

## Chapter 1 : Government in the Middle Ages | Middle Ages

*Most countries in Europe, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Netherlands, Austria and Germany, are parliamentary democracies. With more than 50 countries in the continent, Europe does not have one form of government. However, the only dictatorship in Europe currently is Belarus. Russia and.*

A government that has a single person who is generally considered the ruler by the title and birthright. Czar, King, Queen, Emperor, Caesar, etc Power is absolute and is either taken through conquest or passed down to family members without regard for ability or appropriateness. Society is formed around feudal groups or tribes in which the ruling family delegates power and authority based upon the desires of a single individual. Power struggles are common. A monarchy is based upon a class system where those of a certain birthright are perceived to be of superior intellect and strength to those not of the same family line. The resources and wealth of a country is generally preserved solely for the hedonistic and self-fulfilling desires of the reigning monarch with little regard for the general population or its welfare. The inhabitants of a country under a monarch are alive to serve the monarch. In contrast the inhabitants of a republic are served by their leaders, in theory. Constitutional monarchy or limited monarchy is a form of government established under a constitutional system which acknowledges a hereditary or elected monarch as head of state, as opposed to an absolute monarchy where the monarch is not bound by a constitution and is the sole source of political power. The process of government and law within a constitutional monarchy is usually very different from that in an absolute monarchy. Most constitutional monarchies take on a parliamentary form where the monarch may be regarded as the head of state but the prime minister, who derives power directly or indirectly from elections, is head of government. Constitutional Monarchy is similar to the Republic system where instead of an hereditary King as its head it has a President elected every so many years. In both these cases the King or the President have little power, but power is vested in the Parliament under the guide of the Prime Minister who is elected from time to time. The Republics of United States and that of France are a variation on the theme, where more power is vested in the President. Generic term used to describe any government controlled by a single individual and giving the people little or no individual freedom. Typically a person who rules by threat of force. People who are loyal to a dictatorship swear allegiance to the person first and the country second. A Republic cannot be a dictatorship. Marxism advocates the "workers" Proletariats and petite-bourgeoisie rise up and overthrow businesses and government and take control themselves. Marxism advocates a classless society in which everything is shared and owned by all. In its true form it follows the mandates of a Direct Democracy in which the mob or general population rules and allocates resources based upon the will of the majority with equal consideration given to all without exclusions or privileges to any. It is an anti-Biblical system. Communism or applied Marxism: Severe government interference in economics, practically absolute. A form of Marxism has been tried in Russia and China with disastrous results. A form of mild Communism, with limited government interference in business activity, as opposed to the above but more than in capitalism. In other words, people vote for a particular party and the party elects the leaders of the country. The notable difference from Communism is that there is more than one political party. Is defined as government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any other form of "direct" expression. Attitude toward property is communistic, meaning property rights are negated and ownership is by the people or state. In a true democracy the result is mobocracy or a government where the lower classes of a nation control public affairs without respect to law, precedents or vested rights controlling public affairs without respect to law, precedents, or vested rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate based upon deliberation, passion, prejudice or impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences of the action. A true democracy has been shown to result in demagogism, a country run by the passions and prejudices of the majority license, agitation, discontent and anarchy. Democracy is about the people and their power. The power or authority exercised in a democracy is derived directly or indirectly from the represented people in one of two forms: This is where everyone is given the opportunity to participate in making all policy decisions. In countries and large organizations, direct democracy is rarely utilized because it would be cumbersome and inefficient. No

decisions would ever be reached. This approach entails people voting to elect representatives in a free and fair electoral system to make policy for them under a wide range of checks and balances to help ensure leadership accountability. A political system in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them, a form of government whose head of state is not a Monarch; "the head of state in a republic is usually a President". The Republic differs from a Citizenship Democracy in that the Power of the Government is limited by a Constitution set of principles. Is defined by a government where authority is derived through election by the people of public officials perceived as best fitted to represent them. Attitude toward law is the administration of justice in accord with fixed principles and established evidence, with a strict regard to consequences. A greater number of citizens and extent of territory may be brought within its compass. Avoids the dangerous extreme of either tyranny or mobocracy a government where the lower classes of a nation control public affairs without respect to law, precedents, or vested rights. Results in statesmanship, liberty, reason, justice, contentment and progress in all areas of arts, science, thought and civil liberties. Republics are the preferred structured base for government throughout Europe and the Americas. The Citizenship is a Representative Democracy limited by checks and balances called Constitution. But such is impossible under democracy for by definition Democracy envisages a pluralistic society with all sorts of Religious beliefs, where the God of Christians is not the god of Islamists, nor that of Buddhists and so on. The Righteous Republic differs from the Republic in that every single law in its Constitution find its support in the Word of God. The "Constitution" of a Righteous Republic is the Bible. Your will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Moreover the King is a Father and the Government has a Patriarchal form. Theocracy is a form of government in which God is recognized as the supreme ruler. Theocracy is a form of government in which only God and His law is sovereign. However, whilst in Heaven we have a Righteous and Just King, God almighty, on earth we have fallen man whose every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually Gen 6: Therefore any form of human government has to have valid forms of checks and balances to avoid the enslaving of people, and above all it has to be "under God", which is not very often the case. ALL form of Government on the earth are lacking something and not making the mark and coming short of the Kingdom of God, and all in dire need of the Grace of God. Moreover it must be remembered that God is the Absolute Sovereign of His creation and all types of Government that have existed and will exist have come into existence by His will to serve the purpose that He has established before the foundation of Creation for His pleasure Rev 4: For this reason God in His Word commands us to pray for the Government we have in place, be it good or bad: For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Nevertheless, like for slavery, we are to take every opportunity to free ourselves from an oppressive government: Do not be concerned about it. But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity. If the Government and the people do not do the will of God, eventually He will raise evil nations to scourge us, as He is doing right now:

