



TEKS 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 12A, 12B,
12C, 16A, 16B, 21B

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. Limited governments of the world include democracies.
2. Unlimited governments of the world include totalitarian governments.
3. Most human rights abuses occur under unlimited governments of the world.

The Big Idea

The world's countries have different governments and some countries struggle with human rights abuses.

Key Terms

democracy, p. 106

direct democracy, p. 107

limited government, p. 107

unlimited government, p. 109

totalitarian government, p. 109



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on different types of governments.

World Governments

If YOU were there...

You live in Dallas, Texas. Your class at school is planning a presentation about life in the United States for a group of visitors from Japan. Your teacher wants you to discuss government in the United States. As you prepare for your speech, you wonder what you should say.

How does government affect your life?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Although you probably don't think about it every day, your country's government has a big influence on your life. That is true in every country in every part of the world. Governments affect everything from a person's individual rights to citizens' access to adequate health care.

Governments of the World

Can you imagine what life would be like if there were no rules? Without ways to establish order and ensure justice, life would be chaotic. This explains why societies have governments. Our governments make and enforce laws, regulate business and trade, and provide aid to people. Governments help shape the culture and economy of a country as well as the daily lives of the people who live there.

Limited Government

Many countries—including the United States, Canada, and Mexico—have democratic governments. A **democracy is a form of government in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority**. In most democratic countries, citizens are free to choose representatives to make and enforce the laws. Voters in the United States, for example, elect members of Congress, who make the laws, and the president, who enforces those laws.

Origins of Democracy

In a pure democracy, the people make decisions through a process of majority rule. Whatever the majority of voters wants becomes law. Such was the state of affairs in Athens and other ancient Greek city-states. Athenian democracy was a **direct democracy**, which means citizens met regularly in a popular assembly to discuss issues and vote for leaders. Athenians liked to boast that in their government everyone had equal say. In truth, Athenian democracy was an elite-based system. Only a small fraction of the male population was eligible to participate in political life. Neither women nor slaves, who formed the majority of the population, could participate.

A democracy, whether direct or indirect, is also a form of **limited government**. Limited government is a type of government that has legal limits on its power, usually in the form of a constitution.

Characteristics of Limited Governments

Because power can be misused, limiting government's reach reduces the chances of abuse and creates freer and fairer societies. Today nearly half of the more than 190 countries in the world are democratic or partly democratic with a limited system of government. Although the level of freedom in these nations varies they share some basic characteristics:

- Democratic systems tend to have social welfare policies that seek to improve the quality of their citizens' lives.
- Most democratic governments protect their citizens' rights and freedoms. For this reason, citizens of these countries generally enjoy a high degree of economic and political freedom.

Systems of Government	
Form	Characteristics
Dictatorship Example: Cuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dictator or a small group holds absolute authority and makes all decisions • Violence and force used to maintain rule
Totalitarian Regimes Example: North Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictator holds ultimate authority • Government tightly controls all aspects of life—political, social, and economic • No formal or informal limits on government
Theocracy Example: Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government by officials regarded to have religious authority • Laws rooted in a particular religion or religious doctrine • Government power is unlimited
Direct Democracy Example: ancient Greece (Athens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government by the people; citizens are the ultimate source of government authority • Citizens come together to discuss and pass laws and select leaders • Works best in small communities
Republic/ Representative Democracy Example: ancient Rome, United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government by the people; citizens are the ultimate source of government authority • Indirect form of democracy; citizens elect representatives to make government decisions on their behalf • Representatives elected for set terms

- Strong democratic countries can generally withstand national crises such as war, economic troubles, or civil unrest without major changes to their basic systems or structures.

Comparing Limited Governments



National Palace,
Mexico City



Mexico

- Presidential, federal system of government
- Three branches of government
- Some legislative seats given to major parties
- President elected directly by the people to a six-year term
- Voting compulsory for people 18 and older



National Congress,
Brasilia

Brazil

- Presidential, federal system of government
- Three branches of government
- All legislative seats filled by direct election
- President elected directly by the people to a four-year term
- Voting compulsory for people 18 to 70

FOCUS ON READING

What happened in Mexico 100 years before the beginning of its civil war?

