



И.Н. Айнутдинова

**DISCOVER
LAW
WORLDWIDE**

**The Legal Systems
of the World**

часть V



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DISCOVER LAW WORLDWIDE

*Под общей редакцией доктора
филологических наук, профессора
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Учебное пособие
по английскому языку для студентов
юридических факультетов вузов

Supplementary Reading
Часть V

*Печатается по рекомендации
Учебно-методической комиссии юридического факультета КФУ и Учёного
совета Института языка КФУ*

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Айнутдинова И.Н. DISCOVER LAW WORLDWIDE: учеб. пособие по английскому языку для студентов юридических факультетов вузов: в 5 ч. / И. Н. Айнутдинова; под общ. ред. Г. А. Багаутдиновой. – Казань, Издательство Казанского университета, 2012. – 328 с.

Учебное пособие «DISCOVER LAW WORLDWIDE» (часть V) продолжает серию учебных книг по практическому изучению английского языка для студентов юридических факультетов вузов. Пособие является дополнительным образовательным ресурсом по чтению к УМК по английскому языку по направлению подготовки (специальности) «Юриспруденция». Включает обзорные тексты по таким разделам, как «Право», «Общество», «Религия», а также содержит обзорные статьи по государственному и политическому устройству различных стран мира. Страны сгруппированы по разделам с позиции тех правовых систем мира, в рамках которых они функционируют. Пособие снабжено шаблонами таблиц для заполнения с целью структурирования, систематизации и закрепления знаний по основной теме изучения – «Discover Law Worldwide»; глоссария, содержащего наиболее значимую лексику по темам изучения; перечня ссылок на полезные Интернет-ресурсы и др. Пособие рекомендовано для студентов уровня Intermediate и Upper-Intermediate (B1 и B2) и может быть использовано как дополнительный образовательный ресурс для изучения английского языка на юридическом факультете университетов, специализированных юридических институтов и при получении дополнительной квалификации «Переводчик в сфере профессиональной коммуникации».

От автора: Данное учебное пособие готовилось к печати в 2010 году, поэтому изменения, произошедшие в мире позже, в частности, в результате революций в ряде стран арабского Востока, не были отражены.

При изучении данного пособия следует учитывать происходящие перемены:

См. стр. 220 CURRENTLY: Libya (Ливия) – the State of Libya. A civil war and NATO-led military intervention in 2011 resulted in the ousting and death of the country's former leader, Muammar Gaddafi, and the collapse of his 42-year "First of September Revolution" and 34-year-old Jamahiriya state. Libya – is currently undergoing political reconstruction. *Check the news!*

См. стр. 256 CURRENTLY: Egypt (Египет) – the Arab Republic of Egypt. The 25th Revolution and the fall of the former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in February, 2011 resulted in the first parliamentary election. As of July, 4th, 2013 Egypt's military officers removed the country's first democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, suspended the Constitution and installed an interim government presided over by a senior jurist. *Check the news!*

См. стр. 258 CURRENTLY: Syria (Сирия) – the Syrian Arab Republic. Since March 2011, Syria has been embroiled in civil war against its President Bashar al-Assad and his government. As the civil war nears its second year, there have been worries that the country could become fragmented and cease to function as a state. *Check the news!*

См. стр. 259 CURRENTLY: Tunisia (Тунис) – the Republic of Tunisia. In 2011, a revolution – resulted in the overthrow of autocratic President *Zine El Abidine Ben Ali* and the first free elections in the country were held. Now Tunisia is consolidating its young democracy. *Check the news!*



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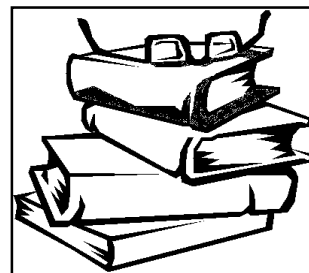
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Reading – is the key factor in the Second Language Learning

To the readers of this book

Dear readers,

Second language acquisition (or learning) – is the process by which people learn a second language. *Second language* refers to any language learned in addition to a person's first language; it can also incorporate the learning of third, fourth or subsequent languages. *Reading in a second language* is considered to be a meaningful



language-learning activity, be it on paper or on screen. Indeed, while attempting overall text comprehension, learners interact with different types of cultural, semantic, and syntactic information that can be processed and possibly learned or remembered. Moreover, many second-language specialists see reading as a pre-eminent means of acquiring new vocabulary. This kind of vocabulary learning, where the vocabulary is "picked-up" during normal reading activities, is referred to in the research as "incidental" vocabulary learning. It is called "incidental" because the major purpose for the interaction with the particular environment or material is not to learn words, but to understand the message of the text and to build up a coherent text base. While reading, learners seem to "guess", "reconstruct" or "derive" the meaning of unknown words from the context. Whenever the context fails to deliver the correct meaning of unknown words (when the context contains too many unknown words or whenever the reader lacks the adequate cultural, world or domain knowledge) the use of a dictionary or of electronic glosses is one of the factors that can promote pick-up rates. It is therefore of great importance that students make the utmost use of the dictionary definitions. As far as the reading task is concerned, research has established that the way in which a text is read is strongly influenced by the readers' study goals (e.g., text summarization; knowledge acquisition, etc.).

There are persuasive evidences of the effectiveness of extensive reading in fostering learners' language development:

- It can provide comprehensible input – these include adequate exposure to the language, interesting material, and a relaxed, tension-free learning environment;
- It can enhance learners' general language competence – via practice in automaticity of word recognition and decoding the symbols on the printed page;
- It increases the students' exposure to the language – with the effect from reading competence to other language skills – writing, speaking and control over syntax;
- It can energize and motivate learners to read more books – as it advances the reading habit;
- It can consolidate previously learned language;
- It helps to build confidence with extended texts;
- It encourages the exploitation of textual redundancy;
- It facilitates the development of prediction skills – it involves the exploitation of background knowledge and provides a platform for readers to predict the content of a text on the basis of a pre-existing schema.



Unit I. Introduction



Hello, dear readers!

My name is Mr. Michael David Coates. My friends will often call me simply Mike. My students and my clients will always address me Mr. Coates which is just natural and sounds as formal as it is required by the standards of English language.

I am a practicing lawyer and I also love to give advices for free. While blogging or chatting in the

Internet I answer lots of questions on law and related legal matters to the citizens of the area I reside in. I also try to enhance the needs in legal knowledge of the law students of our local University.

I will gladly share my own experience of being a lawyer with you too. I will try to answer as many questions (which are actually known as FAQ or Frequently Asked Questions) as possible, I will give you some hints on legal issues and I will help you to create your own vision of the world we all live in. So follow me!

What is a lawyer?



Law – is the system of rules of conduct established by the sovereign government of a society to correct wrongs, maintain the stability of political and social authority, and deliver justice.

A lawyer, according to *Black's Law Dictionary*, is "a person learned in the law; as an attorney, counsel or solicitor; a person who is practicing law." Working as

a lawyer involves the practical application of abstract legal theories and knowledge to solve specific individualized problems, or to advance the interests of those who retain (i.e., hire) lawyers to perform legal services.

Lawyers give people and companies advice and tell them what they can and can't do under the law. Sometimes people and companies hire lawyers to take their side in a court of law against other people or companies, or against the government. Lawyers spend a lot of time doing research. To be a good lawyer, a person must be good at finding facts in books, on computers, and in other places. Lawyers also interview people to get information.

After doing research, lawyers make arguments to show that the people they

work for should win in a court of law. Some lawyers speak in the court, but many lawyers don't. Lawyers also write legal documents like contracts and



wills. These documents need to be very specific and well-written. Lawyers do most of their work in their offices, law libraries, and courtrooms. They sometimes meet in their clients' homes or businesses. Some lawyers meet clients even in the hospitals or prisons. Lawyers often work long hours, especially during a trial in a court.

The role of the lawyer varies significantly across legal jurisdictions, and so the term can be treated differently as well. In practice, legal jurisdictions exercise their right to determine who is recognized as being a lawyer; as a result, the meaning of the term "lawyer" may vary from place to place.

- In Australia the word "lawyer" is used to refer to both barristers and solicitors whether in private practice or practicing as corporate in-house counsel.
- In Canada, the word "lawyer" only refers to individuals who have been called to the bar or have qualified as civil law notaries in the province of Quebec. Common law lawyers in Canada may also be known as "barristers and solicitors", but should not be referred to as "attorneys", since that term has a different meaning in Canadian usage. However, in Quebec, "civil law advocates" or "avocats" in French often call themselves "attorney" and sometimes "barrister and solicitor".
- In England and Wales, "lawyer" is used loosely to refer to a broad variety of law-trained persons. It includes practitioners such as barristers, solicitors, legal executives and licensed conveyancers and those people who are involved with the law but do not practice it on behalf of individual clients, such as judges, court clerks, and drafters of legislation.
- In India, the term "lawyer" is often colloquially used, but the official term is "advocate" as prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961.



- In Scotland, the word "lawyer" refers to a more specific group of legally trained people. It specifically includes advocates and solicitors. In a generic sense, it may also include judges and law-trained support staff.
- In the United States, the term generally refers to attorneys who may practice law; it is never used to refer to patent agents or paralegals.
- Other nations tend to have comparable terms for the analogous concept.



Before you read: My questions to you:

1. What is Law?
2. What is the Rule of Law?
3. What is the Governing Law?
4. What is a question of Law?
5. How often do laymen deal with Law in their routine life?
6. What legal matters could be resolved by ordinary people in the absence of a professional lawyer?
7. What legal matters could not be resolved by ordinary people in the absence of a professional lawyer?



Topic № 1: What is Law?

Read the articles, analyze, summarize and make your own glossary:

What is Law?

Law is a system of rules a society sets to maintain order and protect harm to persons and property. Law is ancient, dating back at least to the Code of Hammurabi, written by an ancient Babylonian king around 1760 BC. Today, most countries have tens or hundreds of thousands of pages of law. Laws are enforced by the police, supported by the court and prison systems. Laws are written by legislators, such as senators or congressmen. In America and many other countries, laws must uphold and not contradict the Constitution, a document outlining the most basic rules of the country. Aside from law being a set of rules, the word also refers to the law as practiced by lawyers, who either prosecute or defend a client from an accusation of violating the law. Becoming a lawyer requires attending law school and passing a bar exam. This entitles the lawyer to a law license. Only lawyers with a law license are allowed to practice law.

There are many categories and subjects of law. These include contract law, property law, trust law, tort law, criminal law, constitutional law, administrative law, international law, etc. Each of these sets the rules for a distinct area of human activity. Without laws, there is lawlessness, which historically has led to a general breakdown in society, sometimes to the point of a near-standstill in the economy.

Those that advocate the abolition of all laws are called anarchists. Depending on one's political orientation, people will generally favor more or less law. At one end of the spectrum are libertarians, who advocate minimal law or government intervention into the affairs of the public. At the other end are fascists, who seek to create laws regulating practically everything, generally under the assumption that a disciplined nation will be a powerful nation. Historically, most fascist governments have collapsed.

What are Legal categories and subjects?

All legal systems deal with the same basic issues, but each country categorizes and identifies its legal subjects in different ways. A common distinction is that between "public law" (a term related closely to the state, and including constitutional, administrative and criminal law), and "private law" (which covers contract, tort and property). In civil law systems, contract and tort fall under a general law of obligations, while trusts law is dealt with under statutory regimes or international conventions. International, constitutional and administrative law, criminal law, contract, tort, property law and trusts are regarded as the "traditional core subjects", although there are many further disciplines.

International law	refers to three (3) things: public international law, private international law or conflict of laws and the law of supranational organizations.
Public international law	concerns the relationships btw sovereign nations.
Conflict of laws or private international law in civil law countries	concerns the issues of which jurisdiction a legal dispute btw private parties should be heard in and which jurisdiction's law should be applied.
Supranational legal framework	European Union law is the first and, so far, the only example; it constitutes "a new legal order of international law" for the mutual social and economic benefit of the EU member states (European Court of Justice, 1960)
Constitutional law	governs the affairs of the state; concerns both the relationships btw the executive, legislature and judiciary and the human rights or civil liberties of individuals against the state.
Administrative law	governs the affairs of the state; it is the chief method for people to hold state bodies to account:

	people can apply for judicial review of actions or decisions by local councils, public services or government ministries, to ensure that they comply with the law.
Criminal law, also penal law	pertains to crimes and punishment; it regulates the definition of and penalties for offences found to have sufficiently deleterious social impact.
The law of criminal procedure	regulates investigation, apprehension, charging, and trying of suspected offenders.
Contract law	concerns enforceable promises, and can be summed up in the Latin phrase "pacta sunt servanda" (agreements must be kept). In common law jurisdictions, three key elements to the creation of a contract are necessary: offer and acceptance, consideration and the intention to create legal relations.
Torts, sometimes called delicts	these are civil wrongs. To have acted tortuously, one must have breached a duty to another person, or infringed some pre-existing legal right. Torts can also involve intentional acts, such as assault, battery or trespass. A better known tort is defamation. More infamous are economic torts, which form the basis of labor law in some countries by making trade unions liable for strikes, when statute does not provide immunity.
Property law	governs valuable things that people call "theirs". Real property, sometimes called "real estate" refers to ownership of land and things attached to it. A "right in rem" is a right to a specific piece of property, contrasting to an "in personam right" which allows compensation for a loss, but not a particular thing back.
Personal property	refers to everything else: movable objects, such as computers, cars, jewelry, and sandwiches, or intangible rights, such as stocks and shares. Regulations on the use of personal property fall under intellectual property, company law, trusts and commercial law.
Land law	forms the basis for most kinds of property law, and is the most complex. It concerns mortgages, rental agreements, licenses, covenants, easements and the

	statutory systems for land registration.
Equity	a body of rules that developed in England separately from the "common law". The common law was administered by judges. The Lord Chancellor on the other hand, as the King's keeper of conscience, could overrule the judge made law if he thought it equitable to do so. This meant equity came to operate more through principles than rigid rules.

Further disciplines

Law spreads far beyond the core subjects into virtually every area of life. Three categories are presented for convenience, though the subjects intertwine and overlap: Law and society; Law and commerce and Law and regulation.

Law and society:

Labor law	the study of a tripartite industrial relationship btw worker, employer and trade union, which involves collective bargaining regulation, the right to strike, etc.
Individual employment law	refers to workplace rights, such as job security, health and safety or a minimum wage, etc.
Human rights law	guarantee everyone basic freedoms and entitlements through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the U.S. Bill of Rights, etc.
Civil rights law	
Civil procedure law and criminal procedure law	concern the rules that courts must follow as a trial and appeals proceed; both concern a citizen's right to a fair trial or hearing.
Evidence law	involves which materials are admissible in courts for a case to be built.
Immigration law and nationality law	concern the rights of foreigners to live and work in a nation-state that is not their own and to acquire or lose citizenship; both also involve the right of asylum and the problem of stateless individuals.
Social security law	refers to the rights people have to social insurance, such as jobseekers' allowances, housing benefits, etc.
Family law	covers marriage and divorce proceedings, the rights of children and rights to property and money in the event of separation.

Law and commerce:

Company law	sprang from the law of trusts, on the principle of separating ownership of property and control.
The law of the modern company	began with the Joint Stock Companies Act 1856, passed in the United Kingdom, which provided investors with a simple registration procedure to gain limited liability under the separate legal personality of the corporation.
Commercial law	covers complex contract and property law. Shipping companies also operate through ordinary principles of commercial law, generalized for a global market.
The law of agency, insurance law, bills of exchange, insolvency and bankruptcy law and sales law	trace back to the usages and customs common to merchants and traders according to Lex Mercatoria (the Latin expression for a body of trading principles used throughout Europe in the medieval period). The modern codified common law commercial principles examples include: the UK Sale of Goods Act 1979 and the US Uniform Commercial Code.
Admiralty law and the Law of the Sea	lay a basic framework for free trade and commerce across the world's oceans and seas, where outside of a country's zone of control.
Admiralty law	also encompasses specialized issues such as salvage, maritime liens, and injuries to passengers.
Intellectual property law	aims at safeguarding creators and other producers of intellectual goods and services; these are legal rights (copyrights, trademarks, patents, and related rights) which result from intellectual activity in the industrial, literary and artistic fields.
Restitution	deals with the recovery of someone else's gain, rather than compensation for one's own loss.
Unjust enrichment	deals with the matters when someone has been unjustly enriched or there is an "absence of basis" for a transaction at another's expense, this event generates the right to restitution to reverse that gain.

Law and regulation:

Tax law	involves regulations that concern value added tax, corporate tax, income tax.
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Banking law and financial regulation	set minimum standards on the amounts of capital banks must hold, and rules about best practice for investment, so as to insure against the risk of economic crises, etc.
Regulation	deals with the provision of public services and utilities, e.g., energy, gas, telecoms and water are regulated industries in most of the countries.
Competition law (in the U.S. – antitrust law)	traces back to Roman decrees against price fixing and the English restraint of trade doctrine. Modern law derives from the U.S. anti-cartel and anti-monopoly statutes (the Sherman Act and Clayton Act). It is used to control businesses who attempt to use their economic influence to distort market prices at the expense of consumer welfare.
Consumer law	includes anything from regulations on unfair contractual terms and clauses to directives on airline baggage insurance.
Environmental law	a complex and interlocking body of treaties, conventions, statutes, regulations, and common law that operates to regulate the interaction of humanity and the natural environment, toward the purpose of reducing the impacts of human activity.

Legal systems of the world

The legal systems of the world today are generally based on one of three basic systems: civil law, common law, and religious law – or combinations of these. However, the legal system of each country is shaped by its unique history, and so incorporates individual variations. The specific system that a country is ruled by is often determined by its history, connections with other countries, or its adherence to international standards. The sources that jurisdictions adopt as authoritatively binding are the defining features of any legal system. Yet classification is a matter of form rather than substance, since similar rules often prevail.

What is a Matter of Law?

A matter of law is an aspect of a case which must be evaluated in terms of the law, with the court deciding which aspect of the law applies and how it should be applied. Matters of law are the responsibility of the judge, not the jury, while matters of fact are decided by the jury or by the judge if a jury is not present. Making decisions about matters of law is an

important part of trying a case in court. The law includes statutes, case law, and written legal opinions. A judge can use all of these elements of the law in order to weigh a matter of law. For example, in a case where someone is being tried for robbery, the judge must consider the areas of the law which pertain to robbery to decide whether or not they apply to the case at hand and whether or not a robbery occurred at all. The jury, on the other hand, must listen to the facts presented in the case to decide whether or not the accused really committed the crime for which he or she is being tried. Judges rely on their training and experience to make decisions about a matter of law when it arises.

Attorneys on both sides can raise matters of law over the course of the trial to request an evaluation and consideration from the judge. Attorneys can approach the bench to ask that a judge consider the legal implications of an aspect of the case and they can also issue challenges asking that the judge strike down motions or evidence presented by the other side on legal grounds. When people are preparing to appeal a verdict, one of the areas of the case which they scrutinize closely is the matters of law which were decided over the course of the case. It may not be possible to dispute the facts evaluated and determined by the jury, but sometimes a legal technicality can create an opening for appeal. For instance, if a judge ruled a piece of evidence inadmissible when it actually was allowable, this may be used as grounds to request a new trial in which this piece of evidence would be presented. In some cases a judge does not have a previous body of law to rely upon when deciding a matter of law. In these instances the judge must issue an opinion on the matter which provides a legal justification for the action taken in regards to a matter of law.

What is a Question of Law?

A question of law is an issue which comes up before, during, or after a trial which pertains to interpretation of the law. Questions of law are decided by a judge, who weighs the available information, considers his or her knowledge of the law, and issues a ruling on the matter. Judges also determine whether or not a question brought up in court is a question of law or a question of fact, as questions of fact are decided by the jury, not the judge, in jury trials. By contrast, a question of fact concerns the actual factual events which occurred. In trials where a jury is not present, the judge rules on both questions of law and fact, but in jury trials, only the jury can decide on the facts. It is the responsibility of the judge to make sure that the

law is applied fairly and appropriately to the case, allowing the determination of facts to be made by the jury. For example, in a murder trial, the question: “Did the defendant kill the deceased?” is a question of fact. It must be decided by the jury on the basis of the available information. By contrast, “If someone buys a gun, plans to kill a person, and shoots someone with it, is it the first degree murder?” is a question of law. Questions of law can be raised by either party during the trial and they require legal expertise to answer. When cases are appealed, it is most often questions of law which are discussed in the appeal. Unless there were drastic problems with the way the facts were presented at the initial trial or critical information was missing, the determination of the facts is considered valid. What may be questioned in the appeal is whether or not the questions of law were properly settled. Sometimes a question of law depends heavily on the discretion of the judge and another judge may rule that the first judge was actually incorrect. When a judge makes a decision about a matter of law, the judge may issue a formal written opinion. This is especially important when the judge is making a decision which may be controversial, or is interpreting a law in a new way. This written opinion on a question of law can be referenced by other judges when they make determinations about matters of law, and such legal decisions become part of jurisprudence.

What is an Operation of Law?

Operation of law is a term used to describe situations where rights or liabilities are conferred automatically, instead of as the result of a specific legal action. A classic example of assignment of rights by operation of law can be seen when someone dies without leaving a will. Operation of law determines the heirs and transfers the property to them. This allows the estate to be handled and limits legal wrangling. The law has a number of provisions in place designed to address situations when changes or transfers need to occur and there is no directive in place to determine what to do. Otherwise, issues could remain pending indefinitely. Some examples of situations where operation of law can come into play include cases in which people fail to file legal objections, judges do not rule on motions in a timely fashion, or people do not act to secure a right or avoid a liability. People do not have to take any actions for assignment by operation of law to occur. In the example of a person who dies intestate, the property is transferred to the presumed heirs by default. The laws of inheritance spell out the hierarchy of

heirs, allowing an appointed executor to determine who is first in line for the proceeds of the estate.

If there is a dispute, such as a question about someone's relationship to the deceased, it can be brought up while the estate is processed. Sometimes, it is possible to dispute a transfer or change of status that happens as a result of operation of law. In these cases, people must be able to demonstrate that they were genuinely not aware of the situation which necessitated the change. Not being aware, the person had no opportunity to take an appropriate action to address the situation. Legal remedies are sometimes available to reverse the change, as seen in cases where people forfeit the contents of an inactive bank account to the state and can later restore the funds under unclaimed property laws. It is important for people to be aware of the role that operation of law can play in their own lives. Failure to act in a timely fashion on a matter of a legal nature may result in extinguishment of rights, as seen in cases of adverse possession. People can also be shouldered with liabilities if they do not pay close attention. People who can be vulnerable to assignments of liabilities or extinguishments of rights include property owners and certain professionals such as doctors.

What is the Rule of Law?

In the United States and Canada, the rule of law is the principle forming the basis of the justice system. It holds that everyone is equal under the law, and that no one is above the law. Citizens do not have the right to choose which laws they are going to observe and which ones they will ignore. The government is subject to the law of the land as well. The rule of law is a concept that can be traced to ancient times. Greek philosophers discussed this concept three centuries before the birth of Christ. This concept was favored as a way to avoid abuse of power by those in authority. When the Magna Carta was signed by King John of England in 1215 AD, he gave certain rights to all free men in the kingdom. This document gave the king's subjects the right to appeal the sentence of wrongful imprisonment. The Magna Carta gave citizens under English rule the right to due process. A person accused of an offense is subject to the law of the land and must be found guilty by a judgment of his or her peers. This concept is related to the rule of law and ensured that those accused of criminal offenses were treated fairly.