**Chapter 2 : The U.S. and Europe: Governments of Equal Size? | Economics21**

*summit of the Heads of state or government, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.; gives the necessary political impetus for the development of the Union and sets its general objectives and priorities.*

Claude Forthomme - Senior Editor on June 1, at 4: It had taken 88 days of hard negotiations to get there. And the unlikely alliance between an extreme right party The League with a centrist party M5S that has socialist roots in the Partito Democratico , or PD. Both are populists and anti-establishment, The League with its base in Northern Italy and support from business, M5S with support from young people and the South and a fluctuating political platform shaped by social-media. What made Mattarella change his mind? Much of it appears to be the result of unexpectedly nimble political work on the part of Di Maio, who, despite his youth and lack of experience, is apparently endowed with unusual political instincts. Improbably, after insulting Mattarella and calling for his impeachment, he withdrew the accusations and instead met the President eye-to-eye. What is remarkable is that the new list had only one notable modification: An apparently slight correction but a significant one: The new man in the Treasury post is Giovanni Tria , a well-known economist with a long career both nationally and internationally – in short, a more moderate figure. On the next day, the international press, even staid and serious journals like Bloomberg , reacted with emotional headlines: They will take Italy out of the Euro and Europe! In short, they have set aside the likelihood that Italy will exit the Euro. He agrees with Savona on Europe and that a reform of the Euro is essential. How come markets are reassured by Tria and scared by Savona? Savona arguably was clumsy in managing his image: Worse, he allowed certain bits of news floating on the Net to muddy his reputation, turning him into a dangerous looking Euro-skeptic. Two things in particular worked against him: Savona suddenly took on the semblance of a Trojan Horse, ready to assault Brussels from the inside and bring down the Euro and Europe. While a Brexit or a Grexit will shake the Union, and exit by Italy, being the third largest economy in the EU and a historic pillar of the Union, would kill it. But the fact is this: Plan B was never the work of Savona. He merely presented it a meeting of experts in Rome in October , as announced on this poster: Other economists, not Savona, presented Plan B and led the debate on it. It happens not just in Italy, but also elsewhere, in particular in Germany. The latest took place two days ago and was reported by Die Welt. The article is explicit: Does that make all these German economists euro-skeptics? There, the head of the right-wing populist Italian Lega, Matteo Salvini – after all one of the election winners – had announced that only death is immutable, a currency certainly not. He has ideas on all the issues of the day, including immigration, as shown in this video: Readers who understand Italian will appreciate his pragmatism and broadness of views. I am convinced that this is a man capable of thinking through issues and coming up with workable solutions. An article published on the pro-business Sole 24 Ore in March clarifies his vision. Again, on reading it, one can see that the analysis is spot on. Regarding Europe, nobody is right, he says. Those who call for exiting the Euro are wrong, but neither is Mario Draghi right when he says that the Euro is irreversible. To become a solid currency like the dollar, the Euro needs to be sustained by two indispensable pillars: So far, the Euro has only been given the monetary pillar, it now needs the fiscal one, starting with a strong banking union. As a result, the real problem is a deficit in public spending. The real problem, he points out, is that fiscal maneuvering is limited by the threat of a sovereign debt crisis, making it impossible to engage in deficit spending – a threat Italy is painfully aware of, with a debt of percent of GDP. But not all of it, and certainly not to the extent that EU regulations are flouted and the Euro is crashed. The plan would require a yearly amount equal to at least percent of the Eurozone GDP and should be carried out within EU structures – not outside. For the first time, Italy would make itself heard in Brussels with its own plans, instead of merely acquiescing as it has done so far. That could make for a watershed moment: For the first time, Italy might enter the big European game side-by-side with France, displacing the famous Franco-German alliance that has guided Europe so far. Macron and Merkel are friends, of course, but they will need to open up their duo to Conte and his finance minister, Tria. And for the first time, Germany could find itself in the minority: France and Italy together

weigh much more. Will Italy catch this opportunity to make European History? The opinions expressed here by Impakter. I confirm that would like to subscribe to Impakter Weekly Newsletter Yes! The midterms handed the House to the Democrats but not the Senate, despite receiving some 12 million votes more than Republicans in Senate races. China and South America: Oriented towards motivating deeper t Will they be a repl

