**1.2 Forms of Govt & 1.3 Democracy in the US**

**Lecture Notes**

* 1. **Forms of Government**

One way to understand how different forms of government affect people’s lives is to ask:

* + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Autocracies

* Power is in the hands of a single individual and power is often maintained through military
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: single leaders ideas are glorified and control all aspects of life
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: a king/queen/or emperor has power that is usually inherited with absolute power
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: monarchs share power with a legislature or they serve as ceremonial leaders of govt

Oligarchy

* A small group holds power
* Usually power comes from wealthy or military power

Democracy

* Rule is by the peeps!
* 2 forms
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: peeps govern themselves by voting on issues as citizens
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: indirect form of democracy that places political decision making at least one step away from the people
    - Elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf

Organizing National Power

* + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - All key powers are given to a nat’l govt
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Division of power is between state and national govt
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Independent states form a central govt w/ limited power
    - States keep full control of territory/people

Presidents and Parliaments

* World’s democracies fall into 2 types of political systems:
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Presidential Systems
  + President is elected for a limited term of office
  + Powers balanced by legislature
* Parliamentary Systems
  + Executive and legislative branches of got are combined
  + Prime minister instead of president
  + Parliament chooses the PM
  1. **Democracy in the US**

Core ideals of American democracy

* + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Key principles of American Democracy

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Free Enterprise

* Of all freedoms, economic freedom holds a special place in American Democracy
* Best expressed in US economic system: free enterprise
  + Allows people/businesses to make their own economic choices about how to best produce, distribute and exchange goods and services with limited interference from govt