister (not the people). Prime Minister answers to the parliament (legislature).

The people indirectly vote for their leader,

The leader is the Prime Minister.

**Presidential:**

Legislature is broken into branches – People directly elect the legislature.

The legislative branches are separate. This is called separation of power.

People vote directly for the President. The president is the leader. President answers to the voters (people) not the legislature.

Legislature has checks and balance. No one branch of the legislature can overturn another.