*This is a list of European Union member states, their forms of government and their [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) European Union (EU) is a sui generis supranational union of democratic states.*

By Daniel Zimmermann Charlemagne ruled an extensive European empire. The character of European government has changed significantly. In the past, absolute rule by a single individual was the most prevalent form of government. Kings ruled France and England, and czars ruled Russia. For a while, Mongol khans controlled much of Eastern Europe, and the sultans of the Ottoman Empire guarded the Bosphorus. Other past European governments were oligarchies, in which a select few held power. Ancient Sparta and Medieval Venice are cases in point. But democracies also made an appearance in the past, and democratic institutions are dominant in the various types of European governments today. Republic The majority of European governments are republics. In a republic, elected officials govern the land. The government of France is typical. The French populace elects a president and two legislative bodies: The president appoints a prime minister who takes charge of governmental affairs. The National Assembly has the power to terminate the tenure of the prime minister by a no-confidence vote. If this happens, the president must choose a new prime minister. Other governments, such as those of Croatia and Estonia, are very similar. An alternate name for this type of government is "parliamentary democracy. For example, the parliament appoints the prime minister in Finland, and the presidency has no real power in Greece. In Moldova, the parliament elects the president instead of the people. The Ukrainian government has only one legislative body. Federal Republic Some European governments, such as Germany, are federal republics. A federal republic is a union of states or similar entities. Governmental powers are divided between the federal government and the states. However, to protect the rights of the German states, one of the two legislative chambers called the Bundesrat has the constitutional power to veto adverse federal legislation. Other federal republics are Austria and Switzerland. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, a federal union unites an autonomous Serbian state with the rest of the nation. Constitutional Monarchy The United Kingdom is a good example of a current European constitutional monarchy. The monarch is theoretically the head of the government, but has no real power. Political power resides in the prime minister and the House of Commons, the elected legislative body. The Scandinavian countries also have constitutional monarchies, as do Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Lichtenstein. Socialist Republic Many East European nations used to have socialist republics in which the Communist party was the dominant power. Albania adhered to strict Marxist ideology longer than any other European nation. In , a new constitution made Albania a parliamentary democracy, and socialist traditions are gradually being abandoned. Vatican City The pope enjoys absolute sovereignty over a small state called Vatican City. It is a remnant of the fairly extensive Papal States that once extended across central Italy. A Papal Commission administers the state. Andorra Andorra has an unusual government. Traditionally, the French king and the Spanish bishop of Urgel exercised executive power in Andorra. Now the president of France has replaced the king, and the power of both heads of state is greatly reduced. Actual political power resides in a General Council.

## Chapter 4 : European government

*The politics of Europe deals with the continually evolving politics within the continent. It is a topic far more detailed than other continents due to a number of factors including the long history of nation states in the region as well as the modern day trend towards increased political unity amongst the European states.*

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Changes in government functions Shifts in the political spectrum and larger issues of industrial society prompted important changes in government functions through the second half of the 19th century. Mass education headed the list. Education was seen as essential to provide basic skills such as literacy and numeracy. It also was a vital means of conditioning citizens to loyalty to the national government. All the educational systems vigorously pushed nationalism in their history and literature courses. They tried to standardize language, as against minority dialects and languages opposing Polish in Germany, for example, or Breton in France. A second extension of government functions involved peacetime military conscription, which was resisted only in Great Britain. Governments also expanded their record-keeping functions, replacing church officials. Requirements for civil marriages in addition to religious ceremonies where desired, census-taking, and other activities steadily expanded state impact in these areas. Regulatory efforts increased from the s. Central governments inspected food-processing facilities and housing. Inspectors checked to make sure that safety provisions and rules on work hours and the employment of women and children were observed. Other functionaries carefully patrolled borders, requiring passports for entry. Most European governments ran all or part of the railroad system and set up telephone services as part of postal operations. Educator, record-keeper, military recruiter, major economic actor—the state also entered the welfare field during the s. Bismarck pioneered with three social insurance laws between and —part of his abortive effort to beat down socialism—that set up rudimentary schemes for protection in illness, accident, and old age. Austria and Scandinavia imitated the German system, while the French and Italian governments established somewhat more voluntary programs. Britain enacted a major welfare insurance scheme under a Liberal administration in , and in it became the first country to institute state-run unemployment insurance. All these measures were limited in scope, providing modest benefits at best, but they marked the beginnings of a full-fledged welfare state. The growth of government, and the explosion of its range of services, was reflected in the rapid expansion of state bureaucracies. Most countries installed formal civil service procedures by the s, with examinations designed to assure employment and seniority by merit rather than favouritism. State-run secondary schools, designed to train aspiring bureaucrats, slowly increased their output of graduates. Taxation increased as well, and just before the outbreak of war in , several nations installed income tax provisions to provide additional revenue. Quietly, amid many national variants, a new kind of state was constructed during the late 19th century, with far more elaborate and intimate contacts with the citizenry than ever before in European history.