Without the principle of the rule of law to guide society, the threat of mob rule exists. The idea of laws being made and enforced by a group of

people who are not required to treat everyone equally is not one that fits in with a peaceful society. With the mob rule model, the rights of minorities may not be protected and equity before the law is not practiced. With the model of the rule of law that is currently in place in the United States, Canada and other countries, people who have less political power have the same rights as other citizens. People involved in working in law enforcement, such as the police and judges, are all subject to the same laws as a member of the public is. The principal of equality under the law protects citizens against discrimination on various grounds. The U.S. state of Nebraska takes the rule of law very seriously. It has adopted the phrase "equality before the law" as its state motto. The words are included on the state seal.

What is an Absolute Law?

Absolute law is a code for human conduct that is derived from the morals that are believed to be universal to all human beings. It is also sometimes known as natural law, referencing the idea that it reflects the laws of nature rather than the laws developed by humans. Many nations incorporate absolute law into their legal systems in addition to positive law, which are the laws created by society in order to make it function more smoothly. The concept of absolute law is very old. Many societies have had philosophers who argued that humans are bound by universal moral codes of conduct. These moral codes are believed to be innate and unchanging because the principles of morality do not alter even as society itself undergoes shifts. Murder is a classic example of an action that is believed to go against human nature and it is notable that many societies historically and in the modern era have criminalized and heavily penalized murder. Proponents of the concept of absolute law argue that, unlike positive law, it is not developed by legal authorities in response to social needs. Absolute law is instead natural to a society and it is possible to arrive at it by following a logical series of steps. People can understand absolute law without having a grasp of positive law because they should have an innate moral sense that governs basic behaviors.

While absolute law may be innately embedded in a society, societies are still required to define illegal activities through the use of legislation and case law. Without a law criminalizing a given activity, it cannot be prosecuted in court. In addition to clearly outlining types of crimes, whether they are based in absolute law or positive law, the government can also set

out guidelines for sentencing in cases where people are convicted of these crimes. There may be situations in which people lack the capacity to comprehend absolute law. These are cases in which people may offer insanity as a defense, arguing that at the time of the crime, they were of a mental state that interfered with their understanding of right and wrong as moral concepts. It is also generally believed that people below the age of majority may not be able to understand the consequences of their actions and they are not held liable in the same way that adults are, except by special arrangement in unusual cases.

What is a Primary Authority?

A primary authority is a document issued by an official body that makes a legally binding statement about the law. A classic example of a primary authority is a law itself. Legislatures are official bodies that are authorized to make laws, and thus the laws they draft become primary authorities once they are published and signed. By contrast, a secondary authority is a document that provides explanation or commentary on the law, and is not issued by an official body. Legislation, also known as enacted or statutory law, is a significant primary authority in many regions and includes legislation enacted at all levels of government, from municipal ordinances to Senate bills. In addition to legislation, primary authorities include case law, treaties, and executive orders. All of these things are examples of formal documents published by government authorities for the purpose of creating laws and providing guidance. Case law is law that is derived from decisions in court cases. In some court cases, there is an existing primary authority that a judge can rely upon to make a decision. For others, a judge will need to interpret the law and provide supporting documentation to bolster that interpretation. Once this is written up in a formal decision, the decision itself becomes a primary authority.

Primary authorities are mandatory. If a primary authority pertains to a situation, it is binding and must be followed. People who believe that a primary authority is outdated or of questionable value can choose to challenge it in a court of law or through the legislature. Legislatures update the law all the time to remove problematic material and clarify terms, for example, addressing the shifting nature of how society and the law interact. When people are doing legal research, they have to be able to distinguish between primary and secondary authorities. For the purpose of writing case decisions and making legal recommendations, a primary authority must be

found to cite so that the document can withstand scrutiny. Even judges setting precedents rely on primary authorities in their decisions, showing how the existing law supports the decision the judge has reached. Secondary, authorities are suggestive in nature. They provide clarification, explanation, and interpretation, but they do not set out the law itself. People can choose to ignore secondary authorities or to challenge them in legal writing of their own, which may demonstrate the problems with a secondary authority and provide suggestions for a new interpretation.

What is a Governing Law?

Governing law refers to the body of laws that will be used to decide a given dispute. Sometimes, it is very clear which law will govern. At other times, it can be more difficult to determine which law should be used to adjudicate a given legal case. Within many countries, separate bodies of law exist. For example, in the United States, each state has the authority and exclusive jurisdiction to make laws on certain issues, such as real property and family law governing citizens within their borders. Each state is also permitted to make and enforce its own body of contract law, within limits set by federal laws and within the limitations on power set forth in the US Constitution. Issues can arise when parties from two different states contract or when two different states have interest in adjudicating the results of a tort law cause of action or other type of legal dispute. A similar problem can arise in the European Union, when parties from two separate members of the Union have a legal dispute. In these situations, it becomes more difficult to determine what the governing law is and which state's or jurisdiction's law should be used to settle the dispute.

In the United States, choice of law rules exist to help parties determine what governing law applies. For example, if the two parties include a "choice of law" clause or forum selection clause in a contract, this will normally be enforced. This means that if the parties specify that Delaware law will be applied to decide any dispute, the courts will listen to the parties' wishes and apply Delaware law when making a decision on how the contract should be interpreted. If the individual parties don't specify which law applies, or if the situation arises in tort or some other area of law where the parties don't have an opportunity to specify the governing law, the court will use other choice of law rules to determine what the governing law is. These rules are designed to ensure that the jurisdiction with the greatest interest in deciding the dispute is able to apply its law. Choice of

law rules have evolved under case law, or common law, rules in the United States. This does not mean that the case must be brought in the court whose law applies. For example, just because a case must be decided under Delaware law does not mean it must be brought in Delaware Court. A court in another state, or the federal court, can hear the case, but it must decide the case using the body of law from Delaware.

What is a Substantive Law?

Substantive law is the area of the law which concerns the definition of rights and responsibilities. This is in contrast with procedural law, which describes how those rights and responsibilities are enforced. To illustrate an example, laws which define the various degrees of murder are substantive laws, while laws which protect the right to a speedy trial for people accused of murder are procedural laws. Substantive and procedural laws are the two main areas of the law, and they are closely interconnected with each other, as one defines the rules of society while the other creates the framework for enforcing them.

The body of substantive law includes things like defining crimes and prescribing appropriate punishments or providing sentencing guidelines which can be used when determining how someone should be sentenced, along with discussions about legal relationships between people as well as entities. People can be given certain rights under substantive law along with responsibilities which they must fulfill, and the law can also define situations in which liability is incurred. Substantive law includes both civil and criminal law. For example, definitions of torts are an example of substantive law because they deal with describing infractions of the law, determining which actions would be considered unacceptable under the law, and prescribing remedies for tort violations. Likewise, laws against sexual assault and physical abuse are in the criminal code and are additional examples of substantive laws. Substantive law is usually drafted in the legislature and passed by vote, although there are some regions of the world where laws can be put to a public vote on the ballot. There are also cases in which laws may be repealed because they are deemed outdated or unnecessary. Several governments have embarked on efforts to clear old laws which are no longer enforced from their legal codes for the purpose of making substantive law somewhat more concise and accurate. In procedural law, rights and responsibilities are not defined, but the law does cover how substantive law is enforced, ranging from protecting rights which people are

due under the law to laying out how trials should be conducted. Violations of procedural law can result in questions about whether or not a case was handled justly, and in some cases can cause a verdict to be overturned not because someone is necessarily innocent, but because procedure was not followed. This is one reason why people who work in law enforcement are very careful about following procedure.

What is the difference between Common Law and Case Law?

Common law and case law have essentially the same meaning in many legal systems, including that of the United States. The body of common law is made up of various case laws from different court systems throughout the country. This case law is legally enforceable unless a higher court overrules it or the legislature creates a law that supersedes it.

In the United States, the law is comprised of the Constitution, statutes, and case law. The Constitution, both at the federal and state levels, is considered the "supreme law of the land." It created the separation of powers and vested certain authority in the legislative branch and certain authority in the courts. The federal and state governments are each permitted to make laws on the areas that the Constitution delegated appropriate to them. These laws are called bills or statutes and are published in code books. As long as these government-made laws do not violate Constitutional rights or parameters, the laws are valid. Statutes and the Constitution, however, are all subject to interpretation as to their meaning. Furthermore, these types of law cannot possibly address every potential legal situation or question that arises. This is where common law — or case law — comes into play.

Case law is a law made by the judges that interprets or refines statutes and constitutions. Case law, in other words, applies general laws to specific cases, thereby refining the definition of the laws in the process. If no specific statute or Constitutional rule is on point, judges must also determine which related laws and rules they believe the law to be based upon. Once a judge makes case law, or interprets an existing law, that case law and interpretation is binding on all courts at the same level or lower within the jurisdiction. The case law is binding under the doctrine of stare decisis, which is derived from a Latin phrase that means "stand by and adhere to decisions and not disturb what is settled". Lawyers and individuals can turn to case law to determine how a law will apply, and can use that case law to govern their behavior. All courts within the jurisdiction

thus must apply that case law. Only a court at the same level, or a higher court, can overrule existing precedent or case law. Under the common law system, only case law within the jurisdiction is binding. This means that a California judge does not have to listen to what a New York judge says about the law. A California judge must, however, listen to what other California judges say about the law, unless they are a higher court and can overrule the existing common law rule.

What is a Federal Law?

Federal law is the whole of the laws passed by the federal government of a country. The federal government is the government that runs the entirety of the country, rather than governments at a smaller level such as state, province, or city. Federal law is typically established in one or more documents that clearly indicate the laws that govern the whole of the country, and may be created and upheld by one or more departments within the federal government. In the United States (US) for example, federal law is created by Congress, upheld by the president, and interpreted and enforced by the Supreme Court. The US federal law consists of the US constitution, US treaties, federal common law, and federal statutes and regulations. This makes up the body of law for the whole of the US and all citizens within the nation are considered equally protected and governed by these laws. Due to the separation of powers between different levels of government, these laws will usually not deal with any of the rights reserved for state governments.

While federal law may govern the overarching activities of all citizens of a country, as well as regulating various government agencies, it may not include all the laws of all regions within the country. In the US, states have certain powers and pass laws regarding how each state will be run, as well as state issues such as state parks, education, and transportation. Federal laws, however, deal with delegating what rights states have, as well as dealing with any issues of injustice or offense between one or more state governments. According to most readings of the US Constitution, federal law overrules state law if there is a conflict between the two. Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution gives the people of each state all the same rights as those enjoyed by all the people within the country. This is seen as ensuring that no state can pass a law that eliminates or hinders the rights guaranteed by federal laws and is typically upheld as such by the Supreme Court.

In smaller countries, however, federal law may be a more specific matter that does govern the daily actions of its citizens. Countries with fewer regions may only have federal laws and city laws, instead of breaking the power structure down into other levels. Because of the large and sweeping nature of powers granted by federal law, care should be taken to ensure that abuses are not made and that tyrannical laws are not passed.

What is a Procedural Law?

Procedural law is a term used to describe a set of rules governing how all aspects of a court case are conducted, including the events that occur before, during, and after the trial. It applies in both criminal and civil cases as well as in administrative proceedings, although different procedural rule sets may be used in each of these categories. Procedural rules can also be unique to certain categories of law. For example, bankruptcy courts often have their own unique rules for conducting a suit. The primary purpose behind procedural law is to make certain that every case brought to court is justly and consistently treated. Uniform legal procedural rules help ensure that courts do not impose criminal or civil penalties against a person without due process or fundamental justice. For instance, procedural law helps ensure that a defendant in a civil lawsuit or a criminal case has received notice of the suit or case and has been given an opportunity to defend himself and present evidence in court. Despite providing parties with a basic level of fairness, procedural law can be unfair in some circumstances because it is often rigid and complex. This can be particularly disadvantageous for a party who is pro se, or unrepresented by a lawyer. Due to unfamiliarity with the rules, a pro se party may inadvertently violate certain procedural laws. As a result, he could be penalized or his case could even be thrown out of court. In a typical case, procedural law would govern jurisdiction, jury selection, entry of evidence, and the process for appealing a verdict or conviction. In a criminal court case, it dictates the non-substantive issues relating to prosecuting a crime.

Procedural rules can also specify a statute of limitations for bringing a case, which is a time limitation on filing a civil suit with a court or on prosecuting a crime. Procedural law is distinct from substantive law, which is primarily concerned with setting forth rights and responsibilities of people or entities. Substantive law includes criminal law, real property law, tort law, and contract law. Procedural law, on the other hand, establishes a mechanism for determining those rights and responsibilities. To illustrate,

substantive criminal law may dictate that murder is illegal and that the prosecution must prove certain elements in order to convict the defendant of murder. Procedural criminal law in that instance would detail the procedural rules relating to the crime, such as that the defendant has the right to a jury trial.



It is interesting to know: Murphy's law:

<http://www.murphys-laws.com/murphy/murphy-true.html>

Murphy's Law was born at Edwards Air Force Base in 1949 at North Base. It was named after Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an engineer, working on Air Force Project MX981, designed to see how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash. One day, after finding that a transducer was wired wrong, he cursed the



technician responsible and said, "If there is any way to do it wrong, he'll find it." The project manager kept a list of "laws" and added this one, which he called Murphy's Law. Shortly afterwards, the Air Force doctor (Dr. John Paul Stapp) gave a press conference. He said that their good safety record on the project was due to a firm belief in Murphy's Law. Aerospace manufacturers picked it up and used it widely in their ads and soon it was being quoted in many news and magazines. **Some of Murphy's laws:**

- If anything can go wrong, it will.
- The amount of love someone feels for you is inversely proportional to how much you love them.
- A man in the house is worth two in the street.
- Every solution breeds new problems.
- The chance of the bread falling with the buttered side down is directly proportional to the cost of the carpet.
- No matter how many times you've had it, if it's offered take it, because it'll never be quite the same again.
- Before you find your handsome prince, you've got to kiss a lot of frogs.
- The duration of a relationship to a person is inversely proportionate to the importance of person to you.
- Beauty is directly proportional to the number of drinks consumed.
- Being told that someone doesn't want to date you because you're such a good friend is like being told that you didn't get the job because you're overqualified.



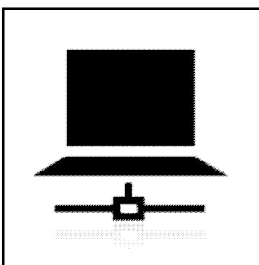
Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

What is Law and what makes it essential to know it?



Before you start: My tips to you:

Speeches and presentations are critical components of any educational tasks and purposes. Like so many other things in life, writing, speaking and giving a good presentation depends on solid preparation, even before you create your first Power Point slide. If you forget about your audience, neglect a well-structured presentation, fail to practice, miss the logics, problem solution and key ideas, you may immediately feel your presentation does not reach the targets to generate understanding and interest on the part of the public you are attempting to inform or persuade. Knowing your audience is very valuable to you if you want your presentation to be really memorable. Even if you're comfortable with your audience and know your material well, developing a dynamic Power Point presentation can be a challenge. And even if you have a good presentation created, there is usually room for improving your slides. Using strong, relevant visual images can boost the impact of your presentation considerably. Look for photos, illustrations, charts, etc. that lend meaning and value to your subject. So take time to draft out your presentation. Concentrate on the content and its organization, remembering your purpose and your audience, and the expectations they have of you and your material. Done well, you will deliver a presentation that your audience will go away saying: "That was a great presentation! I learned so much and now I am ready to do something with it".



Strategy Tips:

1. Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
2. Choose the exact name for you presentation and make your own plan.
3. The digital overview could contain the following:
 - 1) Definition of the term "law";
 - 2) What is natural law?
 - 3) What is moral law?
 - 4) What are the branches of law?
 - 5) What are the branches of legal practice?
 - 6) Legal professions;
 - 7) The latest hot topics related with the unusual laws` application worldwide, etc.

What is moral law? 4) What are the branches of law? 5) What are the branches of legal practice? 6) Legal professions; 7) The latest hot topics related with the unusual laws` application worldwide, etc.

**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



Before you read: My questions to you:

1. What is society?
2. How is society organized? What evolution has a notion "society" undergone?
3. What is a state? What forms of state do you know?
4. How does the state correlate with the law-making process? With executive process? With judiciary process?
5. What are politics?
6. Do you have any political preferences or outlooks?
7. Are you aware of the political situation in your home country?



Topic № 2: What is Society?

Read the articles, analyze, summarize and make your own glossary:

<http://www.wisegeek.com>

What is Society?

Society or a human society is a group of people related to each other through persistent relations such as social status, roles, and social networks. By extension, society denotes the people of a region or country, sometimes even the world, taken as a whole. Used in the sense of an association, a society is a body of individuals outlined by the bounds of functional interdependence, possibly comprising characteristics such as national or cultural identity, social solidarity, language or hierarchical organization.

Human societies are characterized by patterns of relationships between individuals sharing a distinctive culture and institutions. Like other communities or groups, a society allows its members to achieve needs or wishes they could not fulfill alone, independent of, and utterly irreducible to, the qualities of constituent individuals; it may act to oppress. The urbanization and rationalization inherent in some, particularly Western capitalist, societies, has been associated with feelings of isolation and social "anomie". More broadly, a society is an economic, social or industrial infrastructure, made up of a varied collection of individuals. Members of a society may be from different ethnic groups. A society may be a particular ethnic group, such as the Saxons; a nation state, such as Bhutan; a broader cultural group, such as a Western society. The word society may also refer

to an organized voluntary association of people for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes. A "society" may even, though more by means of a metaphor refer to a social organism such as an ant colony.

People of many nations united by common political and cultural traditions, beliefs, or values are sometimes also said to be a society (such as Judeo-Christian, Eastern, and Western). When used in this context, the term is employed as a means of contrasting two or more "societies" whose members represent alternative conflicting and competing worldviews (see Secret Societies). Some academic, professional and scientific associations describe themselves as societies (for example, the American Mathematical Society, American Society of Civil Engineers, or the Royal Society). In some countries (for example the United States, France and Latin America), the term "society" is used in commerce to denote a partnership between investors or the start of a business. In the United Kingdom, partnerships are not called societies, but cooperatives or mutuals are often known as societies (such as friendly societies and building societies).

Evolution of societies

According to anthropologist Maurice Godelier, one critical novelty in human society, in contrast to humanity's closest biological relatives (chimpanzees and bonobo), is the parental role assumed by the males. Sociologist Gerhard Lenski differentiates societies based on their level of technology, communication and economy: 1) hunters and gatherers; 2) simple agricultural; 3) advanced agricultural; 4) industrial, and 5) special (e.g. fishing societies or maritime societies).

This is somewhat similar to the system earlier developed by the anthropologists Morton H. Fried, a conflict theorist, and Elman Rogers Service, a cultural anthropologist and integration theorist, who both have produced a system of classification for societies in all human cultures based on the evolution of social inequality and the role of the state. This system of classification contains four (4) categories: 1) Hunter-gatherer bands (categorization on duties and responsibilities); 2) Tribal societies in which there are some limited instances of social rank and prestige; 3) Stratified structures led by the chieftains; 4) Civilizations, with complex social hierarchies and organized, institutional governments. In addition to this there are: 1) Humanity, or mankind, upon which all the elements of society rest, including society's beliefs; 2) Virtual society is a society based on

online identity, which is evolving in the information age. Over time, some cultures have progressed toward more-complex forms of organization and control. This cultural evolution has a profound effect on patterns of community. Hunter-gatherer tribes settled around seasonal food stocks to become agrarian villages. Villages grew to become towns and cities. Cities turned into city-states and nation-states.

Today, anthropologists and many social scientists vigorously oppose the notion of cultural evolution and rigid "stages" such as these. In fact, much anthropological data has suggested that complexity (civilization, population growth and density, specialization, etc.) does not always take the form of hierarchical social organization or stratification. Also, cultural relativism as of a widespread approach/ethic has largely replaced notions of "primitive", better or worse, or "progress" in relation to cultures (including their material culture or technology and social organization).

Organization of society

Human societies are often organized according to their primary means of subsistence. The social scientists identify hunter-gatherer societies, nomadic pastoral societies, horticulturalist or simple farming societies, and intensive agricultural societies, also called civilizations. Some consider industrial and post-industrial societies to be qualitatively different from traditional agricultural societies.

One common theme for societies in general is that alone person has rather limited means at their disposal, and societies serve to aid individuals in times of crisis. Traditionally, when an individual requires aid, for example at birth, death, sickness, or disaster, members of that society will rally others to render aid, in some form – symbolic, linguistic, physical, mental, emotional, financial, medical, or religious. Many societies will distribute largess, at the behest of some individual or some larger group of people. This type of generosity can be seen in all known cultures; typically, prestige accrues to the generous individual or group. Conversely, members of a society may also shun or scapegoat members of the society who violate its norms. Mechanisms such as gift-giving and scapegoat, which may be seen in various types of human groupings, tend to be institutionalized within a society. Social evolution as a phenomenon carries with itself certain elements that could be detrimental to the population it serves.

Some societies will bestow status on an individual or group of people, when that individual or group performs an admired or desired action. This

type of recognition is bestowed by members of that society on the individual or group in the form of a name, title, manner of dress, or monetary reward. Males, in many societies, are particularly susceptible to this type of action and subsequent reward, even at the risk of their lives. Action by an individual or larger group in behalf of some cultural ideal is seen in all societies. The phenomena of community action, shunning, scapegoat, generosity, and shared risk and reward occur in subsistence-based societies and in more technology-based civilizations.

Societies may also be organized according to their political structure. In order of increasing size and complexity, there are: 1) bands; 2) tribes; 3) chiefdoms, and 4) state societies. These structures may have varying degrees of political power, depending on the cultural, geographical, and historical environments that these societies must contend with. Thus, the society with the same level of technology and culture as the other societies is more likely to survive. A society that is unable to offer an effective response to other societies it competes with will usually be subsumed into the culture of the competing society.

Primitive societies

Regardless of how civilized the world is, there are still large numbers of people living in the most primitive conditions. The most important of these because they are the most scientifically studied are the "aborigines" of Australia. The scientific study of the aboriginal Australian forms the basis of what is best known of primitive societies in general.

The Totem group was the real social unit of the aboriginal Australians. The "Totem" is not an Australian word but it is generally accepted to designate the name of an institution which is found everywhere among primitive people. The "Totem group" is primarily a group of people distinguished by the sign of a natural object, such as an animal or tree, which may not intermarry with one another – this is the first rule of primitive social organization; its origin is lost in antiquity but its object is certainly to prevent the intermarriage of close relatives.

Marriage takes place between men and women of different Totems; the husband belongs to all the women of his wife's totem and the wife belongs to all the men of the husband's totem at the same time that a communal marriage is established between the men and women of the two different Totems – the men and women being of the same generation. This presents the most valuable objective lesson in a social history. There are no

unmarried couples; marriage for them is a part of the natural order into which they are born.

The ceremonies were kept secret and were directed by a "Birraark" or sorcerer, usually an old man. The candidates were instructed about the history of their Totem and on the power of the Birraark. They were initiated into the mystery of the Totem, usually accompanied by an ordeal such as circumcision and then they were tattooed with a seal of identity that marked them for a given Totem and the given generation in that Totem. In this way there was constructed the simple system of relationship of the aboriginal Australians before the British colonization. The mother took a predominant role, for descent was almost always reckoned through females. Parent, child, brother and sister were the only recognized relationships. Rudimentary as this system may appear to be, it is widely spread among the Malay Archipelago and prevailed widely among primitive peoples everywhere.

The Totem served the purpose of forbidding intermarriage between close relatives and will deal destruction if this rule is not strictly enforced. These are the rudiments of two of the most important factors in human progress: Religion and Law. The rudimentary notion of Law is very specific about what is prohibited or Taboo. Primitive people do not recognize any duties towards strangers unless there is an abundant food supply in a given area. It is a sure sign of progress if the same area is able to maintain an ever larger number of people. Lewis H. Morgan author of Ancient Society considers the American Indians to be the link between the primitive and patriarchal state of society.

