

Voting Systems

- **Winner-Take-All:**

whichever party wins the most votes takes the legislative seat

- tends to produce two-party systems
- parties tend to be broad, stable, and centrist
- small parties struggle to get any power

Voting Systems

- **Proportional Representation:**

political parties receive legislative seats corresponding to the party's proportion of the vote

- tends to produce multi-party system
- many parties can represent wide variety of perspectives
- legislative branch often fractionalized and splintered

Parliamentary vs. Presidential

- Presidential — executive and legislative are chosen separately by the people
- Parliamentary — people choose the legislative; legislative then chooses the executive

Features of Parliamentary

- Executive usually called prime minister
- Prime minister is usually the leader of the majority party; if no majority, then chosen by a coalition of parties
- Prime minister and his cabinet then draft laws voted on by legislature
- Prime minister stays in power until unseated by legislature

Effects of Parliamentary System

- Minimal conflict between executive and legislature
- Minority has little power
- Efficiency
- Multiple parties, no majority party
- Multiple-party coalitions often form
- Coalition governments are often unstable

Judicial Review

judicial review – the power of a court to review the constitutionality or legality of an act by another public body (usually the legislature)

Example: The Supreme Court reviews a law passed by Congress and says, “No, you can’t do that; that law is unconstitutional.”

Ways that minority groups can be protected in a democracy?

- A “Bill of Rights” or similar feature in the constitution
- Being a republic instead of a direct democracy
- A system of checks and balances

Conditions that Sustain Democracies

1. A strong middle class
2. A relatively classless education system
3. An understanding of democratic principles
4. A political consensus
5. A growing economy
6. Support from other nations
7. A free press
8. A professional military

White Paper Tip: Minority Rights

Be specific about **how** your Constitution protects minority rights:

“The protection of rights and minorities is very important and will be included in the Constitution.”

The Problem:

Not specific enough.

Which rights? Give a few examples (look online at the U.S. Bill of Rights). What other features of your Constitution are protecting minorities (perhaps the structure of your legislature)?

White Paper Tip: Judicial System

“We don’t want the Supreme Court to be independent because the government should work together in running an organized system.”

The Problem:

Need to understand *judicial review*. (An independent judiciary is a good thing.)

Questions you need to answer: How are the members of the Court chosen? How many on the court? How long do they serve? What is the court’s power?

White Paper Tip: Be careful . . .

“The government can start this way and the citizens can change it later.”

The problem:

Easy to say, hard to do. And how changeable do you really want your government?

(U.S. Constitution is respected by many for its resistance to change.)

Task Force Presentations

- What: 5–6 minute presentation to the ARFX Committee, with 4–5 minutes for questions
- When: Starting Friday, Jan. 16
- How: Formal Metro presentation, in classrooms, before panel. Every member speaks. Supported by Keynote. Carefully rehearsed.

Who is on the panel?

- Aref Pech, leader of Allied Rebellion Forces
- Moran Lofay, member of the urban elite
- Chay Sorom, peasant leader
- Reedi Chohari, U.N. liasion and moderator