## Chapter 5 : List of European Union member states by political system - Wikipedia

*Most countries in Europe are parliamentary democracies, including the UK, Netherlands, Ireland, Germany and Austria. France and Russia have a semi-presidential system of government. Europe's only.*

Feudalism was a way for the Kings and upper nobility to keep control over the serfs and peasants. Definition There is no universally accepted modern day definition of feudalism. After the publication of Elizabeth A. Feudalism is mainly used in discourse today as a comparison or analogical term applied to governmental structures in history. The Structure of Feudalism Though class played an important role in feudal society in the Middle Ages, the more important relationship in feudalism is between the Lord, the Vassal and the Peasant. The Lord was the overseer of the entire government. He was the monarch who controlled all of the land and people. The vassals were the nobleman who had been granted land by the monarch, and in exchange for that land provided military service or money. The peasants made up the majority of the population. They were very poor, or, in the case of serfs, had no money. The Lord -The most important player in a feudal system is the Lord. The Lord is the ruling monarch who has complete control over all the land in the country. Vassals -Vassals included anyone who was not a monarch and not a peasant who was granted land by the King or another vassal. In exchange for the land the vassals were granted, they either had to pay money, rent out their land, provide military service, or perform other various duties to show loyalty to the monarch. Peasants -The vast majority of the feudalist government system in the Middle Ages in Europe were made up of peasants. There were three types of peasants: Slaves, who could be bought and sold, serfs, who had no rights politically, and freeman, who had a few rights and sometimes owned small shares of land. Freeman may have been artisans who worked in or owned a store. Class Systems The Feudal system of government was comprised of five main class sections: The King, who had complete control over his country, had too much land under his control and not enough time to travel that land. As such, he granted land to his most trusted barons. This granted land was known as a fief. The barons then provided the King with knights, who provided the Barons with military service. King -The King owned all the land and had complete control during the Middle Ages. He decided which barons were chosen to own land. Barons -Once the baron was granted a fief from the King he became a vassal to the king. He had control over the land that was given to him by the King. He was also able to set his own tax laws and print his own money. In exchange, the vassal had to pay rent on that land, serve on the royal council and provide knights to the king for military service. Knights -Knights were granted land by Barons in exchange for providing military service when demanded by the King. The knights were also required to protect the Baron, his family, and his manor from attack. Serfs -Sometimes referred to as villeins, serfs had no rights. They were required to give any service, food or labor to the knight whose land they lived on. They also had to ask permission before they could marry or leave the manor on which they lived. Normally about 15 to 30 serf families worked on each fief. Clergy -Clergy often came from wealthy aristocratic families or became nobles because of their clerical status. Because of this, men involved with the church were often vassals. The Rise and Fall of the Feudal System in Europe Feudalism first came to England as an idea for King William to control his rebelling people and his large amount of land at once. He needed a quick fix and did not realize that a government system from which only he benefitted would not work for the long term. While feudalism was supported by many nobles and the Christian church, it was oppressive to peasants and especially oppressive to women. The economy surged, which brought on a new wave of religious worship, in which the people called for more beautiful churches with stained glass windows depicting Bible stories. By the 15th century, a feudal system of government no longer existed in Medieval Europe.

## Chapter 6 : European Government Types | Synonym

*European Union The European Union is a political and economic union of certain European states. Find out more about the EU.*

University info The politics of Europe deals with the continually evolving politics within the continent. It is a topic far more detailed than other continents due to a number of factors including the long history of nation states in the region as well as the modern day trend towards increased political unity amongst the European states. The current politics of Europe can be traced back to historical events within the continent. Likewise geography, economy and culture have contributed to the current political make-up of Europe. Modern European politics is dominated by the European Union, particularly since the fall of the Iron Curtain and the collapse of the Eastern Bloc of Communist states. With the end of the Cold War, the EU expanded eastward to include 25 member states that are represented in the European Parliament. Modern political climate Several issues dominate modern European politics. Most European states have either joined, or stated their ambition to join, the European Union. This has led to governments overhauling corrupt and overly-bureaucratic systems in order to bring themselves in line with membership criteria. This in turn has led to improved relations between former enemies, such as Greece and Turkey. There are few conflicts within Europe, although there remain problems in the Balkans and the Caucasus. International alliances European states are members of a large number of international organisations, mainly economical, although several are political, or both. The main political unions are detailed below. It has many activities, the most important being a common single market, consisting of a customs union, a single currency adopted by 12 out of 25 member states, a Common Agricultural Policy and a Common Fisheries Policy. The European Union also has various initiatives to co-ordinate activities of the member states. The EU economy is expected to grow further over the next decade as more former communist countries join the union. There is also a trend of moving towards increased cooperation in terms of common defence and foreign policy. The union has evolved over time from a primarily economic union to an increasingly political one. This trend is highlighted by the increasing number of policy areas that fall within EU competence: Although the CIS has few supranational powers, it is more than a purely symbolic organization and possesses coordinating powers in the realm of trade, finance, lawmaking and security. It has also promoted cooperation on democratisation and cross-border crime prevention. The organisation was founded as a collective security measure following World War Two. This provision was intended so that if the Soviet Union launched an attack against the European allies of the United States, it would be treated as if it was an attack on the United States itself, which had the biggest military and could thus provide the most significant retaliation. However the feared Soviet invasion of Europe never came. Other Flemish parties plead for more regional autonomy. The autonomous Belgian region of Wallonia has a movement wanting to leave the Belgian state and join with France. Denmark The Danish territories of Greenland and Faroe Islands have very strong independence movements. France The Mediterranean island of Corsica has a significant, and growing, group calling for independence from France. There are also movements in the Brittany region of northern France who wish to regain independence lost in 1792, and in Savoy in the south east, which was annexed to France following a disputed referendum in 1793. Moldova The eastern Moldovan region of Transnistria has declared independence from Moldova, and wants to join with Ukraine. Despite having no control over the region, the Moldovan government refuses to recognise this claim. The most notable of these is Chechnya, which has well supported guerilla groups involved in open conflict with the Russian authorities. To the west of Russia lies the enclave of Kaliningrad oblast, formerly known as Prussia. This enclave is separated from the main Russian state by EU member states, which has led to an increased call for autonomy. However, ethnic-German groups call for complete independence. Serbia and Montenegro The Serbian autonomous community of Kosovo, which has a majority ethnic-Albanian population, overwhelmingly desires to leave Serbia and become a sovereign state, although some wish to have union with Albania. The province is currently governed by the United Nations, though remains part of Serbia under law. In Serbia and Montenegro are to hold referendums on whether to retain their union or become separate states.