According to the legend and the Codex Chimalpopoca, Quetzalcoatl being intoxicated with pulque (a light alcoholic drink from Mexico made from the juice of various agave plants) had incest with his sister Quetzalpetlatl. Upon realizing the act, he declared: "... I've sinned. I'm not fit to rule." He burned his palace, buried his treasures and left forever the beloved city of Tollan, cradle of Toltec civilization.

Patriarchal societies

All patriarchal societies are known by certain characteristic features:

- 1) Male kinship is prevalent. Men are counted as kin because they are descended from the same male ancestor;
- 2) Marriage is permanent. It is not until one woman is married to one man that certainty of fatherhood appears in society but it is not a general rule of

patriarchal society for polygamy does exist in the earlier stages of social development.

3) Paternal authority is the ruling principle of the social order.

In ancient Rome, the patria potestas extended to all descendants of one living male ancestor; it comprised control and punishment not to mention questions of life and death. These features of the development of the patriarchal state of society are as common among the Jews as among the Arabs, among the Aryans as among the Dravidians and even among the Germanic and Celtic peoples. The patriarchal state of society consists of two stages, tribe and clan.

The tribe is a large group of hundreds of members who descend from one common male ancestor, sometimes from a fictitious character satisfying the etiquette that descent from the male as the only basis of society. The clan, on the other hand, is a smaller group reaching back into the past for only four generations or so to a common well-known male ancestor. The clan always breaks down into smaller units when its limit is reached. According to the Scottish historian W. F. Skene of Scotland, the tribe as the larger unit is the oldest. When the tribe breaks down, clans are formed. When the clan system breaks down, it leaves the households or families as independent units. Finally, with the withering away of patriarchal society, the family is dissolved and the individual comes into existence.

The state

The origin of the State is to be found in the development of the art of warfare. Historically speaking, there is not the slightest difficulty in proving that all political communities of the modern type owe their existence to successful warfare. As a result, the new states are forced to be organized on military principles. The life of a new community is a military allegiance (loyalty, as of a subject to his sovereign or of a citizen to his country). The military nature of a State makes it competitive.

Of the institutions by which the state was ruled, that of kingship stood foremost until the French Revolution put an end to the "divine right of the kings". Nevertheless, kingship is perhaps the most successful institution of politics. However, the first kings were not institutions but individuals. The earliest kings were successful militarily. They were men not only of great military genius but also great administrators. Kingship becomes an institution through heredity. However, constitutional monarchies are not successful at all. Elective monarchy is one of the chimeras of political

utopia. Chosen by an electorate, the best they become is obedient puppets like the newly elected presidents of the republics, obedient to whoever would pull the strings behind the scenes.

The king rules his kingdom with the aid of his Council; without it he could not hold his territories. The Council is the king's master mind. The Council is the germ of constitutional government. Long before the council became a bulwark of democracy, it rendered invaluable aid to the institution of kingship by: 1) Preserving the institution of kingship through heredity; 2) Preserving the traditions of the social order; 3) Being able to withstand criticism as an impersonal authority; 4) Being able to manage a greater deal of knowledge and action than a single individual such as the king. The greatest of the king's subordinates, the earls in England and Scotland, the dukes and counts in the Continent, always sat as a right on the Council. A conqueror wages war upon the vanquished for vengeance or for plunder but an established kingdom exacts tribute. One of the functions of the Council is to keep the coffers of the king full. Another is the satisfaction of military service and the establishment of lordships by the king to satisfy the task of collecting taxes and soldiers.

The state and property

No political institution is of greater importance than the institution of property. Property is the right vested on the individual or a group of people to enjoy the benefits of an object be it material or intellectual. A right is a power enforced by a public trust. Sometimes it happens that the exercise of a right is opposed to a public trust. Nevertheless, a right is really the creation of a public trust, past, present or future. The growth of knowledge is the key to the history of property as an institution. The more man becomes knowledgeable of an object be it physical or intellectual, the more it is appropriated.

The appearance of the State brought about the final stage in the evolution of property from wildlife to husbandry. In the presence of the State, man can hold landed property. The State began granting lordships and ended up conferring property and with it came inheritance. With landed property came rent and in the exchange of goods, profit, so that in modern times, the "lord of the land" of long ago becomes the landlord. If it is wrongly assumed that the value of land is always the same, then there is of course no evolution of property whatever. However, the price of land goes up with every increase in population benefitting the landlord. The

landlordism of large land owners has been the most rewarded of all political services. In industry, the position of the landlord is less important but in towns which have grown out of an industry, the fortunate landlord has reaped an enormous profit.

Towards the latter part of the middle Ages in Europe, both the State – the State would use the instrument of confiscation for the first time to satisfy a debt; and the Church – the Church succeeded in acquiring immense quantities of land – were allied against the village community to displace the small landlord and they were successful to the extent that today, the village has become the ideal of the individualist, a place in which every man "does what he wills with his own."

The State thus has been the most important factor in the evolution of the institution of property be it public or private.

The state and the justice system

As a military institution, the State is concerned with the allegiance of its subjects which is a risk to its national security. Thus the law of treason arises. Criminal acts in general, breaking the peace and treason make up the whole of criminal law enforced by the State as distinguished from the law enforced by private individuals. State justice has taken the place of clan, feudal, merchant and ecclesiastical justice due to its strength, skill and simplicity.

One pretty striking evidence of the superiority of the royal courts over the feudal and popular courts in the matter of official skill is the fact that, until comparatively late in history, the royal courts alone kept written records of their proceedings. The most innovative proceeding introduced by the royal courts was trial by jury becoming not only popular but also the bulwark of liberty. By the time of the Protestant Reformation, with the separation of Church and State, in the most progressive countries, the State succeeded in dealing with the business of administering justice.

The state and Law

The making of laws was unknown to primitive societies. The most persistent of all patriarchal societies, the Jewish, retains to a certain extent its tribal law in the Gentile cities of the West. This tribal law is the rudimentary idea of law as it presented itself to people in the patriarchal stage of society, it was a custom or observance sanctioned by the approval and practice of ancestors. The intolerable state of affairs in the 10th century

where every little town had its own laws and nations like France, Germany, Spain and other countries had no national law till the end of the 18th century came to an end thanks to three great agencies that helped to create the modern system of law and legislation.

1) Records. From the early Middle Ages in Europe there come what are called folk-laws and they appear exactly at the time when the patriarchal is becoming the State. They are due almost universally to one cause: the desire of the king to know the custom of his subjects. These are not legislations in the sense of law-making but statements or declarations of custom. They are drawn from the knowledge of the custom of the people. Unwritten custom changes imperceptibly but not the written. It is always possible to point to the exact text and show what it says. Nevertheless, the written text can change by addition with every new edition.

2) Law Courts. By taking some general rule which seemed to be common to all the communities and ignoring the differences, English common law was modeled after such a practice so that the law became common in all the districts of the kingdom. The reason why in the rest of Europe, there was no common law till centuries later is because the State in those countries did not get hold of the administration of justice when England did. One of the shrewdest moves by which the English judges pushed their plan of making a common law was by limiting the verdict of the jury in every case to questions of fact. At first the jury used to give answers both on law and fact; and being a purely local body, they followed local custom. A famous division came to pass: the province of the judge and the province of the jury.

Records and Law Courts were valuable in helping the people adapt to law-making but like Fictions, they were slow and imperfect. Though slowly, Fictions work because it is a well known fact that people will accept a change in the form of a fiction while they would resist it to the end if the fact is out in the open.

3) Finally, there is the enactment of laws or legislation. When progress and development is rapid, the faster method of political representation is adopted. This method does not originate in primitive society but in the State need for money and its use of an assembly to raise the same.

From the town assembly, a national assembly and the progress of commerce sprang Parliament all over Europe around the end of the 12th century but not entirely representative or homogenous for the nobility and

the clergy. The clergy had amassed a fortune in land, about one-fifth of all Christendom but at the time, in the 12th and 13th centuries, the Church was following a policy of isolation; they adopted the rule of celibacy and cut themselves from domestic life; they refused to plead in a secular court; they refused to pay taxes to the State on the grounds that they had already paid it to the Pope.

Since the main object of the king in holding a national assembly was to collect money, the Church could not be left out and so they came to Parliament. The Church did not like it but in most cases they had to come. The medieval Parliament was complete when it represented all the states in the realm: nobles, clergy, peasants and craftsmen but it was not a popular institution mainly because it meant taxation. Only by the strongest pressure of the Crown were Parliaments maintained during the first century of their existence and the best proof of this assertion lies in the fact that in those countries where the Crown was weak, Parliament ceased to exist.

The notion that parliaments were the result of a democratic movement cannot be supported by historical facts. Originally, the representative side of Parliament was solely concerned with money; representation in Parliament was a liability rather than a privilege. It is not uncommon that an institution created for one purpose begins to serve another. People who were asked to contribute with large sums of money began to petition. Pretty soon, sessions in Parliament would turn into bargaining tables, the king granting petitions in exchange for money. However, there were two kinds of petitions, one private and the other public and it was from this last that laws were adopted or legislation originated. The king as head of State could give orders to preserve territorial integrity but not until these royal enactments were combined with public petition that successful legislation ever took place. Even to the present day, this has always been the basis of all successful legislation: public custom is adopted and enforced by the State.

In the early days of political representation, the majority did not necessarily carry the day and there was very little need for contested elections but by the beginning of the 15th century, a seat in Parliament was something to be cherished. Historically speaking, the dogma of the equality of man is the result of the adoption of the purely practical machinery of the majority but the adoption of the majority principle is also responsible for another institution of modern times: the party system. The party system is an elaborate piece of machinery that pits at least two political candidates against each other for the vote of an electorate; its advantage being equal

representation interesting a large number of people in politics; it provides effective criticism of the government in power and it affords an outlet for the ambition of a large number of wealthy and educated people guaranteeing a consistent policy in government.

These three institutions: political representation, majority rule and the party system are the basic components of modern political machinery; they are applicable to both central and local governments and are becoming by their adaptability ends in themselves rather than a machinery to achieve some purposes.

The state and the executive system

The administration is one of the most difficult aspects of government. In the enactment and enforcement of laws, the victory of the State is complete but not so in regards to administration the reason being that it is easy to see the advantages of the enactment and enforcement of laws but not the administration of domestic, religious and business affairs which should be kept to a minimum by government.

Originally, the state was a military organization. For many years, it was just a territory ruled by a king who was surrounded by a small elite group of warriors and court officials and it was basically the rule by force over large masses of people. Slowly, however, the people gained political representation for none can really be said to be a member of the State without the right of having a voice in the direction of policy making. One of the basic functions of the State in regards to administration is maintaining peace and internal order; it has no other excuse for interfering in the lives of its citizens. To maintain law and order the State develops means of communication.

Historically, the "king's highway" was laid down and maintained for the convenience of the royal armies not as an incentive to commerce. In almost all countries, the State jealously maintains the control of the means of communication and special freedoms such as those delineated in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution are rather limited. The State's original function of maintaining law and order within its borders gave rise to police administration which is a branch of the dispensation of Justice but on its preventive side, police jurisdiction has a special character of its own, which distinguishes it from ordinary judicial work.

In the curfew, the State shows early in history the importance of preventing disorder. In early days, next to maintaining law and order, the

State was concerned with the raising of revenues. This led eventually to modern State socialism. It was then useful to the State to establish a standard of weights and measures so that value could be generally accepted and finally the State acquired a monopoly of coinage. The regulation of labor by the State as one of its functions dates from the 15th century, when the Black Plague killed around half of the European population.

The invariable policy of the State has always being to break down all intermediate authorities and to deal directly with the individual. This was the policy until Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* was published promoting a strong public reaction against State interference. By its own action, the State raised the issue of the poor or the State relief of the indigent. The State, of course, did not create poverty but by destroying the chief agencies which dealt with it such as the village, the church and the guilds, it practically assumed full responsibility for the poor without exercising any power over it. The Great Poor Law Report of 1834 showed that communism ran rampant in the rural areas of England. In newly developed countries such as the colonies of the British Empire, the State has refused to take responsibility for the poor and the relief of poverty in spite of the fact that the poor classes lean heavily towards State socialism.

Recognizing the great power of the State, it is only natural that in times of great crisis such as an overwhelming calamity the people should invoke general State aid. Political representation has helped to shape State administration. When the voice of the individual can be heard, the danger of arbitrary interference by the State is greatly reduced. To that extent is the increase of State activity popular. There are no hard and fast rules to limit State administration but it is a fallacy to believe that the State is the nation and what the State does is necessarily for the good of the nation.

In the first place, even in modern times, the State and the nation are never identical. Even where "universal suffrage" prevails, the fact remains that an extension of State administration means an increased interference of some by others, limiting freedom of action. Even if it is admitted that State and nation are one and the same, it is sometimes difficult to admit that State administration is necessarily good. Finally, the modern indiscriminate advocacy of State administration conceals the fallacy that State officials must necessarily prove more effective in their action than private enterprise. Herein lies the basic difference between Public and Business Administration; the first deals with the public weal while the second deals basically in profit but both require a great deal of education and ethical

conduct to avoid the mishaps inherent in the relationship not only of business and labor but also the State and the Administration.

Society today: Western society

The development of the Western world has brought with it the emerging concepts of Western culture, politics and ideas, often referred to simply as Western society. Geographically, it covers at the very least the countries of Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand and sometimes also includes South America and Israel. The cultures and lifestyles of all of these stem from Western Europe. They all enjoy relatively strong economies and stable governments, allow freedom of religion, have chosen democracy as a form of governance, favor capitalism and international trade, are heavily influenced by Judeo-Christian values, and have some form of political and military alliance or cooperation.

Information society

Although the concept of information society has been under discussion since the 1930s, it is almost always applied to the manner in which information technologies have impacted society and culture in the modern world. It therefore covers the effects of computers and telecommunications on the home users, the workplace, schools, government and various communities and organizations, as well as the emergence of new social forms in cyberspace.

One of the European Union's areas of interest is the Information Society. Here policies are directed towards promoting an open and competitive digital economy, research into information and communication technologies, as well as their application to improve social inclusion, public services and quality of life. The International Telecommunications Union's World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva and Tunis (2003/2005) has led to a number of policy and application areas where action is required. These include: promotion of ICTs for development; information and communication infrastructure; access to information and knowledge; capacity building; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs; enabling environment; ICT applications in the areas of government, business, learning, health, employment, environment, agriculture and science; cultural and linguistic diversity and local content; media; ethical dimensions of the Information Society; international and regional cooperation.

Knowledge society

As access to electronic information resources increased at the beginning of the 21st century, special attention was extended from the Information Society to the knowledge society. In the words of an Irish governmental analysis, "The capacity to manipulate, store and transmit large quantities of information cheaply has increased at a staggering rate over recent years. The digitization of information and the associated pervasiveness of the Internet are facilitating a new intensity in the application of knowledge to economic activity, to the extent that it has become the predominant factor in the creation of wealth. As much as 70 to 80 percent of economic growth is now said to be due to new and better knowledge."

The Second World Summit on the Knowledge Society, held in Chania, Crete, in September 2009, gave special attention to the following topics: business and enterprise computing; technology-enhanced learning; social and humanistic computing; culture, tourism and technology; e-government and e-democracy; innovation, sustainable development and strategic management; service science, management and engineering; intellectual and human capital development; ICTs for ecology and the Green Economy; future prospects for the Knowledge Society; technologies and business models for the creative industries.

What is a Civic Society?

A civic society, also known as a "civil society", is a collection of organizations and institutions with a civic or social bent that works together in a way that the government cannot or will not. These groups work together on a voluntary basis in order to effect civic and social change and to improve the lives of the people. Generally, but not always, the members of a civic society are non-profit organizations and are not linked with the established government.

Civic societies include community-based organizations, community foundations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private voluntary organizations (PVOs), civic clubs, programs that develop community leadership, some kinds of unions, social clubs, academic institutions, charities, environmental groups, and cooperatives. Oftentimes, these organizations will work together to host civic events, plan programs for civic change and development, and cooperate to help one another achieve civic goals. Civic society and democracy are often linked. Their connection

resides in their philosophy. The links between a civic society and a democracy have been written about by Alexis-Charles-Henri Maurice Clérel de Tocqueville, Sidney Verba, and Gabriel Almond. Many political and social theorists believe that it is vital that a civic society exists within a democracy.

Today, the term "civic society" is often heard in debates about globalization. Many activists believe that globalization will do damage to the social life of communities and that this will result in various kinds of political and social breakdowns. Others believe that globalization offers opportunities for new kinds of global civic societies. While the future of the civic society is unknown, it is known that many civic societies have weathered many kinds of political and economic change. The Red Cross, for example, was developed in October 1863 under the title "The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement." This organization, which was launched in Geneva, Switzerland, set out to offer nonpartisan care to sick and wounded individuals in times of war. The Red Cross continues to work as a civic society and has assisted individuals who have been involved in some of the worst catastrophes and bloodiest wars in history.

What Are Social Policies?

Social policies are policies which are designed to address social issues, ranging from poverty to racism. Many governments have agencies which formulate and administrate social policies, and governments approach social issues in a variety of ways. Europe is often regarded as a very progressive model when it comes to social policy, with a number of far-reaching programs which are designed to promote equality in the European Union. Social policy reform can also take place outside the government, as seen when community organizations work to support disadvantaged citizens.

The idea behind social policy is that taking steps to benefit human welfare is a generally good idea. The immediate effect of social policies can be economic and social improvement in a nation, but many people also feel that benefiting other humans is intrinsically good, even if it confers no immediate benefits. In fact, research on social policies seems to suggest that attempts at equalization do benefit society in both the short and long term; for example, pushing for equal inclusion of women in the workplace has resulted in a larger and more diverse workforce, and providing health care

through the government to all citizens in Europe has lowered health care costs in addition to creating a healthier and more productive population.

Some examples of social policies include: government pensions, welfare for the poor, food stamps, affordable housing initiatives, health care, unemployment benefits, equal opportunity employment laws, antidiscrimination laws, and policy initiatives which are designed to benefit disadvantaged people in society. For instance, many nations encourage their colleges and universities to accept students regardless of need, with the goal of giving people at an economic disadvantage the chance to go to college, improving their opportunities.

Government social policies can include explicit laws which are designed to address social issues of concern, such as laws which prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, or creed. They can also involve programs and initiatives which are used to promote progress on social issues in some way, such as incentives to developers who build affordable housing, rural health access programs, and literacy programs.

Within a society, companies and organizations may also be involved in the implementation of social policies. Companies which want to be viewed as socially responsible, for example, may donate to causes which support improvement on social issues, or may have internal policies which support pushes for equality. Social policy development also takes place in a number of organizations large and small which create programs to address social issues or lobby the government to make functional legal changes which will increase social opportunities.

What Are the Most Common Public Policy Issues?

One of the guiding tenets of government is providing for the public good, often by offering services that, due to scale or cost, cannot be manifested privately or individually. The administration and management of these services is generally referred to as public policy. There are a number of public policy issues that are traditionally more important and controversial than others.

Some of the oldest and most timeless public policy issues include public health, public welfare, police and fire service, and transportation. Early civilizations, such as those in Greece, Rome, and the Middle East, grappled with the provision of public services, like supplying fresh water and the construction of roads. These ancient communities had to not only address the logistics of offering such services, but also had to reach a

consensus on how to pay for them. This was generally accomplished through taxation.

Other public policy issues have evolved over time. Since the Victorian era, there has been an increasing public demand for sanitation, communications infrastructure, mass transit, and many other services that have been created as a result of technology. Another growing public policy issue in the 21st century is environmentalism and conservation, particularly with respect to energy.

In modern times, public policy has evolved into an academic and professional field, for which a number of advanced degrees are available. Those who study public policy issues at the graduate level may earn masters and doctorate degrees in the field. They can then go on to a number of different careers. There is also a professional association for those in public policy, known as the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.

Public policy issues are not simply the domain of publicly elected officials. As more money and other resources are devoted to public spending, so-called special interests — which range from non-profit charities to groups in the private sector — lobby lawmakers to pass legislation beneficial to their causes. Other lobbyists also exist to try to curb public spending and lower taxes. With the proliferation of the Internet and its various forms of instant communication, involvement in public policy issues has become ever more democratized. Concerned citizens may access many of the same data sources as legislators and lobbyists, and build grassroots movements for or against any issue about which they feel strongly. Where once the debate over public policy was restricted only to the ruling class, it is now possible for virtually anyone with an opinion to weigh in and help shape the result.

What are politics?

Politics – is a process by which groups of people make collective decisions. The term is generally applied to behavior within civil governments, but politics has been observed in other group interactions, including corporate, academic, and religious institutions. It consists of "social relations involving authority or power" and refers to the regulation of a political unit, and to the methods and tactics used to formulate and apply policy. The word "politics" comes from the Greek word "politika", modeled on Aristotle's "affairs of state", the name of his book on governing

and governments, which was rendered in English mid-15th century as Latinized "Polettiques". The origin and development of government institutions is the most visible subject for the study of Politics and its history.

A political party

A political party is a political organization that typically seeks to attain and maintain political power within government, usually by participating in electoral campaigns, educational outreach or protest actions. Parties often espouse an expressed ideology or vision bolstered by a written platform with specific goals, forming a coalition among disparate interests.

Political science

Political science, or the study of politics, examines the acquisition and application of power and "power corrupts". Related areas of study include political philosophy, which seeks a rationale for politics and an ethic of public behavior, political economy, which attempts to develop understandings of the relationships between politics and the economy and the governance of the two, and public administration, which examines the practices of governance. The first academic chair devoted to politics in the United States was the chair of history and political science at Columbia University, first occupied by Prussian émigré Francis Lieber in 1857.

Left-right politics

Recently in history, political analysts and politicians divide politics into left wing and right wing politics, often also using the idea of center politics as a middle path of policy between the right and left. This classification is comparatively recent (it was not used by Aristotle or Hobbes, for instance), and dates from the French Revolution era, when those members of the National Assembly who supported the republic, the common people and a secular society sat on the left and supporters of the monarchy, aristocratic privilege and the Church sat on the right.

The meanings behind the labels have become more complicated over the years. A particularly influential event was the publication of the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in 1848. The Manifesto suggested a course of action for a proletarian revolution to overthrow the bourgeois society and abolish private property, in the belief that this would lead to a classless and stateless society. The meaning of left-

wing and right-wing varies considerably between different countries and at different times, but generally speaking, it can be said that the right wing often values tradition and social stratification while the left wing often values reform and egalitarianism, with the center seeking a balance between the two such as with social democracy or regulated capitalism. According to Norberto Bobbio, one of the major exponents of this distinction, the Left believes in attempting to eradicate social inequality, while the Right regards most social inequality as the result of ineradicable natural inequalities, and sees attempts to enforce social equality as utopian or authoritarian.

Some ideologies, notably Christian Democracy, claim to combine left and right wing politics; according to Geoffrey K. Roberts and Patricia Hogwood, "In terms of ideology, Christian Democracy has incorporated many of the views held by liberals, conservatives and socialists within a wider framework of moral and Christian principles." Movements which claim or formerly claimed to be above the left-right divide include Fascist Third-position economic politics in Italy, Gaullism in France, Peronism in Argentina, and National Action Politics in Mexico.

Authoritarian-libertarian politics

Authoritarianism and libertarianism refer to the amount of individual freedom each person possesses in that society relative to the state. One author describes authoritarian political systems as those where "individual rights and goals are subjugated to group goals, expectations and conformities", while libertarians generally oppose the state and hold the individual and his property as sovereign. In their purest form, libertarians are anarchists, who argue for the total abolition of the state, while the purest authoritarians are totalitarians who support state control over all aspects of society.

For instance, classical liberalism (also known as laissez-faire liberalism, or, in much of the world, simply liberalism) is a doctrine stressing individual freedom and limited government. This includes the importance of human rationality, individual property rights, free markets, natural rights, the protection of civil liberties, constitutional limitation of government, and individual freedom from restraint as exemplified in the writings of John Locke, Adam Smith, David Hume, David Ricardo, Voltaire, Montesquieu and others. According to the libertarian Institute for Humane Studies, "the libertarian, or 'classical liberal,' perspective is that individual well-being, prosperity, and social harmony are fostered by 'as

much liberty as possible' and 'as little government as necessary.'