Comparing Mexico and Brazil

As you know, the United States is a democracy with a limited system of government. Mexico and Brazil are examples of other nations with limited systems. Their governments have much in common with our own.

Mexico's Government

After three centuries of control by Spain, in 1810 Mexican revolutionaries rose up against Spanish authority. In 1821 Mexico declared independence. The country's current governmental structure and constitution were established in 1917, after a civil war that began in 1910.

Mexico's federal government, like ours, has three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. In a federal system, powers are divided between central and state governments. Mexico's central government is based in Mexico City, and its 31 states make up its state government.

Mexico's legislative branch has two houses. Three-fifths of the legislators in each house are elected, but the remaining

seats are distributed to the major political parties in proportion to the parties' overall share of the popular vote.

The executive branch is led by a president elected directly by the people for one six-year term. By law, voting is compulsory for people over age 18, although no formal penalty is enforced. Mexico does not have the office of vice president.

Mexico has an independent judicial branch. Its highest court is the Supreme Court of Justice. Its judges are appointed by the president and must be approved by one of the houses of the legislature.

Brazil's Government

Brazil was a Portuguese colony for 300 years before gaining independence in 1822. The nation became a republic in 1889, but wealthy coffee planters held much of the political power until a series of military-led uprisings began in the 1920s. In 1930 Getúlio Vargas took power in a nonviolent revolution; by 1937 Vargas ruled as a dictator. After alternating attempts at democracy and at military rule, in 1985 the military

finally turned over power to a civilian government. Three years later, Brazil enacted a constitution that is still in effect today.

Brazil has a federal system with 26 states and a federal district. In many ways, Brazil's government is similar to that of Mexico and the United States, with three branches and a separation of powers. Brazil's legislature is bicameral and includes a senate and a chamber of deputies. All members are elected.

The executive branch is led by the president. The president and vice president are elected by a direct vote of the people. Voting is compulsory for literate Brazilians between the ages of 18 and 70, and those who do not vote may be fined.

Brazil's Supreme Court is made up of two courts: the Superior Court of Justice, which deals with nonconstitutional issues, and the Supreme Federal Court, which handles cases involving constitutional interpretation.

READING CHECK Comparing and Contrasting

How are the governments of Mexico and Brazil similar and different?

Unlimited Governments

We categorize governments based on who holds governmental power, as well as by how much power they are allowed to execute. Recall that, in a limited government, everyone—including leaders—must obey the law. This form of government likely seems normal to you. That's because, in the United States, the Constitution and other laws limit what leaders can and cannot do. By contrast, an **unlimited government** is a government in which there are no limits set on a ruler's power.

Totalitarianism

Authoritarian governments are unlimited governments in which power is concen-

trated in the hands of a single person, such as a dictator, or a small group. Leaders can set laws without input from those they rule. They can also break laws without punishment because they answer to no one. At its most extreme, authoritarian rule becomes totalitarian. **Totalitarian governments control all aspects of society—the government, the economy, and even people's personal beliefs and actions.** The Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, China under Mao Zedong, and North Korea under Kim Jong-un are examples of totalitarian regimes.

In these societies, citizens have no way to influence or change the government. The government sometimes maintains the appearance of democratic rule. For example, they may hold elections and have a written constitution. But these displays of democracy are nothing more than exhibitions to deceive the nation's people or outside observers.

Characteristics of Unlimited Governments

All forms of unlimited government share certain features. In authoritarian and totalitarian systems, ordinary citizens have limited political and economic freedoms. Their rights are rarely recognized or protected, and they may not be able to effectively take part in government or openly express their views.