There is currently a majority in each country desiring independence. Spain Within Spain there are independence movements in some of the autonomous regions , notably the regions of Catalonia and Basque country. These are mostly peaceful but some, such as ETA use violent means. Ukraine The Ukrainian autonomous region of Crimea has several movements, calling either for greater autonomy, complete independence, or unification with Russia. The East of the country is majority ethnic-Russian, and there are calls from some groups for the area to leave Ukraine and join Russia. This is particularly the case since the pro-western Victor Yushenko became president. United Kingdom Within the United Kingdom there are political parties in each of the three British nations calling for independence from the union. In Northern Ireland there are parties calling for the province to leave the union and be united with the Republic of Ireland.

**Chapter 7 : Forms of Government | Scholastic**

*The character of European government has changed significantly. In the past, absolute rule by a single individual was the most prevalent form of government. Kings ruled France and England, and czars ruled Russia. For a while, Mongol khans controlled much of Eastern Europe, and the sultans of the.*

Further study Introduction By around , the political map of Christian Europe was much as it would be for the rest of the Middle Ages. Feudal fragmentation None of these empires and kingdoms was a unified state in the modern sense; they were in fact more like federations, with power fragmented amongst a multiplicity of feudal lords. Monarchs – kings and emperors – had little direct authority over most of their territories; local magnates dukes and counts or major towns owed him, their overlord, a duty of obedience, but within their own territories they could act as virtually independent rulers. When a king managed to get most of the magnates on his side, they would support him; if not especially when they felt he or his officials were encroaching too much on their independence they could and frequently did rebel. Complicating this situation was the existence of a hugely influential international organization which claimed to be independent of kings and emperors, and at times asserted its claim to superiority over them. This was the Church , under the leadership of the pope in Rome. The political history of medieval Europe is mostly bound up with the tussle between these competing centres of power: The interplay between these had very different outcomes in different places. In France , king and Church were largely in agreement, and the balance of power therefore shifted towards the king and away from the magnates. This would enable a highly centralised state to emerge in the early modern period. In the Holy Roman Empire , the Church was frequently allied with the magnates against the emperors. Power therefore slipped away from the emperor and towards the magnates. In England , the tussle led to the beginnings of a political system in which the different centres of power would resolve their differences in the context of parliament. A medieval realm At the top of any medieval kingdom sat the king. Even the Holy Roman emperor was also the King of Germany and King of Italy, and it was these offices which gave him authority over these lands rather than his imperial title. The medieval king was always on the move, accompanied by his large household. This enabled him to keep in touch with different parts of the kingdom – an important consideration in the days of slow communications. A king ruled through a council of his leading nobles and bishops. These were usually great figures in their own localities, possessing power and influence over large areas of land. A wise king brought these men on side by consulting them frequently and making sure that he had their loyalty. The councils expanded to become representative assemblies. Bishops played an important part in the high counsels of every medieval king. Their education and administrative experience made them invaluable royal ministers, and their key role on the Church was vital in keeping this powerful body loyal. However, bishops also had another superior besides the king. This was the pope, the leader of the Catholic Church in western Europe. From time to time the king and pope might be in conflict with one another, and bishops could then find themselves in a delicate situation – who should they support? It is testament to their political skills though not necessarily to their spiritual leadership that most seem to have navigated these treacherous waters with success, usually by giving more weight to the wishes of their temporal lord than of their religious one. From royal household to civil service All medieval kings were surrounded by a large household. This consisted of a retinue of domestic servants to take care of the personal needs of the king and his family. But it also consisted of his secretaries, treasurers, messengers and of course guards. The Roman Empire had been administered by a sophisticated imperial civil service, but this had collapsed in the chaos which followed the fall of the empire in the west. The barbarian kings did not pay their troops regular salaries out of tax receipts, as the Romans had done, so the primary function of a pre-modern bureaucracy – to collect taxes to pay for the army – was not required. Instead, the kings awarded their leading followers with land with which to maintain themselves and their followers on. When times became more stable and kings again began to need a secretariat and treasury, they staffed them with members of their private households. In the early Middle Ages these were usually clerics , as it was these who were the most educated men of the time. These small staffs were adequate until the increasing centralisation of power in