World Politics

The 20th century witnessed the outcome of two world wars and not only the rise and fall of the Third Reich but also the rise and fall of communism. The development of the Atomic bomb gave the United States a more rapid end to its conflict in Japan in World War II. Later, the development of the Hydrogen bomb became the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. The United Nations has served as a forum for peace in a world threatened by nuclear war. "The invention of nuclear and space weapons has made war unacceptable as an instrument for achieving political ends." Although an all-out final nuclear holocaust is out of the question for man, "nuclear blackmail" comes into question not only on the issue of world peace but also on the issue of national sovereignty. On a Sunday in 1962, the world stood still at the brink of nuclear war during the October Cuban missile crisis from the implementation of U.S. vs U.S.S.R. nuclear blackmail policy.

Former President Ronald Reagan was horrified by nuclear weapons and believed in the probable existence of life on other planets. For the President, the fantasy of an invasion from outer space that would force the nations of the world to unite against a common enemy was strong enough to convince anyone that mankind could unite in a common interest such as world peace. At their first meeting in Geneva in 1985, the president Reagan brought up the subject of an invasion from outer space to Gorbachev. General Powell was convinced that Reagan's peace proposal to Gorbachev was inspired by the 1951 science-fiction film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. On September 21, 1987, Reagan told the General Assembly of the United Nations: "... I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world."

Political corruption

Political corruption is the use of legislated powers by government officials for illegitimate private gain. Misuse of government power for other purposes, such as repression of political opponents and general police brutality, is not considered political corruption. Neither are illegal acts by private persons or corporations not directly involved with the government. An illegal act by an officeholder constitutes political corruption only if the

act is directly related to their official duties.

Forms of corruption vary, but include bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement. While corruption may facilitate criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and trafficking, it is not restricted to these activities. The activities that constitute illegal corruption differ depending on the country or jurisdiction. For instance, certain political funding practices that are legal in one place may be illegal in another. In some cases, government officials have broad or poorly defined powers, which make it difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal actions. Worldwide, bribery alone is estimated to involve over 1 trillion US dollars annually. A state of unrestrained political corruption is known as a kleptocracy, literally meaning "rule by thieves".

The varieties of political experience

According to Aristotle, States are classified into monarchies, aristocracies, democracies, oligarchies, and tyrannies. Due to an increase in knowledge of the history of politics, this classification has been abandoned. Generally speaking, no form of government could be considered the best if the best is considered to be the one that is most appropriate under the circumstances. All States are varieties of a single type, the sovereign State. All the Great Powers of the modern world rule on the principle of sovereignty.

Sovereign power may be vested on an individual as in an autocratic government or it may be vested on a group as in a constitutional government. Constitutions are written documents that specify and limit the powers of the different branches of government. Although a Constitution is a written document, there is also an unwritten Constitution. The unwritten constitution is continually being written by the Legislative branch of government; this is just one of those cases in which the nature of the circumstances determines the form of government that is most appropriate. Nevertheless, the written constitution is essential. England did set the fashion of written constitutions during the Civil War but after the Restoration abandoned them to be taken up later by the American Colonies after their emancipation and then France after the Revolution and the rest of Europe including the European colonies.

There are two forms of government, one – a strong central government as in France and the other – a local government such as the ancient divisions in England that is comparatively weaker but less

bureaucratic. These two forms helped to shape the federal government, first in Switzerland, then in the United States in 1776, in Canada in 1867 and in Germany in 1870 and in the 20th century, Australia. The Federal States introduced the new principle of agreement or contract. Compared to a federation, a confederation's singular weakness is that it lacks judicial power. In the American Civil War, the contention of the Confederate States that a State could secede from the Union was untenable because of the power enjoyed by the Federal government in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches. According to professor A. V. Dicey in *An Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution*, the essential features of a federal constitution are: a) A written supreme constitution in order to prevent disputes between the jurisdictions of the Federal and State authorities; b) A distribution of power between the Federal and State governments and c) A Supreme Court vested with the power to interpret the Constitution and enforce the law of the land remaining independent of both the executive and legislative branches.

What is a Political Conservatism?

Contemporary political conservatism is a philosophy characterized by a belief in individual liberty, small government, low taxes, and fiscal responsibility. Like many political ideologies, it is sometimes misunderstood. For instance, many believe that conservatism is simply a desire to maintain the status quo or even turn "back the clock", politically speaking, to conditions that prevailed in earlier times.

In fact, when political conservatism came into being as an identifiable ideology on the European continent after the French Revolution, it was exemplified by resistance to change and adherence to the status quo, which was seen as representing continuity and stability because it had evolved over time. In the ensuing centuries, though, political conservatism developed a clear set of policy objectives as opposed to nostalgia for earlier times, and in many cases promotes a change from the status quo.

Modern political conservatism espouses a small government; that is, government undertakes only those things that cannot or ought not to be done by private individuals or private business, such as building roads, delivering the mail, and providing for the common defense. It's the conservative view that most government involvement in business — including regulation — equates to interference, and that the nation's economy would be stronger with less such interference.

The ideology of political conservatism supports individual liberty, including strong private property rights, but there's disagreement about government regulation of private activities. Many social conservatives support laws regulating such diverse activities as sexual behavior, recreational drug use, and religious observance, even though strictly speaking, political conservative principles militate against the use of government power to legislate moral standards.

Political conservatism also opposes, insofar as possible, the intrusion of government into people's economic lives. From the conservative perspective, government-operated social welfare programs, whether established for retirement and health care or simply as assistance for the poor, simply substitute the government's judgment for one's own with respect to saving and planning, and make citizens more dependent upon government.

When people become destitute for whatever reason, conservatives believe that it's the responsibility of the social infrastructure, including religious organizations and other charities, to address the problems of the deserving poor.

The conservative position is that government should operate at a subsistence level, bringing in just enough revenue to support essential spending. In the United States, the conservative approach to budget deficits has been to seek spending reductions. When this goal is unattainable, conservatives will generally resort to borrowing to make up the shortfall, rarely resorting to tax increases. Conservatism also opposes government attempts to influence the economy, often through tax policy, to accomplish socially desirable goals, arguing that such attempts often have unexpected adverse consequences.

Socially desirable results, according to conservatism, will be achieved if the free enterprise system is allowed to work. Disagreement also exists among conservatives about taxation. While the progressive income tax is seen as a penalty imposed on achievement, some conservatives prefer a flat-rate income tax, while others support a consumption tax.

Conservatism also opposes taxing businesses, arguing that business taxes are inevitably embedded in the cost of goods or services and passed on to the consumer, thus blurring the nation's true tax rate. A strong national defense is a feature of the conservative agenda; indeed, this is the highest priority a government can have.

Conservatism advocates the dedication of whatever resources are

necessary to establish and maintain the national defense at its highest possible level. Like most systems of political thought, this is an ideology that generates controversy, sometimes because people and groups with other agendas latch onto the conservative label as a vehicle for spreading their own message. While they may sense a community of interests, they also blur the distinction between political conservatism and schools of thought outside the political realm, such as social conservatism. In the United States, in fact, the distinction between these two particular groups can sometimes be difficult to discern.

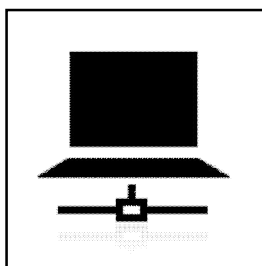
In the United States, some conservatives belong to the Conservative Party, but they're in the minority, and the party is generally considered a relatively unimportant third party. The majority of self-described conservatives, both political and social, belong to the Republican Party, together with many moderates and even some social liberals. The party tries to forge compromises among these groups and others in its efforts to build electoral support.

A third group of political conservatives belong to the Libertarian Party, which eschews any compromises which would lead to the support of positions that would grow the government, regulate private behavior or otherwise interfere in the lives of the people. A major distinction between Libertarians and Republican conservatives is that with respect to defense; Libertarians support only defensive war, while other conservatives support preemptive war.



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

Evolution of society



Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Decide the exact name for your digital presentation and make your own plan.

(3) The overview could contain the following information: 1) The definition of the term society; 2)

Primitive societies; 3) Patriarchal societies; 4) Modern types of societies; 5) The state and society; 6) The law and society; 7) The politics and society; 8) The best society to live and work in.

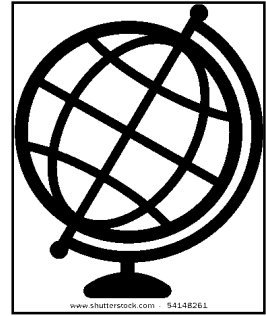
**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



It is interesting to know:

Some interesting facts about the world:

1. The women of the Tiwi tribe in the South Pacific are married at birth.
2. The authorities do not allow tourists to take pictures of Pygmies in Zambia.
3. The women of an African tribe make themselves more attractive by permanently scarring their faces.
4. Native American Indians used to name their children after the first thing they saw as they left their tepees subsequent to the birth. Hence, there are such strange names as Sitting Bull and Running Water.
5. In parts of Malaya, the women keep harems of men.
6. Some very Orthodox Jew refuse to speak Hebrew, believing it to be a language reserved only for the Prophets.
7. Before it was stopped by the British, it was common for women in some areas of India to choose to be burnt alive on their husband's funeral pyre.
8. In Tibet it is very polite to stick your tongue out at someone. It shows you have no evil thoughts.
9. In Tunisia, images of fish are often used to protect against evil.
10. In the USA it is normal for men to shake hands when they meet but it is unusual to kiss when they greet each other. In Japan it is polite and normal for men and women to bow when they greet someone. The British often do no more than say "hello" when they see friends. French people shake hands with their friends, or kiss them each time they meet and leave. That's why French people think the British are unfriendly and impolite.
11. Hindu men believe it to be unluckily to marry a third time. They could avoid misfortune by marrying a tree first. The tree (his third wife) is then burnt, freeing him to marry again.
12. Along with Malta and the Vatican, the Philippines is the only other country not to allow divorce in any legal circumstances.
13. It was considered unfashionable for Venetian women, during the Renaissance to have anything but silvery-blond hair.
14. Though it is forbidden by the Government, many Indians still adhere to the caste system which says that it is defilement for even the shadow of a person from a lowly caste to fall on a Brahmin – the highest priestly caste.
15. Women make up more than 10% of the prison population in only six countries: Thailand, Qatar, Paraguay, Costa Rica, and Singapore.





Before you read: My questions to you:



1. What religions of the world do you know?
2. How important is religion in different countries of the world?
3. Which are the most and least religious countries?
4. What particular religious beliefs are the most popular in your home country?
5. Do you personally exercise any religion?

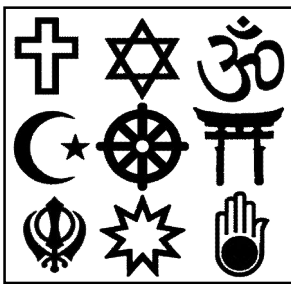


Topic № 3: What is religion?

Read the articles, analyze, summarize and make your own glossary:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields>

What is religion?



Religion – from the Latin word "religio" – means "reverence for the gods", "piety" possibly related to "bind". It is the belief in and worship of a god or gods, or more in general a set of beliefs explaining the existence of and giving meaning to the universe, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

Aspects of religion include narrative, symbolism, beliefs, and practices that are supposed to give meaning to the practitioner's experiences of life. Whether the meaning centers on a deity or deities, or an ultimate truth, religion is commonly identified by the practitioner's prayer, ritual, meditation, music and art, among other things, and is often interwoven with society and politics. It may focus on specific supernatural, metaphysical, and moral claims about reality (the cosmos and human nature) which may yield a set of religious laws and ethics and a particular lifestyle. Religion also encompasses ancestral or cultural traditions, writings, history, and mythology, as well as personal faith and religious experience.

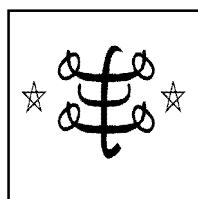
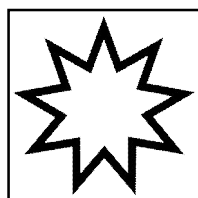
The term "religion" refers both to the personal practices related to communal faith and to group rituals and communication stemming from shared conviction. "Religion" is sometimes used interchangeably with "faith" or "belief system", but it is more socially defined than personal convictions, and it entails specific behaviors, respectively.

The development of religion has taken many forms in various cultures, with continental differences. Religion is often described as a communal system for the coherence of belief focusing on a system of thought, unseen being, person, or object, that is considered to be supernatural, sacred, divine, or of the highest truth. Moral codes, practices, values, institutions, tradition, rituals, and scriptures are often traditionally associated with the core belief, and these may have some overlap with concepts in secular philosophy. Religion is also often described as a "way of life" or a life stance.

Religions of the World

The core characteristics and beliefs of the world's major religions are described below.

1. Baha'i



Founded by Mirza Husayn-Ali (known as Baha'u'llah) in Iran in 1852, Baha'i faith emphasizes monotheism and believes in one eternal transcendent God. Its guiding focus is to encourage the unity of all peoples on the earth so that justice and peace may be achieved on earth. Baha'i revelation contends the prophets of major world religions reflect some truth or element of the divine, believes all were manifestations of God given to specific communities in specific times, and that Baha'u'llah is an additional prophet meant to call all humankind. Bahais are an open community, located worldwide, with the greatest concentration of believers in South Asia.

2. Buddhism

Religion or philosophy inspired by the 5th century B.C. teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (also known as Gautama Buddha "the enlightened one"). Buddhism focuses on the goal of spiritual enlightenment centered on an understanding of Gautama Buddha's Four Noble Truths on the nature of suffering, and on the Eightfold Path of spiritual and moral practice, to break the cycle of suffering of which we are a part. Buddhism ascribes to a karmic system of rebirth. Several schools and sects of Buddhism exist, differing often on the nature of the Buddha, the extent to which enlightenment can be achieved - for one or for all, and by whom - religious orders or laity.



Basic Groupings:

1) Theravada Buddhism: The oldest Buddhist school, Theravada is practiced mostly in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, and Thailand, with minority representation elsewhere in Asia and the West. Theravadans follow the Pali Canon of Buddha's teachings, and believe that one may escape the cycle of rebirth, worldly attachment, and suffering for oneself; this process may take one or several lifetimes.



2) Mahayana Buddhism, including subsets of Zen and Tibetan Buddhism: Forms of Mahayana Buddhism are common in East Asia and Tibet, and parts of the West. Mahayanas have additional scriptures beyond the Pali Canon and believe the Buddha is eternal and still teaching. Unlike Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana schools maintain the Buddha-nature is present in all beings and all will ultimately achieve enlightenment.



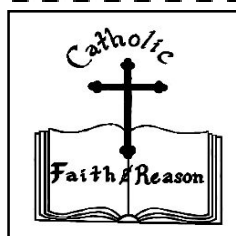
3. Christianity



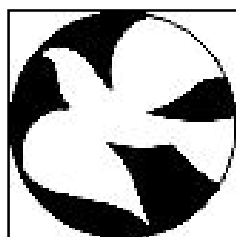
Descending from Judaism, Christianity's central belief maintains Jesus of Nazareth is the promised messiah of the Hebrew Scriptures, and that his life, death, and resurrection are salvific for the world. Christianity is one of the three monotheistic Abrahamic faiths, along with Islam and Judaism, which traces its spiritual lineage to Abraham of the Hebrew Scriptures. Its sacred texts include the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament (or the Christian Gospels).

Basic Groupings are: Catholicism (or Roman Catholicism), Mormonism (including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), Orthodox Christianity, Protestant Christianity,

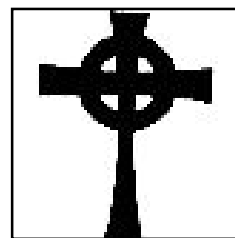
Catholicism (or Roman Catholicism):



This is the oldest established western Christian church and the world's largest single religious body. It is supranational, and recognizes a hierarchical structure with the Pope, or Bishop of Rome, as its head, located at the Vatican. Catholics believe the Pope is the divinely ordered head of the Church from a direct spiritual legacy of Jesus' apostle Peter. Catholicism is comprised of 23 particular Churches, or Rites - one Western (Latin-Rite) and 22 Eastern. The Latin Rite is by far the largest, making up about 98% of Catholic membership. Eastern-Rite Churches, such as the

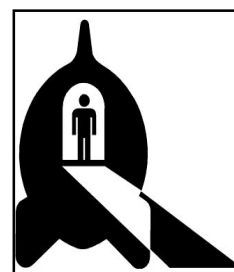
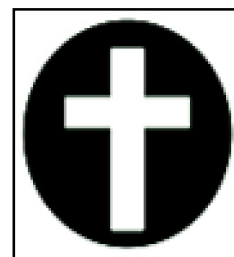


Maronite Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church, are in communion with Rome although they preserve their own worship traditions and their immediate hierarchy consists of clergy within their own rite. The Catholic Church has a comprehensive theological and moral doctrine specified for believers in its catechism, which makes it unique among most forms of Christianity.



Mormonism *including the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints:*

Originating in 1830 in the United States under Joseph Smith, Mormonism is not characterized as a form of Protestant Christianity because it claims additional revealed Christian scriptures after the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. The Book of Mormon maintains there was an appearance of Jesus in the New World following the Christian account of his resurrection, and that the Americas are uniquely blessed continents. Mormonism believes earlier Christian traditions, such as the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant reform faiths, are apostasies and that Joseph Smith's revelation of the Book of Mormon is a restoration of true Christianity. Mormons have a hierarchical religious leadership structure, and actively proselytize their faith; they are located primarily in the Americas and in a number of other Western countries.



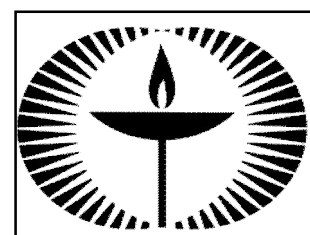
Orthodox Christianity:

The oldest established eastern form of Christianity, the Holy Orthodox Church, has a ceremonial head in the Bishop of Constantinople (Istanbul), also known as a Patriarch, but its various regional forms (e.g., Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox) are autocephalous (independent of Constantinople's authority, and have their own Patriarchs). Orthodox churches are highly nationalist and ethnic. The Orthodox Christian faith shares many theological tenets with the Roman Catholic Church, but diverges on some key premises and does not recognize the governing authority of the Pope.

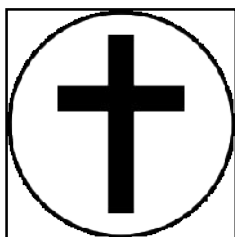


Protestant Christianity:

Protestant Christianity originated in the 16th century as an attempt to reform Roman Catholicism's practices, dogma, and theology. It encompasses several forms or



denominations which are extremely varied in structure, beliefs, relationship to state, clergy, and governance. Many protestant theologies emphasize the primary role of scripture in their faith, advocating individual interpretation of Christian texts without the mediation of a final religious authority such as the Roman Pope. The oldest Protestant Christianities include Lutheranism, Calvinism (Presbyterians), and Anglican Christianity (Episcopalians), which have established liturgies, governing structure, and formal clergy. Other variants on Protestant Christianity, including Pentecostal movements and independent churches, may lack one or more of these elements, and their leadership and beliefs are individualized and dynamic.

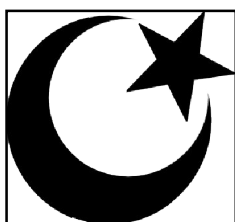


4. Hinduism



Originating in the Vedic civilization of India (second and first millennium B.C.), Hinduism is an extremely diverse set of beliefs and practices with no single founder or religious authority. Hinduism has many scriptures; the Vedas, the Upanishads, and the Bhagavad-Gita are among some of the most important. Hindus may worship one or many deities, usually with prayer rituals within their own home. The most common figures of devotion are the gods Vishnu, Shiva, and a mother goddess, Devi. Most Hindus believe the soul, or atman, is eternal, and goes through a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara) determined by one's positive or negative karma, or the consequences of one's actions. The goal of religious life is to learn to act so as to finally achieve liberation (moksha) of one's soul, escaping the rebirth cycle.

5. Islam



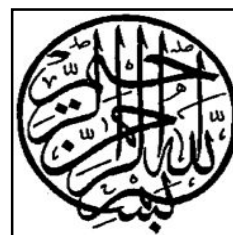
The third of the monotheistic Abrahamic faiths, Islam originated with the teachings of Muhammad in the 7th century. Muslims believe Muhammad is the final of all religious prophets (beginning with Abraham) and that the Qu'ran, which is the Islamic scripture, was revealed to him by God. Islam derives from the word submission, and obedience to God is a primary theme in this religion. In order to live an Islamic life, believers must follow the five pillars, or tenets, of Islam, which are the testimony of faith (shahada), daily prayer (salah), giving alms (zakah), fasting during Ramadan (sawm), and the pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj).

Basic Groupings or the two primary branches of Islam are: 1) Sunni and 2) Shia. They split from each other over a religio-political leadership dispute about the rightful successor to Muhammad. The Shia believed, that Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law Ali was the only divinely ordained Imam (religious leader), while the Sunni maintain the first three caliphs after Muhammad were also legitimate authorities. In modern Islam, Sunnis and Shia continue to have different views of acceptable schools of Islamic jurisprudence, and who is a proper Islamic religious authority. Islam also has an active mystical branch, Sufism, with various Sunni and Shia subsets.



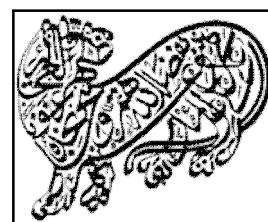
Sunni Islam – accounts for over 75% of the world's Muslim population. It recognizes the Abu Bakr as the first caliph after Muhammad. Sunni has four schools of Islamic doctrine and law – Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, and Hanbali – which uniquely interpret the Hadith, or recorded oral traditions of Muhammad. A Sunni Muslim may elect to follow any one of these schools, as all are considered equally valid.

Shia Islam – represents 10-20% of Muslims worldwide, and its distinguishing feature is its reverence for Ali as an infallible, divinely inspired leader, and as the first Imam of the Muslim community after Muhammad. A majority of Shia are known as "Twelvers", because they believe that the 11 familial successor imams after Muhammad culminate in a 12th Imam (al-Mahdi) who is hidden in the world and will reappear at its end to redeem the righteous.



Variants:

Ismaili faith: A sect of Shia Islam, its adherents are also known as "Seveners," because they believe that the rightful seventh Imam in Islamic leadership was Isma'il, the elder son of Imam Jafar al-Sadiq. Ismaili tradition awaits the return of the seventh Imam as the Mahdi, or Islamic messianic figure. Ismailis are located in various parts of the world, particularly South Asia and the Levant.



Alawi faith: Another Shia sect of Islam, the name reflects followers' devotion to the religious authority of Ali. Alawites are a closed, secretive religious group who assert they are Shia Muslims, although outside scholars speculate their beliefs may have a syncretic mix with other faiths originating in the



Middle East. Alawis live mostly in Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey.



Druze faith: A highly secretive tradition and a closed community that derives from the Ismaili sect of Islam; its core beliefs are thought to emphasize a combination of Gnostic principles believing that the Fatimid caliph, al-Hakin, is the one who embodies the key aspects of goodness of the universe, which are, The Intellect, The Word, The Soul, The Preceder, and The Follower. The Druze has a key presence in Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

6. Jainism



Originating in India, Jain spiritual philosophy believes in an eternal human soul, the eternal universe, and a principle of "the own nature of things". It emphasizes compassion for all living things, seeks liberation of the human soul from reincarnation through enlightenment, and values personal responsibility due to the belief in the immediate consequences of one's behavior. Jain philosophy teaches non-violence and prescribes vegetarianism for monks and laity alike; its adherents are a highly influential religious minority in Indian society.

