



Why a Constitutional Republic?:  
 SS.7.CG.3.1  
**Forms of Government**  
**READING #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SS.7.CG.3.1 Benchmark Clarification 2:** Students will identify different forms of government based on their political philosophy or organizational structure.

There are many different forms of government around the world. Some governments are more representative of the people, such as the United States. A church rules some governments, while just a few wealthy people control others. There are even governments that just one person rules.

Form of Government	Political Philosophy
Direct Democracy	a form of government in which the power to govern is directly in the hands of the people rather than elected representatives
Representative Democracy	A representative democracy is also known as a republic. In this form of government, a country is governed by representatives elected by the citizens. In a republic, all adult citizens have the right to vote. A constitution limits the power of the government.
Monarchy	A monarchy is a form of government where power is held by one person who has been born into the ruling family, also known as an absolute monarchy. Monarchs may rule for life. Many monarchs have constitutions they must follow; this is known as a constitutional monarchy.
Oligarchy	An oligarchy is a form of government where a small group of wealthy people rules a country. In this form of government, the power is held by the rich.
Autocracy	An autocracy is a form of government where one leader has unlimited power. Examples of autocracies are <b>dictatorships</b> (such as a military dictator) and absolute monarchies (such as a king or queen who has all the power with no constitution to limit their power).
Theocracy	A theocracy is a form of government in which priests or religious leaders rule in the name of a <b>deity</b> or deities. The government leader is thought to serve through his “divine right” and represent God on Earth. The word theocracy comes from two Greek words literally meaning God-government.

**dictator** - a military leader who becomes the head of a country, often by force

**deity** - a god or goddess