royal hands necessitated a larger and more elaborate organisation. The treasury in particular found it had to remain in one place while the king travelled around with his household so that it could collect, check and disburse funds efficiently. It was hived off into its own separate offices. Other departments followed, and rudimentary bureaucracies emerged in countries such as Spain and France. Royal officials supervised the collection of taxes, ensured that royal ordinances were carried out, executed the decision of royal courts, and kept an eye on the nobility by whom they were deeply loathed. The stage was set for the expansion of royal bureaucracies into the large organisations they became in the early modern period. Local government At the local level, public affairs were largely in the hands feudal lords. Village matters were under the authority of manorial courts. Above them the councils of greater lords saw to affairs of wider interest. Above the village, there were two competing hierarchies of authority. The tensions between kings and magnates was played out at a local level in rivalries between the newer royal institutions and the more traditional feudal authorities. The Church hierarchy There was also the Church hierarchy to be taken into consideration, with the parish priest serving one or two villages at its base. A bishop ruled over a diocese consisting of one or two hundred parishes, an archbishop presided over a clutch of dioceses, and the different archdioceses covering western Europe made up the Catholic Church as a whole, looking to the pope for leadership. Stephen II marks the historical delineation between the Byzantine Papacy and the Frankish Papacy The political situation in medieval kingdoms was further complicated by the position of the towns. We have also seen elsewhere that the feudal system opened the way for towns to gain a large measure of self-government. This also specified that the citizens of the town were free from feudal obligations. Many towns and cities throughout western Europe ran their own affairs, but some actually became independent states in their own right. This was nowhere more true than within the Holy Roman Empire, which covered Germany , much of northern and central Italy , and other lands. The sheer size of this realm made it very hard for Holy Roman emperors to impose their will upon all their subjects, given the very underdeveloped governing institutions at their disposal, and a series of civil wars â€” often fomented by the papacy , undermined what authority they were able to muster. North of the Alps, the free imperial cities of Germany were not officially independent, but were effectively self-governing. The actual structures by which towns â€” whether completely independent or merely self-governing â€” were governed varied from place to place, but there were common elements. Most towns and cities had a chief magistrate called by different names, such as mayor, doge or consul responsible for the day-to-day affairs in the community. There was also at least one council, often more. A common arrangement was for there to be a large council, composed of many citizens and meeting on infrequent occasions to endorse major decisions; and a much smaller council, which would meet more frequently, often on a daily basis, and would make routine decisions. It would put major decisions for the larger council to vote on. Although they were often elected to their positions by the citizens at large usually by lot , these elections were very commonly manipulated so that important offices tended to be filled by wealthier citizens. The chief magistrates were elected from amongst such councillors. This was more or less possible in peace time, but in time of war it was another matter. Although he was often but not always, as in 12th century France the greatest landowner in the kingdom, his private income did not extend to financing the waging major wars. He therefore had to rely on the financial contributions from the magnates â€” his leading nobles and churchmen. He could not, according to feudal custom, coerce them into contributing to the costs of the war â€” or, if he did, he risked rebellion as king John of England found. Instead, he had to gain their agreement that the war was a good idea in other words, that it would benefit them. Major decisions, including war and peace, were made in this forum, so that they had the support of all the chief men of the realm. Later, as towns and cities became wealthier, and the financial support they could contribute became critical, representatives from these joined the great councils when decisions had to be taken. The great councils thus evolved into assemblies representing the nobles, the church and the townspeople, or commoners. As the Middle Ages wore on, warfare became much more expensive, and this helped embed representative assemblies in the power structures of different states. Feudal levies of knights gave way to organised professional armies, armed with new weapons such as pikes, crossbows, cannons and guns. This long episode also shows how different circumstances led to different outcomes so far as representative assemblies were concerned. Kings solved this problem, as we have