7. Judaism



One of the first known monotheistic religions, likely dating to between 2000-1500 B.C., Judaism is the native faith of the Jewish people, based upon the belief in a covenant of responsibility between a sole omnipotent creator God and Abraham, the patriarch of Judaism's Hebrew Bible, or Tanakh. Divine revelation of principles and prohibitions in

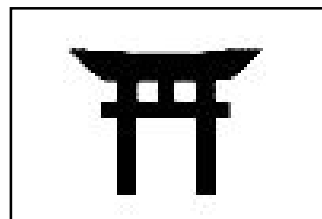


the Hebrew Scriptures form the basis of Jewish law, or halakhah, which is a key component of the faith. While there are extensive traditions of Jewish halakhic and theological discourse, there is no final dogmatic authority in the tradition. Local communities have their own religious leadership. Modern Judaism has three basic categories of faith: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform/Liberal. These differ in their views and observance of Jewish law, with the Orthodox

representing the most traditional practice, and Reform/Liberal communities the most accommodating of individualized interpretations of Jewish identity and faith.

8. Shintoism (Shinto`s)

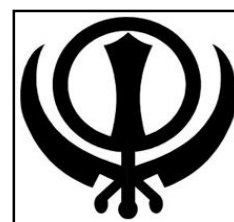
A native animist tradition of Japan, Shinto practice is based upon the premise that every being and object has its own spirit or kami. Shinto practitioners worship several particular kamis, including the kamis of nature, and families often have shrines to their ancestors'



kamis. Shintoism has no fixed tradition of prayers or prescribed dogma, but is characterized by individual ritual. Respect for the kamis in nature is a key Shinto value. Prior to the end of World War II, Shinto was the state religion of Japan, and bolstered the cult of the Japanese emperor.

9. Sikhism

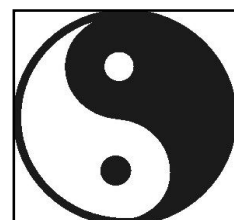
Founded by the Guru Nanak (born 1469), Sikhism believes in a non-anthropomorphic, supreme, eternal, creator God; centering one's devotion to God is seen as a means of escaping the cycle of rebirth. Sikhs follow the teachings of Nanak and nine subsequent gurus. Their scripture, the Guru



Granth Sahib - also known as the Adi Granth - is considered the living Guru, or final authority of Sikh faith and theology. Sikhism emphasizes equality of humankind and disavows caste, class, or gender discrimination.

10. Taoism

Chinese philosophy or religion based upon Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching, which centers on belief in the Tao, or the way, as the flow of the universe and the nature of things. Taoism encourages a principle of non-force, or wu-wei, as the means to live harmoniously with the Tao. Taoists believe



the esoteric world is made up of a perfect harmonious balance and nature, while in the manifest world – particularly in the body – balance is distorted. The Three Jewels of the Tao – compassion, simplicity, and humility - serve as the basis for Taoist ethics.

11. Zoroastrianism

Originating from the teachings of Zoroaster in about the 9th or 10th century B.C., Zoroastrianism may be the oldest continuing creedal religion. Its key beliefs center on a transcendent creator God, Ahura Mazda, and the concept of free will. The key ethical tenets of



Zoroastrianism expressed in its scripture, the Avesta, are based on a dualistic worldview where one may prevent chaos if one chooses to serve

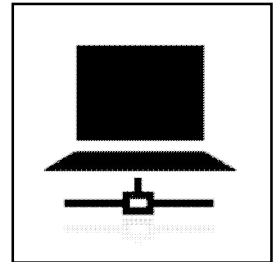
God and exercises good thoughts, good words, and good deeds. Zoroastrianism is generally a closed religion and members are almost always born to Zoroastrian parents. Prior to the spread of Islam, Zoroastrianism dominated greater Iran. Today, though a minority, Zoroastrians remain primarily in Iran, India, and Pakistan.



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation
Religions of the World

Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Decide the name of your digital presentation
- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) The definition of the term "religion"; 2) Which are the widely spread religions in the world? 3) Which countries are the most religious in the world? 4) Which countries are the least religious in the world? 5) Religion and modern society; 6) Religious law; 7) The hottest topics related to the religion and its impact on the world order or international community.



**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



It is interesting to know:

What are the Christian symbols?

The cross is the main symbol. It reminds Christians that Jesus died on the cross to save them.



The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit and peace.

The fish symbol was created using the Greek letters which spell out ICHTHUS: Jesus Christ God's Son Savior. The Romans persecuted the Christians and it became dangerous for them to meet. So the Christians devised a secret code. They drew half a fish in the sand. If a person completed the fish, they knew he or she was a believer too.



ΙΧΘΥΣ

Under the fish sign the Christians wrote the Greek word "fish". These letters stood for: Jesus Christ God's Son Savior.



It is interesting to know:

Who was Siddhartha Gautama?

Siddhartha Gautama is known as the Buddha. He was born around the year 580 BCE in the village of Lumbini in Nepal into a royal family and for many years lived within the palace walls away from the sufferings of life; sufferings such as sickness, age, and death. He did not know what they were. One day, after growing-up, marrying and having a child, Siddhartha went outside the royal palace and saw, each for the first time, an old man, a sick man, and a corpse. He was worried by what he saw. He learned that sickness, age, and death were the inevitable fate of human beings – a fate no-one could avoid.



It is interesting to know:

Why are there so many Hindu Gods?

Hindus actually only believe in one God, Brahman, the eternal origin who is the cause and foundation of all existence. The gods of the Hindu faith represent different forms of Brahman. These gods are sent to help people find the universal God (Brahman).

Most Hindus have a personal god or goddess such as Shiva, Krishna or Lakshmi to whom they pray regularly.



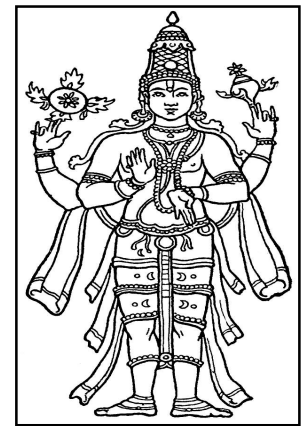
The three most important Hindu gods (forms of Brahman) are:



Brahma – known as the Creator



Shiva (Siva) – known as the Destroyer



Vishnu – known as the Preserver



Systematize your knowledge of the topic: Fill in the table:
Law – Society – Religion:

Table 1

Rubric for your study	Definition	Specific features	Types	Modern forms	Significance for the World community
Law
Society
Religion



Web – resources and support

№	Тема изучения	Web resources / Интернет ресурсы в помощь при изучении тем
1	Law, Society and Religion	http://www.uplink.com.au/lawlibrary/Documents/Docs/Doc31.html http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-law.htm http://sixthformlaw.info/01_modules/other material/law and morality/0 what is law.htm http://www.lawhandbook.sa.gov.au/ch25s02.php http://www.rbs2.com/cdefn.htm http://www.uiowa.edu/ifdebook/faq/Rule_of_Law.shtml http://www.cfr.org/publication/8034/islam.html http://www.globalization101.org/index.php?file=issue&pass1=subs&id=232 http://mises.org/daily/2072 http://www.historyspark.com/fin/wuwertha.html http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/what_is_civil_society.htm http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/civil_society/ http://www.studyreligion.org/what/index.html http://www.crosscurrents.org/whatisreligion.htm http://www.onu.edu/a+s/philosophy/religion.html http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/socialsciences/ppecorino/intro text/Chapter%203%20Religion/What_is_religion.htm http://www.law.northwestern.edu/library/research/foreignandcomparative/countrylegal/



UNIT II – Legal Systems of the World

Countries that base their legal systems on a codified civil law

Introduction: The term "political entities" encompasses member States of the United Nations, as well as the few independent territories which are not part of it. The term can also refer to political subdivisions of countries as well. All these countries – the UN member States – as well as a number of non-independent territories belong to one of the legal systems created on the basis of categorization, i.e. Civil law, Common law, Religious Law and pluralistic or mixed legal systems.



There are two basic types of judicial systems throughout the world – civil law and common law. Although there are a number of countries that have evolved to use what can best be described as hybrid legal systems, all legal systems have a basis in common law or civil law. In short, a civil law system is based on statutory law, while a common law system is based on legal precedents. Unlike a civil law system, judges in a common law legal system actually make law instead of just implementing the law.

Civil law is a term that can be used to describe two different legal concepts. On the one hand, it is used to describe a body of law that is centered on finding peaceful resolutions to non-criminal disputes. On the other hand, the term civil law denotes a legal system that is practiced in many countries around the world.

Civil code system is the most common type of legal system in the world, either in its pure form or as a basis upon which other elements such as religious law are added. The civil legal systems are mainly derived from the Roman law and the Code of Justinian. Countries that have adopted civil legal systems generally rely on laws or codes that have been written down and formally codified. Typically, they do not rely on customs or turn case decisions into legal precedent. With a civil legal system, courts simply apply the principals outlined in statutes when rendering a decision. Civil law is the most widespread system of law around the world.

The civil code or civil law system is also called by other names such as Roman law, Continental European law or Napoleonic law. All are systems where laws are legislated by parliament or some other form of representative government and codified (i.e. brought together). They are distinguished from common law mainly because they come from

parliaments, not from court cases. Indeed, in civil code systems the courts do not usually have as much freedom to interpret laws. In the original Napoleonic courts judges were specifically banned from interpreting statute laws. The underlying principle of civil code systems is that the laws applied to citizens are made by citizens through their political representatives. Judges are there to administer laws, not make them.

The central sources of such law – that are recognized as authoritative – are codifications of constitutions or statutes passed by legislatures to amend a code. While the concept of codification dates back to the Code of Hammurabi in Babylon ca. 1790 BC, civil law systems mainly derive from the Roman Empire, and more particularly, the Corpus Juris Civilis issued by the Emperor Justinian ca. 529 AD. This was an extensive reform of the law in the Byzantine Empire, bringing it together into codified documents. Civil law was also partly influenced by religious laws such as Canon law and Islamic law. Civil law today, in theory, is interpreted rather than developed or made by judges. Only legislative enactments (rather than judicial precedents, as in common law) are considered legally binding. Laws are codified, which means laws of a similar nature are bundled together to create a rational system across the whole area. Advanced societies try to ensure that all laws have consistent principles and interact with each other in a logical way without conflict between laws. In complex societies codified laws are vast and detailed. Critics say this means they are hard to change but proponents argue they give certainty and predictability.

Civil code systems are mainly inquisitorial rather than adversarial. That means courts are there to track down the truth, not to be a forum where two sides battle to demonstrate to a judge or jury who is right and who is wrong. Judges in civil code trials are usually more active in questioning witnesses, challenging evidence and even – in some cases – directing investigations. This is quite different to common law trials where the judge is supposed to be impartial. Although the presumption of innocence is not usually stated explicitly in civil code laws, many countries have subsequently built it into their systems by adopting external or international obligations. For example, most European countries have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights which guarantees the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence. Thus these principles have become part of their national laws. Trial by jury is less common in inquisitorial systems, especially when judges have a strong role in hunting down the 'truth' in a case rather than arbitrating between two adversarial parties. The

common law developed to give accused people the option of trial by their "peers", meaning people from society in general rather than from the country's rulers. Juries are, however, used in some civil code countries such as France, Norway, Spain and Brazil, albeit usually for a limited range of offences, mainly criminal. However, even in some common law countries trial by jury is either unusual or unused, especially in societies where tribal or clan loyalties might make it difficult to find people unaligned to either party (i.e. the accused or their alleged victim) to make the objective judgment so important to the jury system. Papua New Guinea's Constitution provides for trial by jury but they are not used. They were abolished in India in 1959 after a particularly contentious case.

Scholars of comparative law and economists promoting the legal origins theory usually subdivide civil law into four distinct groups: 1) French civil law: in France, the Benelux countries, Italy, Romania, Spain and former colonies of those countries; 2) German civil law: in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, former Yugoslav republics, Greece, Portugal, Turkey, Japan, South Korea and the Republic of China; 3) Scandinavian civil law: in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. As former colonies, Finland and Iceland inherited the system from their neighbors; 4) Chinese law is a mixture of civil law and socialist law. Civil legal systems usually follow either the French Napoleonic Code or the German Civil Code. Countries following the French system include Spain, Italy, and Holland as well as former French colonies. German Civil Code countries include Switzerland, Austria, Japan, and many Scandinavian countries.

One cannot, however, dismiss socialist and other totalitarian states as being merely misapplied civil code law. The fact that their laws lacked provision for the individual to challenge the state meant they could never evolve. Probably the most common system of totalitarian law is a socialist law, though this is currently on the wane throughout the world. Even in its most virulent days, socialist law was arguably little more than an amalgam of civil codes law overlaid on Marxist-Leninist theory. It differed from traditional civil code legal systems in areas such as the rights of the individual, property law or unbiased court processes. Modern China, for example, is evolving from a socialist law system to a more mainstream civil code law system, though is still a considerable way short of countries such as France in applying principles such as equality before the law or freedom of speech.

Civil law systems are distinct from common law systems, which

follow Anglo-Saxon legal principals. Civil law is different from common law in a number of ways. This type of legal system originated from Roman law, and is still the standard in a number of countries around the world. Civil law countries include Brazil, France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland. Common law systems are used by the United States and the majority of the British Commonwealth. Common law is based on precedent and has been used since before the time when laws were first written down. This system of justice was developed in England and is still being used in Australia, most of Canada, England, India and the United States, except for the state of Louisiana. Judges, who are asked to interpret written law, make decisions, which are then used as precedents for future cases. The Canadian province of Quebec and Louisiana in the United States operate under the civil law system. In jurisdictions where civil law is the method of justice that is being used, judges enforce the law strictly as it is written. People who are subject to civil law understand that when it comes to meting out punishments, a judge in a case will look at the legislation to determine the appropriate sentence or fine.

Under a civil law system, cases are decided by judges who are specially trained for their role. In common law countries, a person who is interested in becoming a judge must first go through the process of getting the education required to become a lawyer. The next step in the process is to practice for a number of years before being elected or appointed to the bench. In a country where common law is the method used, lawyers are in charge of presenting the case before the judge in an adversarial system. Each side takes a position and presents evidence to support it. Under this system, the judge generally remains silent unless responding to an objection made by legal counsel. Civil law judges take on an inquisitional role, and ask the parties questions to understand and rule on the legal issues involved. Under a common law system, the judiciary relies on case law as well as statutory law in resolving disputes. Once a decision is made in a particular case, that decision effectively becomes law, and it can be used by judges as precedent in deciding cases of a similar nature in the future.

When lawyers are preparing for trial in a common law country, they look to legal precedents to determine how the court may rule on a certain type of case. The judge may want to receive submissions of case law to support each side's position. Under a civil law system, the lawyers and the judge will refer to the written law, or code, for guidance. The code includes laws relating to property, commercial enterprises and individuals.



Before you read: My questions to you:

1. What is Civil Law?
2. What is a Civil Case?
3. What are the distinctive features of Civil law systems?
4. What legal principles do Civil law systems usually follow?
5. What countries following the codified civil law principle do you know?



Text 1. Albania (Republic of Albania)

Albania, officially known as the Republic of Albania, is a country in South Eastern Europe. Albania is divided into 12 administrative counties, which include 36 districts and 373 municipalities, while 72 municipalities have city status. Each district has its own council which is composed of a number of municipalities – the first level of local governance, responsible for local needs and law enforcement. Albania is a parliamentary democracy and a transition economy. The Albanian capital is Tirana.



Albania's former Communists were routed in elections March 1992, causing economic collapse and social unrest. As a result the first non-Communist president was elected. But the next crisis occurred in 1997, as riots ravaged the country. The state institutions collapsed and an EU military mission led by Italy was sent to stabilize the country. The Albanian republic is a parliamentary democracy established under a constitution renewed in 1998. Parliamentary elections are now held at least every four years to a unicameral lawmaking 140-seat chamber, the People's Assembly. The deputies to the Assembly are elected through a party-list proportional representation system. The President of the Assembly (or Speaker) chairs the Assembly. There are 15 permanent commissions, or committees. The Assembly has the power to decide the direction of domestic and foreign policy; approve or amend the constitution; declare war on another state;

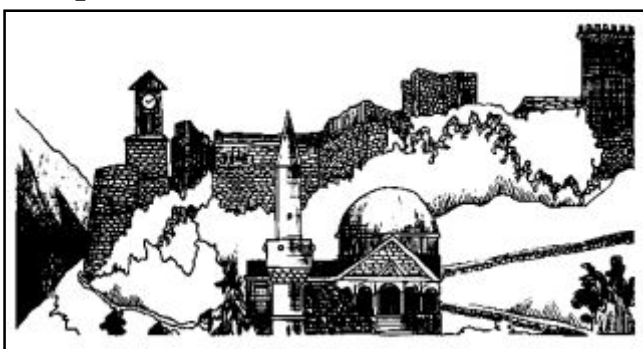
ratify or annul international treaties; elect the President of the Republic, the Supreme Court and the Attorney General and his or her deputies; and control the activity of state radio and television, state news agency and other official information media.



The Executive power is vested in the President of the Republic of Albania, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (the Prime Minister) and the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet) itself. The President of the Republic of Albania is the head of state. The President is elected for a 5-year term by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania by secret ballot, requiring a 50%+1 majority of the votes of all deputies. The President has the power to guarantee observation of the constitution and all laws, act as

commander in chief of the armed forces, exercise the duties of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania when the Assembly is not in session, and appoint the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Executive power is also exercised by the Council of Ministers (the Cabinet). The Chairman of the Council (the Prime Minister) is appointed by the president; ministers are nominated by the president on the basis of the prime minister's recommendation. The People's Assembly must give final approval of the composition of the Council. The Council is responsible for carrying out both foreign and domestic policies. It directs and controls the activities of the ministries and other state organs.

Albania has a civil law system. It has not accepted compulsory ICJ (International Court of Justice) jurisdiction, but has accepted jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court for its citizens. The Judicial branch is composed of the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court (the chairman is



elected by the People's Assembly for a four-year term) and the multiple appeals and district courts. Albania is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of

Europe, WTO, etc. Albania has been a potential candidate for accession to the European Union since 2003, and it formally applied for EU membership on 28 April 2009.



Text 2. Angola (Republic of Angola)

Angola, officially the Republic of Angola, is a country in south-central Africa. Its west coast is on the Atlantic Ocean with Luanda as its capital city. Angola has 18 provinces and 163 municipalities. Governors of the provinces are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the president.

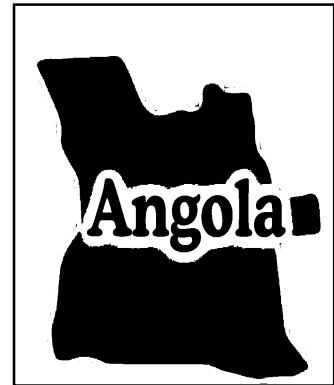
Angola was a Portuguese overseas territory from the 16th century to 1975. After independence, Angola was the scene of an intense civil war from 1975 to 2002. Currently, political power in Angola is concentrated in the Presidency and politics of Angola takes place in a framework of a presidential republic. The President of Angola is both the head of state and head of government (currently – José Eduardo dos Santos). The executive branch of the government thus

is composed of the President, the Prime Minister (currently Paulo Kassoma) and the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers, composed of all government ministers and vice ministers, meets regularly to discuss policy issues.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The National Assembly – has 223 members, elected for a four year term. 130 members from that number are elected – by proportional representation, 90 members – in provincial districts, and 3 members – to represent Angolans abroad.

The Constitutional Law of 1992 established the broad outlines of government structure and the rights and duties of citizens. The legal system is based on Portuguese and customary law but is weak and fragmented. Courts operate in only 12 of more than 160 municipalities. A Supreme Court serves as the appellate tribunal; a Constitutional Court with powers of judicial review has never been constituted despite statutory authorization. The judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president.

Angola is a multi-party system. The leading party currently is The People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Christianity is the major religion in Angola, 4.7% – are ethno religionists (indigenous).





Text 3. Argentina (Argentine Republic)



Argentina, officially the Argentine Republic, is the second largest country in South America, constituted as a federation of 23 provinces and an autonomous city, Buenos Aires. Though declared the capital in 1853, Buenos Aires did not become the official Capital until 1880. Buenos Aires Province is divided into 134 partidos, while the remaining Provinces are divided into 376 departments. Departments and Partidos are further subdivided into municipalities or districts. With the exception of Buenos Aires Province, the nation's provinces have recently formed four federated regions aimed at fostering economic integration and development. The political framework of Argentina is a federal representative democratic republic, in which the President is both the head of state and head of government, complemented by a multi-party system. The Argentine Constitution of 1853 mandates a separation of powers into executive, legislative, and judicial branches at the national and provincial level.

Legislative power is vested in the bicameral National Congress, comprising a 72-member Senate and a 257-member Chamber of Deputies. Senators serve six-year terms, with one-third standing for re-election every two years. Members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for four-year



terms by a proportional representation system, with half of the members standing for re-election every two years. A third of the candidates presented by the parties must be women.

Executive power is vested in the President and the Cabinet. The President and Vice President are directly elected for four-year terms and are limited to two terms. Cabinet ministers are appointed by the President and are not subject to legislative ratification.

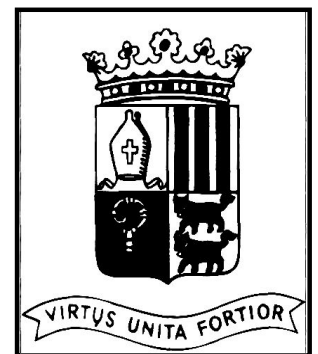
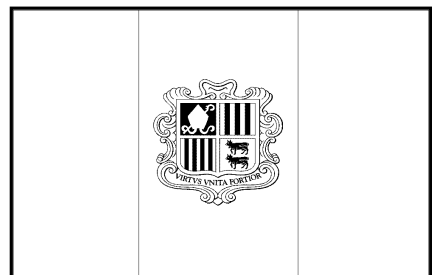
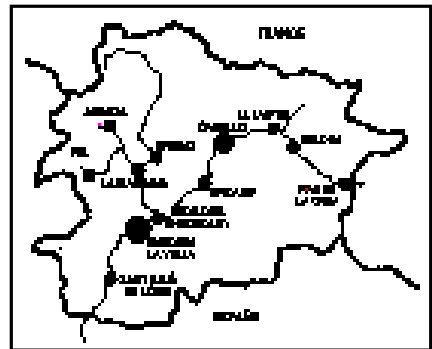
The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Supreme Court has 7 members appointed by the President in consultation with the Senate. The judges of all the other courts are appointed by the Council of Magistrates of the Nation, a secretariat composed of representatives of judges, lawyers, the Congress and the executive.

The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion but also requires the government to support Roman Catholicism economically. Until 1994 the President and Vice President had to be Roman Catholic, though there were no such restrictions on other government officials. Catholic policy, however, remains influential in government and still helps shape a variety of legislation. Argentina is a founding member of both the United Nations, Mercosur (this block is formed – together with Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela and five associate members: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) and the Union of South American Nations. Argentina is one of the G-20 major economies.



 **Text 4. Andorra (Principality of Andorra)**

Andorra, officially the Principality of Andorra, also called the Principality of the Valleys of Andorra, is a small country in southwestern Europe, located in the eastern Pyrenees Mountains and bordered by Spain and France. It is the sixth smallest nation in Europe having an area of 468 sq. km. Andorra consists of seven parishes. Its capital, Andorra la Vella, is the highest capital city in Europe. The Principality was formed in 1278. The role of monarch is exercised jointly by the two co-princes. This peculiarity makes the President of France, in his capacity as Prince of Andorra, the only reigning monarch actually elected in regular intervals by vote, the vote being that of another country at that. Andorra, thus, is a parliamentary co-principality with the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell (Catalonia, Spain), as co-princes, in a duumvirate. The politics of Andorra take place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democracy, whereby the Prime Minister of Andorra is the head of government. Andorra has a multi-party system.



