



Why a Constitutional Republic?:
 SS.7.CG.3.1
Forms of Government
READING #3

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.1 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will analyze scenarios describing various forms of government.

Form of Government	Scenario
Direct Democracy	Some Native American tribes organize themselves by having all male adult members of the tribe vote to make changes to the laws.
Representative Democracy/ Republic	In the United States, citizens elect representatives at the national, state, and local levels of government who make decisions for the people.
Monarchy	In the 20 th century, monarchs have generally become symbols of national unity, while real power is held by elected officials who follow a constitution.
Oligarchy	In England in 1215, a small group of wealthy, powerful men forced the king to share power with them.
Autocracy	Most leaders who started World War I were the few remaining absolute monarchs of Europe. In World War II, many who started the war were dictators , such as those in Germany, Japan, and Italy.
Absolute Monarchy	In early European history, government power was held by kings and queens who ruled with unlimited powers.
Constitutional Monarchy	The United Kingdom is commonly referred to as the British monarchy. The King, Charles III, is the “head of state” or ceremonial figurehead, while a Parliament runs the government, led by a prime minister.
Theocracy	The Pope in the Vatican City is the bishop of Rome and the head religious leader of the Catholic Church.

absolute monarchy - a form of autocracy where a person becomes the sole leader of a country by being born into a family of rulers; there are no limits on the monarch's power

autocracy - a form of government where one person has unlimited power

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

direct democracy - a form of government in which the power to govern is directly in the hands of the people rather than elected representatives

monarchy - a form of government headed by a king or queen who inherits the position, rules for life, and holds power that can range anywhere between limited to absolute

oligarchy - a form of government in which a small group (often of wealthy people) has total control and power

representative democracy/republic - a form of government in which the people elect representatives to make laws for them

theocracy - a form of government in which priests or religious leaders' rule in the name of a deity or deities.