seen, by calling parliaments to gain their agreement before a campaign. Parliament voted on whether or not to grant the king a tax to fund it, which they usually did if they felt that the war would be good for the country. In this process, parliament won a series of concessions from the kings, and became an important part in the government of the realm – the kings of England eventually found themselves unable to enact any major policy whether or not it was to do with war or finance without the consent of parliament. French kings therefore found it easier to justify taxation to raise and maintain armies; the Estates-General of the France were called regularly throughout most of the wars, but seldom refused the king the necessary aid. This pattern became customary, and the Estates-General lost the assertiveness of its English counterpart. Indeed certain taxes became regularly collected by tradition, year after year, without the necessity for a vote. The power of the Estates-General wilted. By the end of the Middle Ages both kingdoms were unified states with strong central governments. In England, this was centred on a often fractious partnership between king and parliament; in France, the king and his officials held centre stage. Indeed, the wars paved the way for the French kings erect a centralised, absolutist monarchy in the early modern period, which was the model for others throughout Europe. This trend away from the federalism of feudal governance towards centralised nation-states was not confined to England and France. Spain is the outstanding example of a strong centralised monarchy coming into being at the end of the Middle Ages. This was created when two of the leading Christian kingdoms, Castile and Aragon, which had driven the Muslims out of the Iberian peninsula, were united under one crown with the marriage of Ferdinand, King of Aragon with Isabella, Queen of Castile, in 1469. In the meantime, Germany and Italy remained fragmented amongst a multiplicity of states of varying size, some as big as whole countries, others no larger than villages.

**Law in medieval Europe**

The roots of Medieval law

With the fall of the Roman empire in the west, the old Roman provinces became home to two legally distinct groups – the Romans for by the end of the empire all free inhabitants were Roman citizens, and their new masters, the Germans. Both peoples lived under their own laws, administered by their own officials; however, from the 6th century the Germanic kings started issuing law codes for example the codes of the Visigoths and the Burgundians which sought to regulate relations between Romans and Germans, and later bring all subjects under one set of laws. In essence, these codes were orally-transmitted Germanic tribal customs as written down in Latin, systematised and interpreted by Roman lawyers. Like much customary law in less complex societies, the laws were based largely on the principle of compensation – the perpetrator compensated the victim for wrong done. This compensation called a *weregeld* was normally expressed in money terms, and differed according to the crime committed and the status in society of those involved. In this process, Roman law fell into disuse as an integrated system in western Europe except in those areas of Italy ruled by the Byzantine empire. However, it had a heavy influence on the Germanic codes, especially marked in civil matters such as family and property law, which were defined much more fully than in German custom. A third strand of law was also at work in early medieval Europe, and this was Church law also called canon law. This dated back to the early days of Christianity, through it was much refined over the centuries. Its purpose was to set out rules for ordering the Christian church and maintaining discipline amongst its servants. The servants of the church its priests and clerks were subject to church courts, where canon law prevailed. The two main sources of this were Roman law and the Christian Bible.

## Chapter 8 : European Governments on the WWW

*European Union - Official website of the European Union. About the EU. The EU in brief, institutions and bodies, countries, symbols, history, facts and figures.*

Putting aside the merits of this view, the general description of the U. Based solely on government outlays, the U. However, this is not really an apples-to-apples comparison because it does not include the disparate accounting for health insurance premiums. In the euro zone, health insurance premiums are generally financed directly through taxation; in the U. The net effect is to leave after-tax income lower to pay for health insurance. Once accounting for the 5. Even leaving aside tax expenditures, two percent of GDP is not a terribly big gap. Total government spending in the U. It is important to note that this total excludes health insurance expenditures. Were employer-sponsored premiums included, total U. Perhaps even more surprising, government spending plus health insurance would put total U. Recent research finds that once adjusting for tax subsidies and tax progressivity, U. IMF data on combined U. However, the IMF does report that since , total U. But, that is not the case. Part of the motivation for transferring funds to the states was to avoid the fiscal contraction that arises due to state balanced budget mandates. As academic research has made clear , the stimulus really just had the federal government pay for a portion of state spending that would have otherwise been debt-financed. Beyond the size of government, the basic contours of U. The President proposed large tax increases on high income earners, a bank tax in this latest iteration to finance mortgage debt forgiveness , a minimum tax on corporations, and subsidies for favored industries manufacturing. Francois Hollande proposes tax increases on high income earners, a bank tax, an increase in the minimum corporate income tax, and subsidies for favored industries. Obama said he wants the secretary of a billionaire to not have to pay more than the billionaire [in taxes]. I want the same thing.

**Chapter 9 : Government Structures**

*European Government All Western and Central European countries are democracies of various kinds. There are doubts about the democratic credentials of some East European and Balkan countries.*