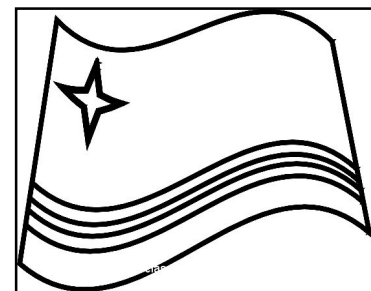
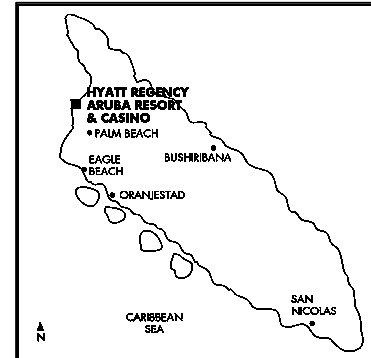
Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The Parliament of Andorra is known as the General Council, which consists of between 28 and 42 Councilors, who serve for four-year terms. Half of the Councilors are elected in equal number from each of the seven administrative parishes and the other half – are elected from a single national constituency. Fifteen days after the elections, the Syndic General, who is the head of the General Council, and the Sub syndic General, his assistant, are elected. Executive power is exercised by the government. Candidates for the prime-ministerial nomination can be proposed by a minimum of one-fifth of the Councilors. The Council then elects the candidate with the absolute majority of votes to be the Head of Government. The Syndic General then notifies the Co-princes who in turn appoint the elected candidate as the Prime Minister of Andorra. The General Council is also responsible for proposing and passing all laws. The Council also approves the annual budget of the principality. Once any bill is approved, the Syndic General is responsible for presenting it to the Co-princes so that they may sign and enact it. If the Head of Government is not satisfied with the Council, he may request that the Co-princes dissolve the Council and order new elections. In turn, the Councilors have the power to remove the Head of Government from office. After a motion of censure is approved by at least one-fifth of the Councilors, the Council will vote and if it receives the absolute majority of votes, the Prime Minister is removed.

The judiciary is composed of the Magistrates Court, the Criminal Law Court, the High Court of Andorra, and the Constitutional Court. The High Court of Justice is composed of five judges who hold office for six-year terms. It is presided over by the member appointed by the Syndic General and the judges. The Magistrates and Judges are appointed by the High Court, and so is the President of the Criminal Law Court. The members of the Office of the Attorney General are appointed by the High Court judges. The Constitutional Court is responsible for interpreting the Constitution and reviewing all appeals of unconstitutionality against laws and treaties. It is composed of four judges to serve eight-year terms. The Court is presided over by one of the Judges on a two-year rotation so that each judge at one point will be the leader of the Court. Andorra has had a customs union with the EU since 1991 but maintains its border controls by staying outside of Schengen. Andorra is the only microstate to use the euro without an official agreement, having not had its own currency before the euro. Andorra is a member of the UN as well as a number of other international organizations.



Text 5. Aruba (Aruba)

Aruba is a 33-kilometer-long island of the Lesser Antilles in the southern Caribbean Sea, located 27 kilometers north of the coast of Venezuela. Its capital is Oranjestad. This safe and stable island has Dutch roots and a government founded on democratic principles. Aruba has had a turbulent history, from Amerindian inhabitation to Spanish and Dutch rule. In 1986, Aruba achieved its separate status as an autonomous entity within the Dutch Kingdom. Aruba, which has no administrative subdivisions, is one of the three countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands, together with the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles. Aruban citizens hold Dutch passports.



As a Constituent Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruba's politics take place within a framework of a 21-member Parliament and an eight-member Cabinet. The governor of Aruba is appointed for a six-year term by the monarch, and the prime minister and deputy prime minister are elected by the Staten (or «Parlamento») for four-year terms. The Staten is made up of 21 members elected by direct, popular vote to serve a four-year term. The Aruban legal system is based on the Dutch model.

The legal jurisdiction in Aruba lies with the Court of First Instance, the Common Court of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and the Supreme Court of Justice of the Netherlands.



Text 6. Austria (Republic of Austria)

Austria, officially the Republic of Austria, is a landlocked country of roughly 8.3 million people in the Central Europe. The majority of its population speaks German, which is also the country's official language. Other local official languages are – Croatian, Hungarian and Slovene. The Capital and



the largest city of Austria is Vienna.



Today, Austria is a parliamentary representative democracy comprising nine federal States. The political system of the Second Republic is based on the constitution of 1920 and 1929, which was reenacted on May 1, 1945. Along with Switzerland, Austria forms Europe's neutral core. After annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938 and then Allied occupation, Austria's 1955 State Treaty declared the country «permanently neutral».

The head of state is the Federal President, who is directly elected by popular vote for a six-year term and eligible for a second term. The Austrian president convenes and concludes parliamentary sessions and under certain conditions can dissolve Parliament. However, no Austrian president has ever dissolved Parliament in the Second Republic. The custom is for the Parliament to call for new elections if needed.

The chairman of the Federal Government is the Federal Chancellor, who is appointed by the president. The Chancellor is formally chosen by the president but should be determined by the coalition parties forming a parliamentary majority; the Vice Chancellor is chosen by the President on the advice of the Chancellor. The president requests a party leader, usually the leader of the strongest party, to form a government. The government can be removed from its office by either a presidential decree or by vote of no confidence in the lower chamber of parliament. Upon the recommendation of the Federal Chancellor, the president also appoints the Council of Ministers or Cabinet of Ministers.

The Parliament of Austria (or the Federal Assembly) consists of two chambers: the lower House – the National Council (Nationalrat) and the upper house – the Federal Council (Bundesrat). Legislative authority is mainly vested in the National Council. Its 183 members, who are elected by direct popular vote, serve for a maximum term of five years in a three-tiered



system, on the basis of proportional representation. The National Council may dissolve itself by a simple majority vote or the president may dissolve it on the recommendation of the Chancellor. The National Council is the dominant chamber in the formation of legislation in Austria. The

nine state legislatures elect the 62 members of the Federal Council (Bundesrat) for 5 to 6–years terms. The members are chosen by State parliaments with each State receiving 3 to 12 seats in proportion to its population. The Federal Council only reviews legislation passed by the National Council and can delay but not veto its enactment. The upper house of parliament has a limited right of veto while the lower chamber can—in almost all cases—ultimately pass the respective bill by voting a second time. This is referred to as « a vote of persistence».



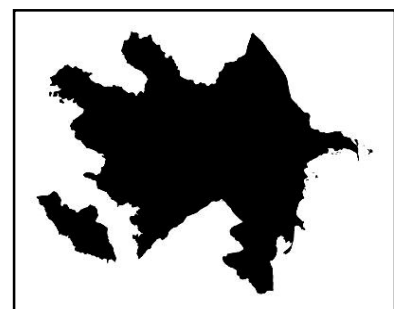
The general elections take place once in 5 years at least, which every citizen over 16 years (since 2007) has a right to vote in. While there is a general threshold of 4 percent for all parties at the federal elections, there remains the possibility to gain a direct seat for either of the parties in one of the 43 regional election districts.

The courts represent the third column of the Austrian state powers. The highest courts of Austria's independent judiciary are the Constitutional Court – which mainly presides over the constitutional issues; the Administrative Court – which handles bureaucratic disputes and acts as the supervisory body over the executive branch; and the Supreme Court – which stands for civil and criminal cases. Notably the Constitutional Court may exert considerable influence on the political system by ruling out laws and ordinances being not in compliance with the constitution. The Federal President appoints the justices of the three courts for specific terms. Since 1995, the European Court of Justice may overrule Austrian decisions in all matters defined on laws of the European Union. Austria also implements the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, since the European Convention on Human Rights is part of the Austrian constitution.

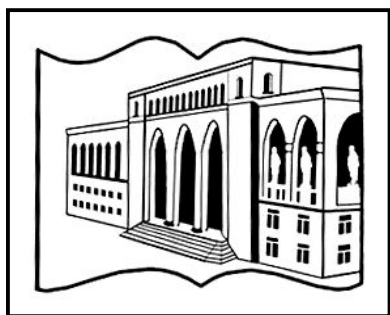


Text 7. Azerbaijan (Republic of Azerbaijan)

Located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the six independent Turkic states in the Caucasus region of Eurasia. On 18 October 1991, the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan adopted a Declaration of Independence which was affirmed



by a nationwide referendum in December 1991, when the Soviet Union was officially dissolved. The majority-Armenian populated Nagorno-Karabakh



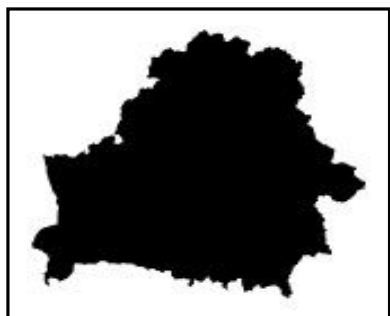
region declared itself independent from Azerbaijan in 1991, but it is not diplomatically recognized by any nation and is still considered a de jure part of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is divided into 59 rayons, 11 city districts, and one autonomous republic of Nakhchivan. The capital city is Baku.

The structural formation of Azerbaijan's political system was completed by the adoption of the new Constitution on 12 November 1995. The government of Azerbaijan is based on the separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The legislative power is held by the unicameral National Assembly and the Supreme National Assembly in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Parliamentary elections are held every five years, on the first Sunday of November. The laws enacted by the National Assembly, unless specified otherwise, go into effect on the day of their publication. The executive power is held by the President, who is elected for a 5-year term by direct elections. The president is authorized to form the Cabinet, an inferior executive body, subordinated to him. The Cabinet of Azerbaijan consists primarily of the Prime Minister, his Deputies and Ministers. The president does not have the right to dissolve the National Assembly, but he has the right to veto its decisions. To override the presidential veto, the parliament must have a majority of 95 votes. The judicial power is vested in the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and the Economic Court. The President nominates the judges for these courts.

In September 1993 Azerbaijan joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). It is also a member of the United Nations.



Text 8. Belarus (Republic of Belarus)



Belarus, officially the Republic of Belarus, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, bordered clockwise by Russia to the northeast. Its capital is Minsk. The parliament of the republic declared the sovereignty of Belarus on 27 July 1990. Belarus declared its independence on 25 August

1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A. Lukashenko has been the country's president since 1994. Under his lead and despite objections from the Western governments, Soviet-era policies, such as state ownership of the economy, have been implemented. Since 2000, Belarus and Russia signed a treaty for greater cooperation, with some hints of forming a Union State.



Belarus is a presidential republic, governed by a president and the National Assembly. According to the 1994 constitution, the president is elected once every five years. However, after a disputed vote in 1996, the term was changed from five years to seven years. The National Assembly is a bicameral parliament comprising the 110-member House of Representatives (the lower house) and the 64-member Council of the Republic (the upper house). The House of Representatives has the power to appoint the prime minister, make constitutional amendments, call for a vote of confidence on the prime minister, and make suggestions on foreign and domestic policy. The Council of the Republic has the power to select various government officials, conduct an impeachment trial of the president, and accept or reject the bills passed by the House of Representatives. Each chamber has the ability to veto any law passed by local officials if it is contrary to the Constitution of Belarus. The government includes a Council of Ministers, headed by the prime minister and five deputy prime ministers. The members of this council need not be members of the legislature and are appointed by the president. The judiciary comprises the Supreme Court and specialized courts such as the Constitutional Court, which deals with specific issues related to constitutional and business law. The judges of national courts are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Council of the Republic.



Text 9. Belgium (Kingdom of Belgium)

Belgium, officially the Kingdom of Belgium, is a country in northwest Europe. It is a founding member of the European Union and hosts its headquarters, as well as those of other major international organizations, including NATO. The capital is Brussels.



Belgium is a constitutional, popular monarchy and a parliamentary democracy. The King (currently Albert II) is the head of state, though with



limited prerogatives. He appoints ministers, including a Prime Minister, who have the confidence of the Chamber of Representatives to form the federal government. The numbers of Dutch and French-speaking ministers are equal as prescribed by the constitution.

The federal bicameral parliament is composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Representatives. The Senate is made up of 40 directly elected politicians and 21 representatives appointed by the 3 Community parliaments, 10 co-opted senators and the children of the king, as senators by Right who in practice do not cast their vote. The Chamber's 150 representatives are elected under a proportional voting system from 11 electoral districts. Belgium is one of the few countries that has compulsory



voting and thus holds one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the world.

The judicial system is based on civil law and originates from the Napoleonic code. The Court of Cassation is the court of last resort, with the Court of Appeal being one level below.

Belgium's political institutions are complex; most political power is organized around the need to represent the main cultural communities. Since 1970, the significant national Belgian political parties have split into distinct components that mainly represent the political, linguistic, nationalist, or environmental interests of these communities.



Text 10. Benin (Republic of Benin)



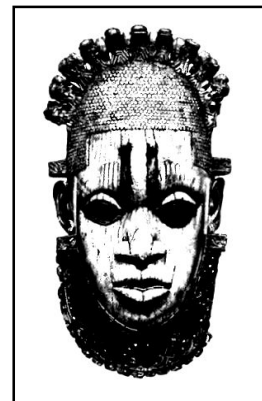
Benin, officially the Republic of Benin, is a country in West Africa. During the colonial period by France and at its independence, the country was known as Dahomey. It was renamed on November 30, 1975, to «Benin» after the Bight of Benin. Its capital is the Yoruba-founded city of Porto-Novo but the seat of government is the Fon city of Cotonou. Benin is divided into 12 departments, and subdivided into 77 communes.

Benin's politics take place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, where the President of Benin is both the



head of state and the head of government, within a multi-party system. The President of Benin is elected for a five year term and limited for two terms of service. Election is by absolute majority which, after a second round if necessary. Candidates must be: 1) Beninese by birth, or have had Beninese nationality for 10 years; 2) Between the ages of 40 and 70 on the date of his or her candidacy; 3) Resident in Benin during elections; 4) Declared mentally and physically fit by three doctors.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the legislature. The National Assembly is the Parliament of Benin. It is the primary legislative body. Deputies are elected every four years. There are 83 available seats. It exercises the legislative power and oversight authority over Government action. Members of the army are not allowed to stand unless they resign from their military position.



Executive power is exercised by the government. The Cabinet is under the authority of the President, and serves to advise and help formulate strategies. It also liaises with ministries and other government institutions.



The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The political system is derived from the 1990 Constitution of Benin and the subsequent transition to democracy in 1991. Since being written, the constitution has been translated into eight of the national languages of Benin. The Constitutional Court allows private citizens to challenge the



government. This has been used particularly in cases of workplace discrimination. The Supreme Court has the highest level of jurisdiction in legal matters. It is designed as a check on the executive, and also acts in a consultative role. The High Court of Justice, which cannot include the President, is made up of members of the Constitutional Court,

Parliament and the president of the Supreme Court. It alone can judge the President.



Text 11. Bolivia (Plurinational State of Bolivia)



Bolivia, officially known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, is a landlocked country in central South America. It is bordered by Brazil to the North and East, Paraguay and Argentina to the South, and Chile and Peru to the West. The capitals are – Sucre (constitutional capital), La Paz (seat of government).

Bolivia is a Democratic Republic, divided into nine departments. The Bolivian population, estimated at 10 million, is multiethnic, including Amerindians, Mestizos, Europeans, Asians and Africans. The main language spoken is Spanish, although the Aymara and Quechua languages are also common and all three, as well as 36 other indigenous languages, are official. Bolivia has



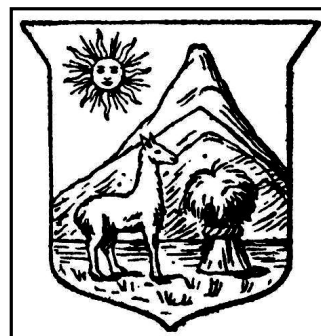
been governed by democratically elected governments since 1982, when a long string of military coups came to an end. The country had a total of 193 coups d'état until 1981, thereby averaging a change of government once every ten months. Today Bolivia's government is a republic. The 1967 constitution, amended in 1994, provides for balanced executive, legislative, and judicial

powers.

The politics of Bolivia takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President is the head of state, the head of government and the head of a multi-party system. The President is elected for a five-year term by popular vote. In case that no candidate receives an absolute majority, the Congress will elect the president from among the two candidates most voted.

The traditionally strong executive branch tends to overshadow the Congress, whose role is generally limited to debating and approving legislation initiated by the executive. The Asamblea Plurinacional (National Congress) has two chambers. The Chamber of Deputies has 130 members elected to five year terms, 70 –from single-member districts and 60 – by proportional representation. The Chamber of Senators has twenty-seven members (three per department), elected for a five-year term.

Through revisions to the constitution in 1994, and subsequent laws, the government has initiated potentially far-reaching reforms in the judicial system and processes. The judiciary today consists of the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Tribunal, the Judiciary Council, and District (one in each department) and lower courts (Provincial and local courts). The Supreme Court judges are appointed for 10-year terms by the National Congress.



Bolivia's nine departments received greater autonomy under the Administrative Decentralization law of 1995. Bolivian cities and towns are governed by directly elected mayors and councils.



Text 12. Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country in South-East Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula. Bordered by Croatia to the north, west and south, Serbia to the east, and Montenegro to the southeast, Bosnia and Herzegovina is almost landlocked, except for 26 kilometers of Adriatic Sea coastline.



The country is home to three ethnic groups or so-called "constituent peoples" – Bosniaks, Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats. Regardless of ethnicity, a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina is often identified in English as a Bosnian. Formerly one of the six federal units constituting the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina gained its independence during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Today Bosnia and Herzegovina can be described as a Parliamentary democracy that is transforming its economy into a market-oriented system.

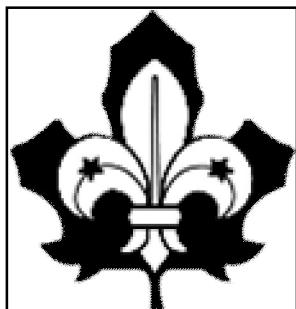
The country is politically decentralized and has several levels of political structuring. 1) Most important of these levels is the division of the country into two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (51% of the total area) and Republika Srpska (49%). 2) The Brčko District in the north of the country was created in 2000 out of land from both entities. It officially belongs to both, but is governed by neither, and functions under a decentralized system of local government. 3) The third level of Bosnia and

Herzegovina's political subdivision is manifested in 10 cantons. All of them have their own cantonal government, which is under the law of the



Federation as a whole. 4) The fourth level of political division in Bosnia and Herzegovina is represented thus by the municipalities.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided – into 74 municipalities, and Republika



Srpska – into 63. Municipalities also have their own local governments, and are divided into local communities. 5) Besides entities, cantons, and municipalities, Bosnia and Herzegovina also has four "official" cities. These are: Banja Luka, Mostar, Sarajevo, and East Sarajevo. Cities have their own city government whose power is in between that of the

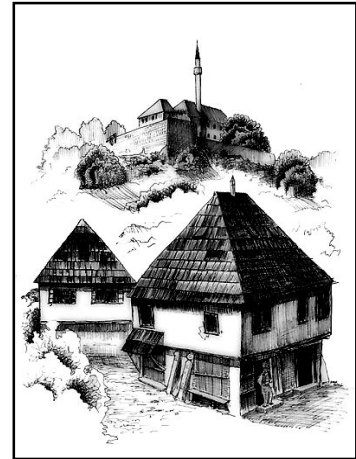
municipalities and cantons.

As a result of the Dayton peace agreement of 1995, the highest political authority in the country is the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the chief executive officer for the international civilian presence in the country, selected by the Peace Implementation Council.

The High Representative has many governmental and legislative powers, including the dismissal of elected and non-elected officials. More recently, several central institutions have been established (such as defense ministry, security ministry, state court, indirect taxation service etc.) in the process of transferring part of the jurisdiction from the entities to the state. International supervision is to end when the country is deemed politically and democratically stable and self-sustaining.

The representation of the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is exercised by the country's three major groups, with each having a guaranteed share of power. The Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina rotates among three members (Bosniak, Serb, Croat), each elected as the Chair for an eight-month term within their four-year term as a member. The three members of the Presidency are elected directly by the people (Federation votes for the Bosniak/Croat, Republika Srpska for the Serb). The Chair of the Council of Ministers is nominated by the Presidency and approved by the House of Representatives. He or she is then responsible for appointing a Foreign Minister, Minister of Foreign Trade, and others as appropriate.

The Parliamentary Assembly is the lawmaking body in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It consists of two houses: the House of Peoples and the House of Representatives. The House of Peoples has 15 delegates, two-thirds of which come from the Federation (5 Croats and 5 Bosniaks) and one-third from the Republika Srpska (5 Serbs). The House of Representatives is composed of 42 Members, two-thirds elected from the Federation and one-third elected from the Republika Srpska.



The legal system is influenced by Austrian law. The Swiss civil law was a model for the Law on Obligations of 1978. The Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the supreme, final arbiter of legal matters. It is composed of nine members: four members are selected by the House of Representatives of the Federation, two by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three by the President of the European Court of Human Rights after consultation with the Presidency.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a potential candidate for membership in the European Union and has been a candidate for NATO membership since April 2010, when it received a Membership Action Plan at the summit in Tallinn. Additionally, the nation has been a member of the Council of Europe since 24 April 2002 and a founding member of the Mediterranean Union upon its establishment on 13 July 2008. On April 23, 2010, Bosnia and Herzegovina received the Membership Action Plan from NATO, which is the last step before full membership in the alliance. Full membership is expected in 2014 or 2015, depending on the progress of reforms.



Text 13. Brazil (Federative Republic of Brazil)

Brazil, officially the Federative Republic of Brazil, is the largest country in South America and the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas. It is the world's fifth largest country, both by geographical area and by population. Its capital is Brasília.



Brazil was a colony of Portugal from 1500 until its independence in 1822. The country has been a republic since 1889,

although the bicameral legislature, now called Congress, dates back to 1824, when the first constitution was ratified. Its current Constitution



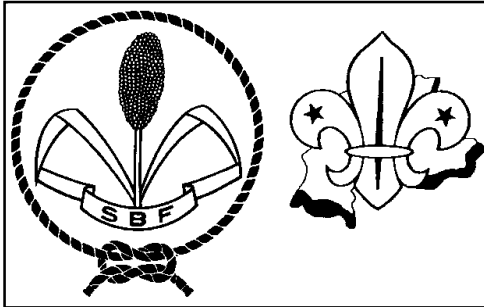
defines Brazil as a Federal Republic. The Federation is formed by the "indissoluble union" of three distinct political entities: the 26 States, the 5,564 Municipalities and the Federal District. They comprise "the spheres of government". The Federation is set on five fundamental principles: sovereignty, citizenship, dignity of human beings, the social values of labor and freedom of enterprise, and political pluralism. The classic tripartite branches of government – executive, legislative, and judicial under the checks and balances system – is formally established by the Constitution.

The executive and legislative are organized independently in all three spheres of government, while the judiciary is organized only at the federal and state/Federal District spheres. All members of the executive and legislative branches are directly elected. Judges and other judicial officials are appointed after passing entry exams. Voting is compulsory between 18 and 70 years old. The form of government in Brazil is that of a democratic republic, with a presidential system. The president is both the head of state and head of government of the Union and is elected for a four-year term, with the possibility of re-election for a second successive term. The President appoints the Ministers of State, who assist in government. Legislative houses in each political entity are the main sources of law in Brazil. The National Congress is the Federation's bicameral legislature, consisting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Senate. Fifteen political parties are represented in Congress. It is common for politicians to switch parties, and thus the proportion of congressional seats held by particular party changes regularly.

