



Why a Constitutional Republic?:
 SS.7.CG.3.1
Forms of Government
READING #4

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.3.1 Benchmark Clarification 4: Students will explain how the application of checks and balances, consent of the governed, democracy, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative government, republicanism, rule of law and separation of powers distinguishes the United States' constitutional republic from authoritarian and totalitarian nations.

Form of Government	Democracy	Totalitarian	Authoritarian
Country	United States	North Korea	Russia
separation of powers	✓ Three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.	✓ Three branches: administrative, legislative, and judicial. However, they are not independent of each other but are under the leadership of the only political party in Korea, "Workers' Party of Korea" (WPK).	☒ Three branches of government: the legislative (Duma), executive, and judicial.
checks and balances	✓ Checks and balances are built into government.	☒ The Supreme Leader in North Korea possesses full authority over the country.	☒ Russia's constitution gives more power to the President, who can introduce legislation if the Duma refuses, and controls the budget.
consent of the governed	✓ Elected representatives and laws reflect the will of the people in free and fair elections.	☒ North Korea does hold elections, but they are not free and fair.	☒ Russia does hold elections, but they are not free and fair.
democracy	✓ The U.S. is a form of democracy.	☒ North Korea is not a democracy. The Korean constitution lists it as a socialist state, but many describe the Supreme Leader as a dictator.	✓ The 1993 Russian constitution declares Russia a democratic state with a republican form of government. However, it resembles more of an autocracy under military rule.
due process of law	✓ Fair laws and a defined court system; rights of the accused.	☒ The government routinely uses illegal arrests and executions to maintain fear and control.	☒ Russia only applies due process to certain individuals; it is not fair for all people.
representative government (republicanism)	✓ The U.S. is a representative democracy (republic)	☒ North Korea is not a representative democracy.	✓ The 1993 Russian constitution declares Russia a democratic state with a republican form of government.

Form of Government	Democracy		Totalitarian		Authoritarian	
Country	United States		North Korea		Russia	
federalism	✓	The U.S. has levels of government: national (supreme), state, local.	✓	North Korea does have a modified version of levels of government, with a supreme national government.	✓	Russia has levels of government, with a supreme national government.
individual rights	✓	The U.S. has the Bill of Rights, which includes the Ninth Amendment.	☒	The government restricts all civil liberties. including freedom of expression, assembly, association, or religion.	✓	The Russian Constitution provides its citizens with many of the same liberties listed in the U.S. Constitution. However, many describe Russia as restricting free speech and media, and violating other human rights.
limited government	✓	The U.S. has a constitution outlining government structure and power.	✓	North Korea does have a constitution.	✓	The 1993 Russian Constitution creates a republican form of government with a constitution, as well as a system of separation of powers.
rule of law	✓	Everyone must obey the law, including government figures.	☒	There is no concept of rule of law, which is described by many as a dictatorship.	☒	There is no concept of rule of law in Russia, which is described by many as an autocracy.