Totalitarian rulers often use force to put down opposition, such as human rights or prodemocracy movements demanding change. Moreover, because they are not subject to law, totalitarian rulers can change or ignore constitutions or laws intended to restrict their power. For example, before Saddam Hussein of Iraq was overthrown in a 2003 U.S.-led invasion, he used torture and violence against his political opponents, even though torture was officially banned under Iraqi law.

Unlimited Government in China

China

A 1971 propaganda poster contrasts with a photo of prodemocracy demonstrators confronting Chinese troops in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in 1989.



China's Government

In 1949 Chinese leader Mao Zedong created an authoritarian Communist system, imprisoning or killing those who spoke out against his policies. He instituted Soviet-style five-year plans for industrial development. Early efforts, begun in 1953, had some success, but widespread food shortages led to the deaths of tens of millions by 1961. In 1966, Mao began the Cultural Revolution, a violent effort to rid China of its pre-Communist customs and beliefs.

Mao's death in 1976 saw a gradual retreat from many of his policies. Deng Xiaoping eventually became China's leader and slowly introduced many economic and a few political reforms. There were limits to what officials would allow, however. In 1989 the government violently crushed a peaceful prodemocracy student demonstration in China's capital, Beijing, in what became known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre.

China's leaders today are balancing authoritarian rule, economic growth, and slow political reform. China continues to limit its citizens' basic freedoms and rights, and the government exercises strict control over the media and the Internet.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are the characteristics of unlimited government?

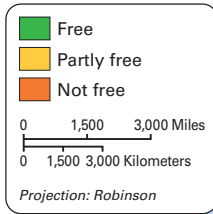
Human Rights Abuses

Despite international agreements such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights abuses occur in both limited and unlimited countries. These abuses include torture, slavery, and murder, and are most common in countries that are not free or are partially free, as shown on the map on the next page. Human rights abuses are also common in countries in the process of establishing democracy. For example, in 2013 the Sudanese government demolished several Christian churches in Sudan as part of an effort to force Christians out of the country. As a result, many Sudanese Christians have fled to South Sudan to avoid persecution.

Abuses in democratic countries are far fewer, but they do occur, often as a result of inaction. For example, the European Union was criticized for not adequately helping asylum seekers fleeing the civil war in Syria in 2013, which left some refugees homeless and without food or water.

The United States recognizes that respect for human rights promotes peace and deters aggression. To that end, the United States has made promoting human rights a major part of its foreign policy. According to the U.S. Department of State, the United States uses a three-part approach

Freedom in Governments of the World



Source: Freedom House

map zone Geography Skills

Place While some governments grant their people much freedom, others do not.

Locate In which regions of the world do people have only partial freedom?

in its work on human rights. Those three parts are: learning the truth and stating the facts, taking consistent positions about human rights abuses, and partnering with organizations and governments committed to human rights.

READING CHECK Drawing Conclusions

Why would human rights abuses occur more in countries with unlimited governments?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The world's countries have different governments. In the next section you will learn about citizenship in various countries.

Section 1 Assessment

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- a. Define** What is a **direct democracy** and what are its origins?

b. Elaborate Under which type of government would you most want to live? Why?
- a. Describe** What is life like in a country with a totalitarian leader?

b. Contrast In what ways do **limited governments** differ from **unlimited governments**?

c. Interpret What are some reasons for limiting the powers of government?
- a. Identify** What are some human rights abuses that occurred in Sudan?

b. Elaborate How does the United States try to combat human rights abuses in other countries?

c. Compare Look at the map on this page to compare regions. How does government in North America compare to government in Asia?

Critical Thinking

- 4. Comparing** Review your notes on the limited and unlimited governments of the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and China. Then use a chart like this one to compare how each government functions and is organized.

United States	Mexico	Brazil	China

FOCUS ON WRITING

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- 5. Describing Government Systems** Take notes on the different systems of government covered in this section. Be sure to include details of the governments of the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and China. Your article should also describe human rights abuses around the world.