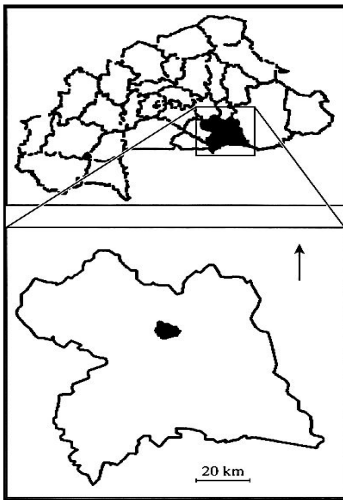
Judiciary authorities exercise jurisdictional duties almost exclusively. Brazilian law is based on Roman-Germanic traditions and civil law concepts prevail over common law practice. Most of Brazilian law is codified, although non-codified statutes also represent a substantial part, playing a complementary role. Court decisions set out interpretive guidelines; however, they are seldom binding on other specific cases. Doctrinal works and the works of academic jurists have strong influence in law creation and in law cases.



Text 15. Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso – also known by its short-form name as Burkina – is a landlocked country in West Africa. It is surrounded by six countries: Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo and Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Its name could be translated from the major native languages



as "the land of upright people". Burkina Faso is divided into thirteen regions, forty-five provinces, and 301 departments. Its capital is Ouagadougou.

After gaining independence from France in 1960, the country underwent many governmental changes until arriving to its current form. Burkina Faso today operates in a framework of a presidential republic. The constitution of June 2, 1991, established a semi-presidential government with a parliament (Assemblée) which can be dissolved by the President of the Republic. The President of Burkina Faso is

both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The president is elected by popular vote for a seven-year term and may serve unlimited terms. Executive power is exercised by the government. The prime minister is appointed by the president with the consent of the legislature.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The parliament consists of one chamber known as the National Assembly, which has 111 members, elected for a five year term by proportional representation. There is also a constitutional chamber, composed of ten members, and an economic and social council whose roles are purely consultative.

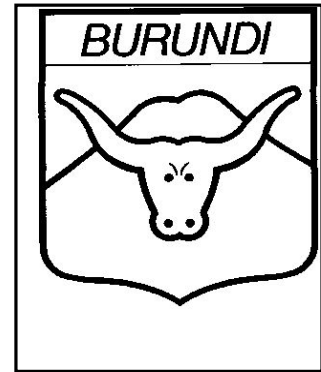
The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The party system is dominated by the Congress for Democracy and Progress.

While exact statistics on religion in Burkina Faso are not available, the common proverb in Burkina Faso claims that "50% are Muslim, 50% are Christian, and 100% are animist". This shows the large level of acceptance of the various religions amongst each other. Even for Muslims and Christians, ancient animist rites are still highly valued.

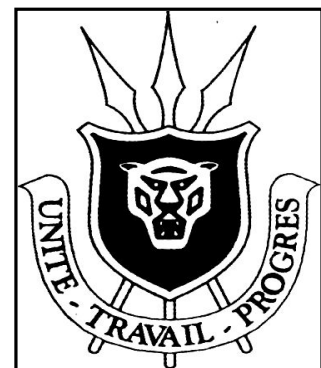
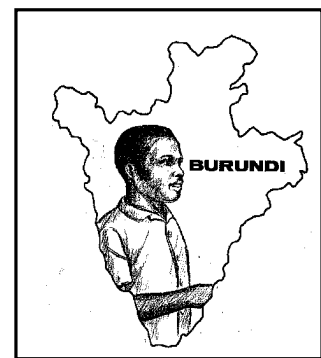


Text 16. Burundi (Republic of Burundi)

Burundi, officially the Republic of Burundi, is a landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of Eastern Africa bordered by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Its size is just under 28,000 km² with an estimated population of almost 8,700,000. Burundi has 17 provinces. Its capital is Bujumbura.



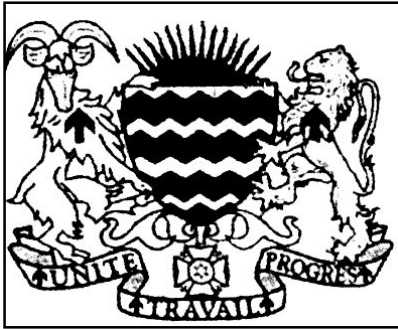
The Twa, Tutsi, and Hutu peoples have occupied Burundi since the country's formation five centuries ago. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Germany and Belgium occupied the region, and Burundi and Rwanda became a European colony known as Ruanda-Urundi. The political landscape of Burundi has been dominated in recent years by the civil war and a long peace process and move to democracy. Politics of Burundi today takes place in a framework of a transitional presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President of Burundi is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The president is elected by the people for a four-year term. He nominates two vice-presidents, who form – together with the Council of Ministers – the Cabinet – the executive branch. Executive power is exercised by the government.



Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament, the Senate and the National Assembly. The National Assembly has 118 members, elected for a five year term by proportional representation with a 2% barrier. The Senate has 49 members, elected for a five year term by electoral colleges of communal councilors. Extra seats in both chambers can be added to ensure that ethnic and gender quotas are met. The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, and the Tribunals of First Instance. Burundi has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and a third party that is electorally successful. Parties are usually based on ethnic background.



Text 17. Chad (Republic of Chad)



Chad, officially known as the Republic of Chad, is a landlocked country in central Africa. Due to its distance from the sea and its largely desert climate, the country is sometimes referred to as the "Dead Heart of Africa". Chad is divided since February 2008 in 22 regions. Each region is headed by a presidentially appointed governor.

Prefects administer the 61 departments within the regions. The departments are divided into 200 sub-prefectures, which are in turn composed of 446 cantons. The constitution provides for decentralized government to compel local populations to play an active role in their own development. To this end, the constitution declares that each administrative subdivisions be governed by elected local assemblies, but no local elections have taken place yet, and communal elections have been repeatedly postponed. The capital city is N'Djamena.

France conquered the territory by 1920 and incorporated it as part of French Equatorial Africa. In 1960 Chad obtained independence under the leadership of François Tombalbaye. Today politics of Chad takes place in a framework of a presidential republic. The constitutional basis for the government is the 1996 constitution with some amendments of 2005.

A strong executive branch is headed by President and dominates the Chadian political system. The President of Chad is both the head of state and head of government. The president has the power to appoint the prime minister and the Council of State (or cabinet), and exercises considerable influence over appointments of judges, generals, provincial officials and so on. In cases of grave and immediate threat, the president, in consultation with the National Assembly President and Council of State, may declare a state of emergency. Most of the President's key advisors are members of the Zaghawa clan, although some southern and opposition personalities are represented in his government.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. According to the 1996 constitution, the National Assembly deputies are elected by universal suffrage for 4-year terms. The Assembly holds regular sessions twice a year, starting in March and October, and can hold special sessions as necessary and called by the prime minister. Deputies elect a

president of the National Assembly every 2 years. Assembly deputies or members of the executive branch may introduce legislation; once passed by the Assembly, the president must take action to either sign or reject the law within 15 days. The National Assembly must approve the prime minister's plan of government and may force the prime minister to resign through a majority vote of no-confidence. However, if the National Assembly rejects the executive branch's program twice in one year, the president may disband the Assembly and call for new legislative elections. In practice, the president exercises considerable influence over the National Assembly through the MPS party structure.



Despite the constitution's guarantee of judicial independence from the executive branch, the president names most key judicial officials. The Supreme Court is made up of a chief justice, named by the president, and 15 councilors chosen by the president and National Assembly; appointments are for life. The Constitutional Council, with nine judges elected to 9-year terms, has the power to review all legislation, treaties and international agreements prior to their adoption. The constitution recognizes customary and traditional law in locales where it is recognized and to the extent it does not interfere with public order or constitutional guarantees of equality for all citizens.

Chad is a religiously diverse country. The 1993 census found that 54% – of Chadians were – Muslims, 20% – Roman Catholics, 14% – Protestants, 10% – animists and 3% – atheists. Chad is one of the most corrupt countries in the world. The country is also one of the poorest countries in the world; most Chadians live in poverty as subsistence herders and farmers.

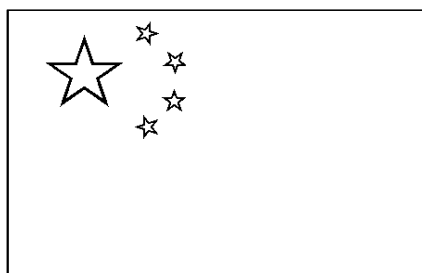


Text 18. China (People's Republic of China)

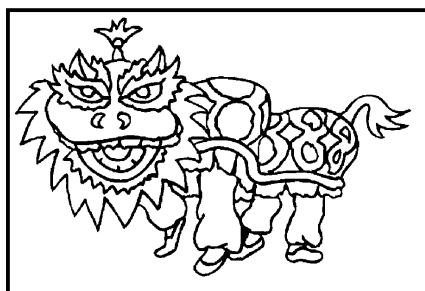
The People's Republic of China (PRC), commonly known as China, is the most populous state in the world with over 1.3 billion people. Located in East Asia, China is governed by the Communist Party of China (CPC) under a single-party system. The PRC



exercises jurisdiction over 22 provinces, five autonomous regions, four directly administered municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and



Chongqing), and two highly autonomous special administrative regions (SARs) – Hong Kong and Macau. Its capital city is Beijing.



The politics of the People's Republic of China take place in a framework of a single-party socialist republic. The leadership of the Communist Party is stated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. State power within the People's Republic of China (PRC) is exercised through the Communist Party of China, the Central People's Government and their provincial and local counterparts. The

party elects the Central Committee and the primary organs of power are formally parts of the central committee. The primary organs of power in the Communist Party include: 1) The Politburo Standing Committee, which currently consists of nine members; 2) The Politburo, consisting of 22 full members (including the members of the Politburo Standing Committee); 3) The Secretariat, the principal administrative mechanism of the CPC, headed by the General Secretary; 4) The Central Military Commission; 5) The Central Discipline Inspection Commission, which is charged with rooting out corruption and malfeasance among party cadres.

During the 1980s there was an attempt made to separate party and state functions, with the party deciding general policy and the state carrying it out. The attempt was abandoned in the 1990s with the result that the political leadership within the state also belongs to the leaders of the party, thereby creating a single centralized locus of power.

The primary organs of state power are the National People's Congress (NPC), the President and the State Council. The President and vice president are elected by the National People's Congress for five-year terms. The State Council is appointed by the National People's Congress (NPC). Members of the State Council include the Premier, a variable number of vice premiers (now four), five state councilors (protocol equal of vice premiers but with narrower portfolios), and 29 ministers and heads of State Council commissions.

The Chinese legal code is a complex amalgam of custom and statute, largely focused on criminal law, though a rudimentary civil code has been

in effect since January 1, 1987 and new legal codes have been in effect since January 1, 1980. Continuing efforts are being made to improve civil, administrative, criminal, and commercial law. The government's efforts to promote rule of law are significant and ongoing. After the Cultural Revolution, the PRC's leaders aimed to develop a legal system to restrain abuses of official authority and revolutionary excesses. In 1982, the National People's Congress adopted a new state constitution that emphasized the concept of rule of law by which party and state organizations are all subject to the law. The rule of law though increases rather than decreases the power of the Communist Party of China because the party, in its position of power, changes the law to suit its own needs.

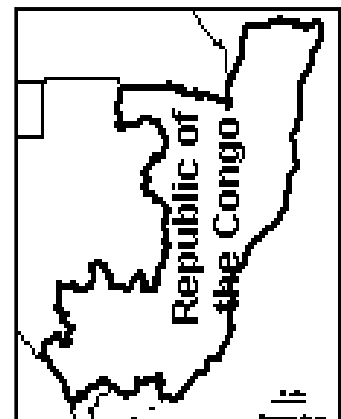


Legal reform became a government priority in the 1990s. Legislation designed to modernize and professionalize the nation's lawyers, judges, and prisons was enacted. The 1994 Administrative Procedure Law allows citizens to sue officials for abuse of authority or malfeasance. In addition, the criminal law and the criminal procedures laws were amended to introduce significant reforms, which abolished the crime of "counter-revolutionary" activity, while criminal procedures reforms encouraged establishment of a more transparent, adversarial trial process. The PRC Constitution and laws provide for fundamental human rights and due process, although those laws also provide for limitations of those rights.



Text 19. Congo (Republic of the Congo)

The Republic of the Congo, also known as Congo-Brazzaville, Little Congo, or simply the Congo, is a country in Central Africa. It is bordered by Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly known as Zaire), the Angolan exclave province of Cabinda and the Gulf of Guinea. The Republic of the Congo is divided into 12 departments. Its capital and the largest city is Brazzaville.



Upon independence in 1960, the former French region of Middle Congo became the Republic of the Congo. The People's Republic of the

Congo was a Marxist-Leninist single-party state from 1970 to 1991. Multiparty elections have been held since 1992, although a democratically



elected government was ousted in a 1997 civil war. Today Congo-Brazzaville is an authoritarian regime. It is ruled by Denis Sassou Nguesso. After taking power, Denis Sassou-Nguesso suspended the constitution approved in 2000. The new constitution (adopted by referendum in 2002), returns to the earlier model with a seven-year presidential term and a bicameral national parliament. Formally politics of the Republic of the Congo takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the parliament. The Parliament has two chambers. The National Assembly has 153 members, elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies. The Senate has 66 members, elected for a six year term by district, local and regional councils. The Republic of Congo is a one party dominant state with the Congolese Labor Party in power. Opposition parties are allowed, but are widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power.



Text 20. Democratic Republic of the Congo



The Democratic Republic of the Congo is located in Central Africa, with a small length of Atlantic coastline. It is the third largest country in Africa by area. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, with its population of more than 68 million, is the fourth most populous nation in Africa. To distinguish it from the neighboring Republic of the Congo, the country is often called Congo-Kinshasa after the capital of Kinshasa. Since 2009 DR Congo is subdivided into 26 new provinces.

DR Congo is a strongly decentralized state. Since the July 2006 elections, under the New Constitution, politics in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has finally settled into a stable semi-presidential democratic

republic. The executive branch is vested in a 60-member cabinet, headed by a President and his four vice presidents. The President is also the Commander-in Chief of the Armed forces. The executive at the central level is divided between the President and the Prime Minister appointed by him from the party having the majority of seats in Parliament. The President appoints the government members (ministers) at the proposal of the Prime Minister.



The bicameral legislature is composed of a Senate and a National Assembly. 500 members of the National Assembly, the lower – but the most powerful – house, are elected by direct suffrage. 61 members are elected by majority vote in single-member constituencies, 439 members are elected by open list proportional-representation in multi-member constituencies to serve five-year terms. Senators are elected by the legislatures of the 26 provinces. The Senate had, among other things, the power of drafting the new constitution of the country. The new constitution also established a relatively independent judiciary, headed by a Supreme Court with constitutional interpretation powers. Besides the Constitutional Court there are Appeals Court (Cour de Cassation); Council of State; High Military Court; civil and military courts and tribunals.



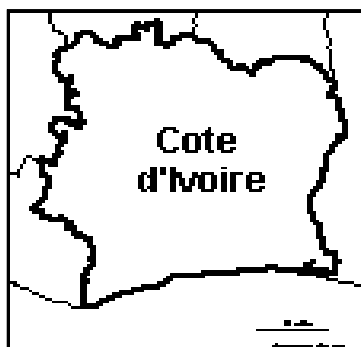
Text 21. Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire)

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, commonly known in English as Ivory Coast, is a country in West Africa. It borders Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana; its southern boundary is along the Gulf of Guinea. The capital city is Yamoussoukro. Prior to its occupation by Europeans, Côte d'Ivoire was home to several important states including Gyaaman, the Kong Empire, and Baoulé. In 1893, it became a French colony as part of the European scramble for Africa. Côte d'Ivoire became independent on 7 August 1960.



The Politics of Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) today takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. In practice

Côte d'Ivoire is a one party dominant state with the Ivorian People's Front in power.



Côte d'Ivoire's 1959 constitution provides for strong presidency within the framework of a separation of powers. Executive power is exercised by the government, though it is mostly personified in the president, elected for a five-year term. The president is commander in chief of the armed forces, may negotiate and ratify certain treaties, and may submit a bill to a national referendum or to the National Assembly. According to the constitution, the President of the National Assembly assumes the presidency in the event of a vacancy, and he completes the remainder of the deceased president's term. The cabinet is also selected by and is responsible to the president. Changes are being proposed to some of these provisions, to extend term of office to 7 years, establish a senate, and make president of the senate interim successor to the president.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The National Assembly has 225 members, elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies. It passes on legislation typically introduced by the president although it also can introduce legislation. Its legal system is based on French civil law system and customary law with judicial review in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court. Côte d'Ivoire accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations. Supreme Court or Cour Supreme consists of four chambers: 1) Judicial Chamber for criminal cases, 2) Audit Chamber for financial cases, 3) Constitutional Chamber for judicial review cases, and 4) Administrative Chamber for civil cases. There is no legal limit to the number of members.



Text 22. Cambodia (Kingdom of Cambodia)



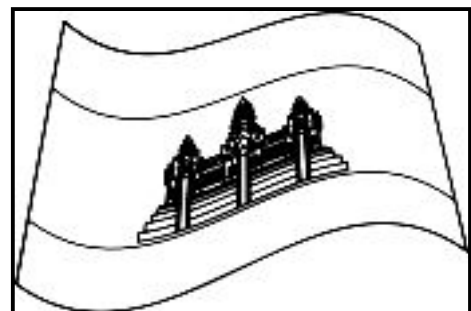
The Kingdom of Cambodia, formerly known as Kampuchea, is a country in Southeast Asia that borders Thailand to the west and northwest, Laos to the north, Vietnam to the east, and the Gulf of Thailand to the south. The geography of Cambodia is dominated by the Mekong River ("the great river") and the

Tonlé Sap ("the fresh water lake"). Its capital is Phnom Penh.

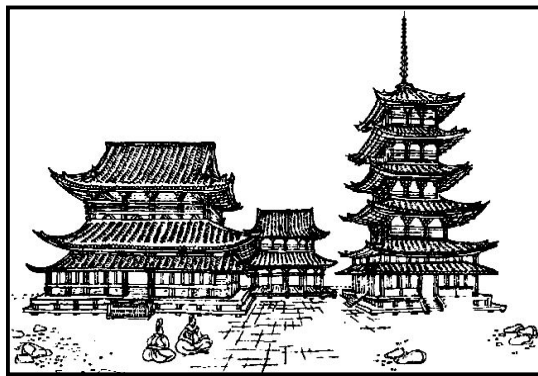
The politics of Cambodia formally take place, according to the nation's constitution of 1993, in the framework of a constitutional monarchy operated as a parliamentary representative democracy. Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy, i.e. the King reigns but does not rule, in similar fashion to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. The King is officially the Head of State and is the symbol of unity and "eternity" of the nation, as defined by Cambodia's constitution. While the king is the official head of state, The Prime Minister of Cambodia is the head of government within a multi-party system. The Prime Minister of Cambodia is a representative from the ruling party of the National Assembly. He or she is appointed by the King on the recommendation of the President and Vice Presidents of the National Assembly. In order for a person to become Prime Minister, he or she must first be given a vote of confidence by the National Assembly. Upon entry into office, the Prime Minister appoints the Council of Ministers. Officially, the Prime Minister's duties include chairing meetings of the Council of Ministers (Cambodia's version of a Cabinet) and appointing and leading a government. The Prime Minister and his government make up Cambodia's executive branch of government.



Legislative power is vested in both the executive and the two chambers of parliament. The legislative branch of the Cambodian government is made up of a bicameral parliament: the National Assembly of Cambodia and the Senate. The National Assembly of Cambodia has 123 members, elected for a five-year term by proportional representation. The Senate has 61 members. Two of these members are appointed by the King, two are elected by the lower house of the government, and the remaining fifty-seven are elected popularly by "functional constituencies." Members in this house serve for a five-year term. The official duty of the Parliament is to legislate and make laws. Bills passed by the Parliament are given to the King who gives to the proposed bills His Royal Assent. The King does not have power to veto bills passed by the National Assembly (the lower house) and, thus, cannot withhold Royal Assent. The National Assembly also has the



power to dismiss the Prime Minister and his government by a two-thirds vote of no confidence. In order to vote in legislative elections, one must be



at least eighteen years of age. However, in order to be elected to the Legislature, one must be at least twenty-five years of age.

Until 1997, Cambodia didn't have a judicial branch of government. The judicial branch is independent from the rest of the government, as specified by the current Cambodian Constitution. The highest court of judicial branch is the Supreme Council of the Magistracy. Other, lower courts also exist. The main duties of the judiciary are to prosecute criminals, settle lawsuits, and, most importantly, protect the freedoms and rights of Cambodian citizens. However, in reality, the judicial branch in Cambodia is highly corrupt and often serves as a tool of the executive branch to silence civil society and its leaders. Cambodia is a member of the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It is an Asian Development Bank (ADB) member, a member of ASEAN, and joined the WTO on October 13, 2004. In 2005 Cambodia attended the inaugural East Asia Summit.



Text 23. Central African Republic (CAR)

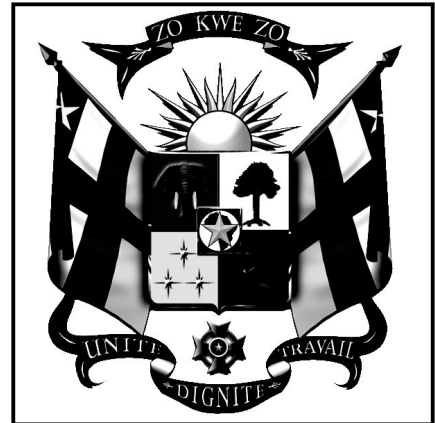
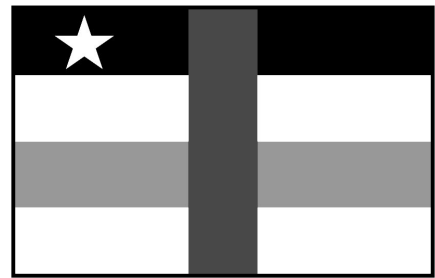


The Central African Republic (CAR) is a landlocked country in Central Africa. It borders Chad in the north, Sudan in the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo in the south, and Cameroon in the west. The CAR covers a land area of almost 623,000 km², and has an estimated

population of about 4.4 million as per 2008. The CAR is divided into 14 administrative prefectures and 2 economic prefectures and one autonomous commune. The prefectures are further divided into 71 sub-prefectures. Bangui is the capital city.

The former French colony of Ubangi-Shari became the Central African Republic upon independence in 1960. After three tumultuous

decades of misrule – mostly by military governments – civilian rule was established in 1993 and lasted for one decade. President Ange-Felix Patasse's civilian government was plagued by unrest, and in March 2003 he was deposed in a military coup led by General Francois Bozize, who established a transitional government. Though the government has the tacit support of civil society groups and the main parties, a wide field of candidates contested the municipal, legislative, and presidential elections held in March and May of 2005 in which General Bozize was affirmed as president. The government still does not fully control the countryside, where pockets of lawlessness persist. Unrest in the neighboring nations of Chad, Sudan, and the DRC continues to affect stability in the Central African Republic as well.

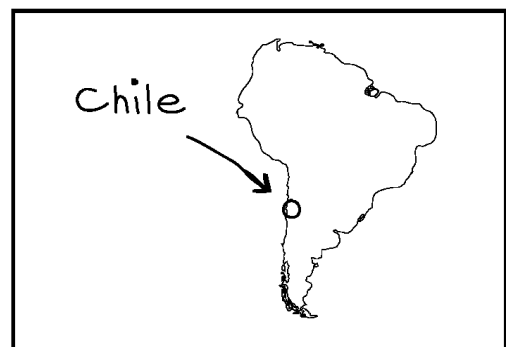


Under the new constitution, the president is elected for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); the Prime Minister is appointed by the political party with a parliamentary majority. Legislative power is vested in a unicameral National Assembly with 105 seats. Members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. CAR's legal system is based on French law. The judiciary branch is represented by Supreme Court; Constitutional Court (three judges appointed by the president, three by the president of the National Assembly, and three by fellow judges); Court of Appeal; Criminal Courts and Inferior Courts.