These institutions have the authority to make decisions for the society on policies affecting the maintenance of order and the achievement of certain societal goals. Governments range in size and scope from clans, tribes, and the shires of early times to the superpowers and international governments of today. The present-day counterpart of the empire is the superpower that is able to lead or dominate other countries through its superior military and economic strength. Monarchy tended to become tyrannical because it vested authority in a single ruler. The polity, likewise, would deteriorate into ochlocracy, or mob rule, if the citizens pursued only their selfish interests. Monarchy passed through three basic stages, varying according to the nation and the political and economic climate. The first stage was that of the absolute monarch. In the Christian part of the world during the Middle Ages, a conflict developed between the pope and the kings who recognized his spiritual authority. Limited monarchy was the second stage. Kings depended on the support of the most powerful members of the nobility to retain their thrones. Threatened with the loss of political and financial support, even the strongest kings and emperors had to accept a system of laws that protected the rights and privileges of powerful social and economic classes. The third stage in the evolution of monarchy was the constitutional monarchy. Present-day monarchs are nearly all symbolic rather than actual rulers of their countries. A few exceptions can be found in Africa and Asia. Even one-party states, such as the traditional Communist countries and other nations in Africa, Asia, and South America, have found it necessary to establish formal constitutions. In democratic countries the constitution can be amended or replaced by popular vote, either directly or through a system of elected representatives. The constitution may thus be only a paper facade, and in order to understand how the country is governed one must examine the actual political process. Democratic governments vary in structure. Two common forms are the parliamentary and the presidential. The prime minister or premier and the officers of the cabinet are members of the parliament. They continue in office only as long as parliament supports "or has "confidence" in " their policies. There is no effective rule of law. The main function of a dictatorship is to maintain control of all governmental operations. It seeks to control all aspects of national life, including the beliefs and attitudes of its people. The leader is credited with almost infallible wisdom, because to admit that he or she may be wrong would deprive the regime of its authority. In some Communist countries the cult of personality appears to have given way to the dominance of a group of party leaders " a ruling oligarchy. The successor regime in China, for example, continues to claim infallibility for its policies and doctrines but not for the leaders. Federal Systems The United States and India with their state governments and Canada and China with their provincial governments are examples of workable federal systems in large nations with very diverse populations. The national governments of these countries are clearly more powerful than those of their subdivisions, even though the constitutions delegate many powers and responsibilities to the subnational units. In the United States, for example, state legislatures pass laws having to do with state affairs; state administrators carry them out; and state judiciaries interpret them. The citizens in each jurisdiction elect many of the public officials. In addition, certain special districts exist with a single function, such as education or sanitation, and have their own elected officials. Often the different levels compete for control of functions and programs. Subnational national units administer matters within their jurisdiction, but their powers are set and delegated by the national authority. Most nations are unitary states, but their institutions and processes may differ markedly. Great Britain, for example, is considered a unitary system, yet a certain degree of regional autonomy exists in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and local county governments perform certain fairly autonomous functions. In other unitary states there exists only token territorial decentralization. It also represents the confederation in dealings with outside governments, but its actions are subject to the review and approval of the confederated states. The executive branch usually predominates at such time. Proponents of the separation of powers bring an additional argument in its favor: Governments do not relinquish their authority unless compelled to do so. It may identify

itself with ancient traditions, with hope for the future, or with fear of a common enemy. Some governments employ repression, never relaxing their vigils against real or imagined opponents. Even democracies, when threatened, are likely to engage in a search for subversives and "enemies of the people. The French monarchy in the 18th century and the Russian monarchy in the 20th century were based on aristocracies that had lost much of their legitimacy in the eyes of the people. Governments tend, therefore, to foster widespread ideological commitment to the nation through patriotic ceremonies, propaganda, and civic education; they employ armed forces and intelligence-gathering organizations for national defense; they maintain police and prison systems to ensure domestic order; and they undertake the administration of supervisory and regulatory functions to carry out national goals by establishing various bureaucracies to handle each complex function.

**Administration** All governments recognize the principle that the public must be protected and served. Federal, state, and local governments in the United States also engage directly in economic activity. In other countries governments intrude even further into the workings of the economy. In Western Europe governments own and operate telephone, radio, and television services, railroads, coal mines, and aircraft companies. In some countries, such as Sweden and Great Britain, the entire health system is also run by the state. In countries with Communist governments, such as the former USSR, North Korea, China, and Cuba, the state has attempted to control the entire economic life of the nation.

**Internal Conflicts** The end of the cold war and the loss of control by the superpowers over international events have led to a different type of stress on many governments. The threats to their sovereignty are no longer external. The communication revolution, through radio and the satellite transmission of television, has truly created a "global village. They demand the rights and privileges enjoyed by others. These problems are not limited to Third World countries. NATO has revised its original purpose of preventing an invasion of western Europe to a strategy of maintaining smaller mobile forces to prevent the internal breakup of nations. But these internal conflicts continue to have the potential to produce anarchy and chaos, threatening entire regions. The League of Nations, established in 1919, grew to include more than 90 members. It has, however, served as a forum for international debate and a convenient meeting ground for negotiations. The UN has also committed military forces of member nations in an attempt to limit the scope of conflicts that cannot be solved by national governments. UN forces have suffered casualties in some of these conflicts. Associated with the UN are a number of specialized organizations that perform important governmental functions. The specialized agencies have enabled national governments to cooperate in many practical matters such as setting standards, extending technical and financial assistance to developing countries, eliminating or controlling epidemic diseases, and establishing an international monetary system. Regional associations of nations have usually existed in a loose confederation for national security purposes or for vaguely defined geographical and political purposes. The European Union of 15 member nations has taken the concept of regional association to a much higher level. It has moved to create a political union among sovereign states, and its Common Market constitutes one of the major economies of the world. Reviewed by Thomas B. Hartmann

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