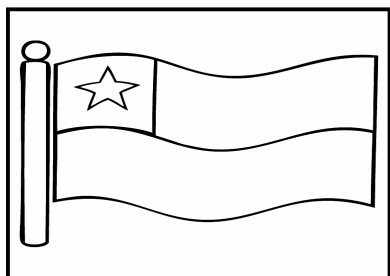


Text 24. Chile (Republic of Chile)

Chile, officially the Republic of Chile, is a country in South America occupying a long, narrow coastal strip between the Andes Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Chilean territory includes the Pacific islands of Juan Fernández, Salas y Gómez, Desventuradas and Easter Island. Chile also claims about 1,250,000 sq. kilometers of



Antarctica, although all claims are suspended under the Antarctic Treaty. Its capital and the largest city is Santiago.



The current Constitution of Chile was approved in a highly irregular national plebiscite in September 1980, under the military government of Augusto Pinochet. It entered into force in March 1981. After Pinochet's defeat in the 1988 plebiscite, the constitution was amended to ease provisions for future amendments to the Constitution. In September 2005, President Ricardo Lagos signed into law several constitutional amendments passed by Congress. The politics of Chile today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Chile is both the head of state and head of

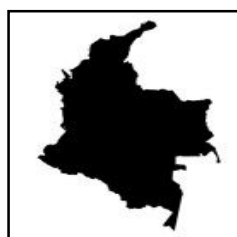


government within a multi-party system. The President is elected by popular vote for a single four-year term. Suffrage is universal and compulsory from 18 years of age. Executive power is exercised by the Cabinet appointed by the President.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the National Congress. The bicameral National Congress consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The Senate is made up of 38 members elected from regions or sub-regions to serve eight-year terms, one-half elected every four years. The Chamber of Deputies has 120 members, who are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. It includes the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Tribunal and National Security Council. The Civil Code came into effect in 1857. The influence of the Napoleonic code is great; in many provisions of property law, the solutions of the French code civil were put aside in favor of pure Roman law.



Text 25. Colombia (Republic of Colombia)



Colombia, officially the Republic of Colombia, is a constitutional republic in northwestern South America. With a population of over 45 million people, Colombia has the 29th largest population in the world and the second

largest in South America, after Brazil. Its capital is Bogotá. The government of Colombia takes place within the framework of a presidential representative democratic republic as established in the Constitution of 1991. In accordance with the principle of separation of powers, the head of the executive branch is the President of Colombia who serves both as the head of state and head of government, followed by the Vice President and the Council of Ministers. The president is elected by popular vote to serve a four-year term and is currently limited to a maximum of two such terms. At the provincial level executive power is vested in department governors, municipal mayors and local administrators for smaller administrative subdivisions.



The legislative branch of government is composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The 102-seat Senate is elected nationally and the Representatives are elected by every region and minority groups. Members of both houses are elected two months before the president, also by popular vote to serve four-year terms. At the provincial level the legislative branch is represented by department assemblies and municipal councils. All regional elections are held one year and five months after the presidential election. The judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Court, consisting of 23 judges divided into three chambers – Penal, Civil and Agrarian, and Labor. The judicial branch also includes the Council of State (responsible for administrative law and providing legal advice to the executive), the Constitutional Court (assuring the integrity of the Colombian constitution), and the Superior Council of Judicature (auditing the judicial branch). Since 2005 Colombia operates through an adversarial system of civil law. Its civil code was introduced in 1873. It is nearly a faithful reproduction of the Chilean civil code.



Text 26. Costa Rica (Republic of Costa Rica)

Costa Rica, officially the Republic of Costa Rica, is a country in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the east and south, the Pacific Ocean to the west and south and the Caribbean Sea to the east.



Costa Rica is composed of seven provinces, which in turn are divided into 81 cantons, each directed by a mayor. Mayors are chosen democratically



every four years by each canton's people. There are no provincial legislatures. The cantons are further divided into districts. The capital city of Costa Rica is San José. Costa Rica, which means "Rich Coast", constitutionally abolished its army permanently in 1949.

Costa Rica is a democratic republic with a strong constitution. The country has had at least 59 years of uninterrupted democracy, making it one of the most stable countries in the region, and the only Latin American country included in the list of the world's 22 older democracies since at least 1950. Costa Rica has been able to avoid the widespread violence that has plagued most of Latin America. Costa Rica is a republic with three powers: executive responsibilities are vested in a president, legislative power – in the Legislative Assembly, and judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court. There are two vice presidents as well as a cabinet designated by the president. The president, vice presidents, and 57 Legislative Assembly delegates are elected for four-year terms. A constitutional amendment of 1969 limited presidents and delegates to one term of service, although delegates are allowed to run again for an Assembly seat after sitting out a term. The Supreme Electoral Body, the Office of the Comptroller General, the Office of the Procurator General of the Republic and the Office of the Ombudsman also enjoy a lot of independence. The Supreme Court is divided into 4 chambers, the first one – dealing with Constitutional Law, the other – dealing with Criminal Law, and the rest two – dealing with Civil Law, Merchant Law and the like. The present Civil Code came into effect in 1888 and reveals the influenced by the Napoleonic Code and the Spanish Civil Code of 1889. According to the 1949 Constitution, Roman Catholicism is the official state religion, which guarantees freedom of religion.



Text 27. Croatia (Republic of Croatia)



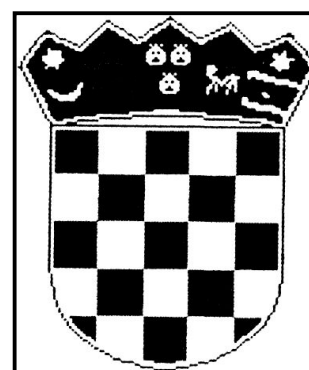
Croatia, officially the Republic of Croatia, is a country in Central Europe and Southeastern Europe at the crossroads of the Pannonian Plain, the Balkans, and the Adriatic Sea.

Croatia is divided into 20 counties. Its capital and the largest city is Zagreb.

Croatia is a democratic parliamentary republic. With the collapse of the ruling communist party in Yugoslavia, Croatia adopted its present constitution in 1990 and organized its first multi-party elections. It declared independence on 8 October 1991 leading to the breakup of Yugoslavia and the country was internationally recognized by the United Nations in 1992.



Under its 1990 constitution, Croatia operated a semi-presidential system until 2000 when it switched to a parliamentary system. Amendments to the Constitution have happened four times. The main institutions of government in Croatia now are the President, Parliament and Government. The President of the Republic is the head of state, directly elected to a five-year term and is limited by the Constitution to a maximum of two terms. The President is the



commander in chief of the Armed Forces, he also has the procedural duty of appointing the Prime minister with the consent of the Parliament and has some influence on foreign policy. The Government of Croatia (Vlada) is headed by the Prime minister who has two deputy prime ministers and fourteen ministers in charge of particular sectors of activity. The executive branch is responsible for proposing legislation and a budget, executing the laws, and guiding the foreign and internal policies of the republic. Government's official residence is at Banski dvori.

The Parliament of Croatia (Sabor) is a unicameral legislative body since 2001. The number of the it's members varies from 100 to 160; they are all elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. The two largest political parties in Croatia are the Croatian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party of Croatia.

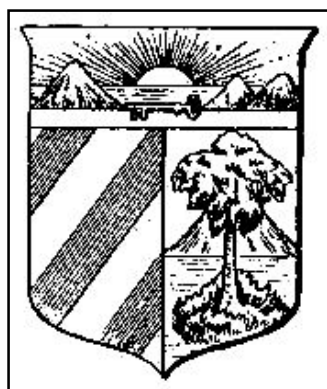
The legal system of Croatia is civil law, strongly influenced by the legal heritage of Austria-Hungary with an influx of communist law. The institutional framework was build on the basis of Austrian institutions. Nowadays, it is almost completely harmonized with the one of the European Union. Croatia applied to become a member of the European Union (EU) in 2003 and gained candidate status in 2004. Croatia is expected to become an EU state around 2012. Its accession was previously

blocked by Slovenia due to a maritime dispute.

Croatia has a three-tiered judicial system, consisting of the Supreme Court, County courts, and Municipal courts. The Constitutional Court rules on matters regarding the Constitution. Law enforcement in Croatia is the responsibility of the Croatian police force, which is under the control of the Ministry of the Interior. Croatia is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, NATO, the World Trade Organization and CEFTA. The country is a founding member of the Union for the Mediterranean.



Text 28. Cuba (Republic of Cuba)



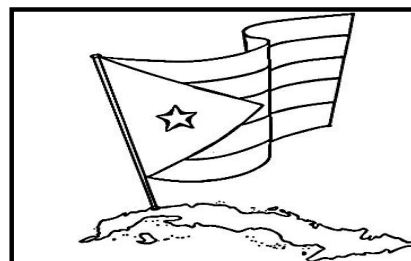
The Republic of Cuba is an island country in the Caribbean. It consists of the island of Cuba, the Isla de la Juventud, and several archipelagos. Havana is the largest city in Cuba and the country's capital. Santiago de Cuba is the second largest city. The name "Cuba" comes from the Taíno language and may be translated either as "where fertile land is abundant" or as "great place". There is also a perception that the name was given by Columbus after the ancient town of Cuba in Portugal. The Constitution of 1976, which defined Cuba as a socialist republic, was replaced by the Constitution of 1992 (amended in 2002), which is guided by the ideas of José Martí, Marx, Engels and Lenin. The constitution describes the Communist Party of Cuba as the "leading force of society and of the state".

Cuba is the only authoritarian country in the Americas. Executive power is exercised by the Cuban Government, which is represented by the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. Members of both councils are elected by the National Assembly of People's Power. The first secretary



of the Communist Party is concurrently the President of the Council of State (President of Cuba) and President of the Council of Ministers (sometimes referred to as Prime Minister of Cuba). The President of Cuba, who is also elected by the Assembly, serves for five years and there is no limit to the number of terms of office. Currently — Raúl Castro — the younger brother

of the former President Fidel Castro — is the President of the Council of State, President of the Council of Ministers (sometimes referred to as the Prime Minister), First Secretary of the Communist Party, and Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.



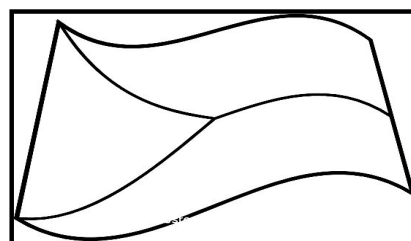
Legislative power is exercised through the unicameral National Assembly of People's Power, which is constituted as the maximum authority of the state. The National Assembly of People's Power is regarded as an elected national legislature. Suffrage is universal for every citizen over 16 years of age. The 2008 election results proved once again, that the Cuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed. The National Assembly consists of 609 members elected every five years though. The National Assembly meets regularly to ratify the decisions made by the executive branch. The National Assembly has permanent commissions to look after issues of legislature, economy, the industries, transportation, communications, construction, foreign affairs, public health, defense and interior order.

Cuba's legal system is based on Spanish civil law and influenced by American legal concepts with large elements of Communist legal theory. Judicial power is vested in the People's Supreme Court. It is the highest judicial body. The constitution states that all legally recognized civil liberties can be denied to anyone who opposes the decision of the Cuban people to build socialism." The Cuban government has been accused of numerous human rights abuses including torture, arbitrary imprisonment, unfair trials, and extrajudicial executions. The Human Rights Watch alleges that the "Cubans are systematically denied basic rights to free expression, assembly, privacy, movement, and due process of law".



Text 29. Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a country in Central Europe. The country borders Poland to the northeast, Germany to the west and northwest, Austria to the south and Slovakia to the east. Its capital and the largest city is Prague.



Since 1993 – when Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and

Slovakia – the Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy. The Prime Minister is the head of government



and wields considerable powers, including the right to set the agenda for most of the foreign and domestic policy issues. The Cabinet is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The President of the Czech Republic is selected by a joint session of the parliament for a five-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms. The president is a formal head of state

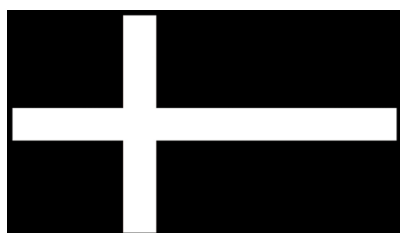
with limited powers.

The Parliament is bicameral, with the Chamber of Deputies (having 200 members) and the Senate (having 81 members). The members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected for a four year term by proportional representation, with a 5% election threshold. There are 14 voting districts, identical to the country's administrative regions. The members of the Senate are elected in single-seat constituencies by two-round runoff voting for a six-year term, with one-third elected every even year in the autumn. This arrangement is modeled on the U.S. Senate, but each constituency is roughly the same size and the voting system used is a two-round runoff.

The legal system is based on Austro-Hungarian civil codes; its legal code has been modified to bring it in line with European Union obligations and to expunge Marxist-Leninist legal theory. Judicial branch is composed of the Supreme Court; the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Administrative Court. Their chairman and deputy chairmen are appointed by the president for a 10-year term. Membership in the European Union (since 2004) is central in Czech Republic's foreign policy. The Czech Republic, along with Estonia, has one of the least religious populations in the world.



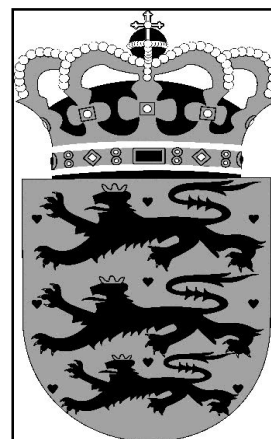
Text 30. Denmark (Kingdom of Denmark)



Denmark is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe and the senior member of the Kingdom of Denmark. It is the southernmost of the Nordic countries and borders both the Baltic and the

North Sea. The country consists of a large peninsula, Jutland, and many islands often referred to as the Danish Archipelago. Its capital and the largest city is Copenhagen.

First organized as a unified state in the 10th century, Denmark in 1849 became a constitutional monarchy. The Politics of modern Denmark takes place in a framework of a parliamentary, representative, democratic constitutional monarchy. In accordance with the Danish Constitution the Danish Monarch, as head of state, is the formal source of all executive, judicial and legislative power. However, since the introduction of parliamentary sovereignty in 1901, a de facto separation of powers has been in effect. Today the Monarch has an essentially ceremonial role. However, the monarch does continue to exercise three formal rights: the right to be consulted; the right to advice and the right to warn. The monarchy is hereditary. Executive power is exercised by the government, with the prime minister acting as *primus inter pares*. The Prime Minister is the head of government within a multi-party system. Following the legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually appointed as a Prime Minister by the monarch. Parliamentary elections are held at least every four years, but it is within the powers of the prime minister to ask the monarch to call for an election before the term has elapsed. Pursuant to the ideals of constitutional monarchy, both the Prime Minister and the Cabinet attend the regular meeting of the Council of State. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral Danish Parliament (Folketinget). There are 179 seats, including 2 – from Greenland and 2 – from the Faroe Islands; members are elected by popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms unless the Parliament is dissolved earlier. Judicial branch is represented by the Supreme Court and its judges are appointed for life by the monarch.



Text 31. The Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a country on the island of Hispaniola, part of the Greater Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean region. The western third of the island is occupied by the nation of Haiti, making Hispaniola one of



the two Caribbean islands that are shared by two countries. Both by area and population, the Dominican Republic is the second largest Caribbean



nation. Inhabited by Taínos since the seventh century, the territory of the Dominican Republic was reached by Christopher Columbus in 1492 and became the site of the first permanent European settlement in the Americas, namely Santo Domingo, the country's capital and Spain's first capital in the New World.

The Government of the Dominican Republic today operates in a framework of a representative democracy. The president of the Dominican Republic is both the Head of State and the Head of Government, and the Commander in Chief of the armed forces. The President and Vice President are elected on the same ticket by popular vote for a four-year term, and they can be re-elected only for a consecutive period, according to the last amendment made to the Constitution in 2002. Elections are held in years evenly divisible by four. The candidate must gain a majority vote of at least 50% plus one to win the presidency in the first round. If none of the candidates obtains such majority, a second poll will take place 45 days later, at which the population will decide between the two candidates that had the best results during the first poll.

The President designates the cabinet of ministers that assists him in his functions. The powers of the ministers are determined by law. However, the president is constitutionally responsible for the actions of his ministers. Ministers serve at the president's discretion and function both as administrators of their ministries and as agents of presidential authority.



These officials must be Dominican citizens, at least twenty-five years of age, with full civil and political rights.

Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the National Congress. The upper house – is the Senate with 32 members, elected for a four year term in single-seat constituencies. The lower house – is the Chamber of Deputies with 178 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation of each of the 31 provinces, i.e. one deputy is elected for every 50,000 inhabitants plus fraction exceeding 25,000, but never less than two. Congressional and municipal elections are held separately from the presidential elections.

Elections are held every two years. Each of the 31 provinces is headed by a presidentially appointed governor. The elected mayors and municipal councils administer the National District (Santo Domingo) and the 103 municipal districts.



The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Its higher body is the Supreme Court of Justice, which is composed of 16 judges appointed by the National Council of Magistrates, an entity created by the constitutional reform of 1994 to ensure the independence of the Judicial Branch. The National Council of Magistrates is nominated by the three major political parties, presided by the President of the Republic. The Supreme Court hears appeals from lower courts (as a Court of Cassation) and chooses members of lower courts. It has a sole jurisdiction over actions against the President, designated members of his cabinet, and members of Congress. It has administrative and financial autonomy. Apart from working as an appeals court, the Supreme Court supervises all judges on the Dominican territory. The Dominican Republic has a multi-party political system. There are many political parties and advocacy groups and, new on the scene, civil organizations. The three major parties are the conservative Social Christian Reformist Party, the social democratic Dominican Revolutionary Party, and the originally leftist, conservative Dominican Liberation Party.



Text 32. Ecuador (Republic of Ecuador)

Ecuador, officially the Republic of Ecuador, literally, "Republic of the equator" – is a representative democratic republic in South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and by the Pacific Ocean to the west. The country also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometers west of the mainland. Ecuador is divided into 24 provinces, each with its own administrative capital. Ecuador straddles the equator, from which it takes its name. Its capital city is Quito, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the 1970s for having the best preserved and least altered historic center in Latin America.



Politics of Ecuador takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. Ecuador is governed by a democratically elected for a four year term President, who is both the head of state and head of government. The president and vice president are elected on the same ticket by popular vote for four-year term. The current constitution was written by the Ecuadorian Constituent Assembly elected in 2007, and was approved by referendum in 2008.

The executive branch includes 28 ministries. Provincial governors and councilors (mayors, aldermen, and parish boards) are directly elected. The National Congress of Ecuador meets throughout the year except for recesses in July and December. There are 20 seven-member congressional committees. Ecuador has a unicameral National Congress. There are 100 members, who are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms (as from multi-seat constituencies or provinces). On November 29, 2007 the Ecuadorian Constituent Assembly dismissed Congress on charges of corruption and then assumed legislative powers for itself. Ecuador's civil code was introduced in 1861. It is nearly a faithful reproduction of the Chilean civil code. Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Congress for indefinite terms. New justices of the Supreme Court are elected by the sitting members of the court. Ecuador has often placed great emphasis on multilateral approaches to international issues. Ecuador is a member of the United Nations and a member of many regional groups.



Text 33. El Salvador (Republic of El Salvador)

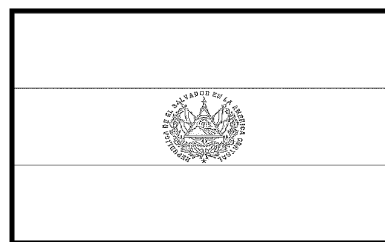


El Salvador, literally meaning "Republic of the Savior" – is the smallest and also the most densely populated country in Central America. The capital city of San Salvador is the largest city of the republic.

From 1989 until 2004, Salvadorans favored Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) party, voting ARENA presidents in every election. Economic reforms since the early 1990s have brought major benefits in terms of improved social conditions and access to international financial markets. The unsuccessful attempts of the left-wing party to win presidential elections led to its selection of a journalist rather than a former guerrilla leader as a candidate.

One focus that the Mauricio Funes government (since 2009) has been revealing the alleged corruption from the past government.

Politics of El Salvador takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, whereby the President is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. El Salvador elects its head of state directly through a fixed-date general election whose winner is decided by absolute majority. If an absolute majority is not achieved by any candidate in the first round of a presidential election, then a run-off pool election is conducted 30 days later between the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the first round. The presidential period of office is five years, and re-election is not permitted.



Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Legislative Assembly. The single-chamber, unicameral Legislative Assembly consists of 84 deputies elected by closed-list proportional representation for three-year terms, with the possibility of immediate re-election. 20 of the 84 seats in the Legislative Assembly are elected on the basis of a single national constituency. The remaining 64 – are elected in 14 multi-member constituencies (corresponding to the country's 14 departments) that range from 3-16 seats each according to department population size

The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. It has the following structure:

- 1) Justices of the peace – personal courts that deal with cases involving smaller amounts of money or personal disputes – cases are heard by one judge;
- 2) First instance courts (civil and criminal) – cases are heard by one judge, except in the case of sentencing when three judges make the decisions;
- 3) Second level courts (intermediate appeal courts) – cases are heard by 3 judges;
- 4) Supreme Court – consisting of 4 different chambers: 3 courts of appeal and a constitutional court.



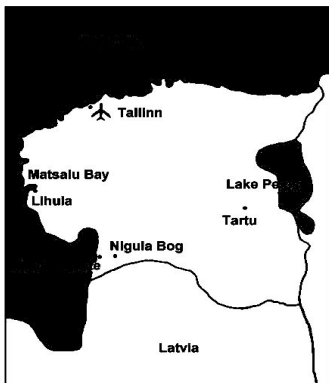


Text 34. Estonia (Republic of Estonia)



Estonia, officially the Republic of Estonia, is a country in the Baltic Region of Northern Europe. Estonia is divided into fifteen counties. The capital and largest city is Tallinn. With a population of only 1.34 million, Estonia is one of the least-populous members of the European Union. The Estonian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1918. The first Constitution was adopted on June 15, 1920. In 1991 the Republic of Estonia was restored on the basis of continuity with the constitution prior to 1938, with the public approving a new constitution in 1992.

Politics of Estonia today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of Estonia is elected by Parliament for a five-year term; if he or she does not secure two-thirds of the votes after three rounds of balloting, then an electoral



assembly (made up of Parliament plus members of local governments) elects the president, choosing between the two candidates with the largest percentage of votes.

The Executive power is exercised by the Government which is led by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister of Estonia is the head of government and the de facto political head of state within a multi-party system. The prime minister is chosen by the President and conferred by Parliament. This is usually the leader of the largest party or coalition in the Parliament, who does not head any specific ministry, but is, in accordance with the constitution, the supervisor of the work of the government. If the prime minister has a strong position within his party, and the government is made up solely of representatives of that party, he can enjoy considerable authority. In all crucial national questions, however, the final word rests with The State Council (the Parliament) as the legislative power. It has 101 members, elected for a four year term by proportional representation. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The supreme judiciary court is the National Court, with 19 justices whose chairman is appointed by the Parliament for life on nomination by the President.



Text 35. Finland (Republic of Finland)

Finland, officially the Republic of Finland, is a Nordic country situated in the Northern Europe. Finland is a parliamentary republic with a central government based in its capital – Helsinki and local governments in – 342 municipalities.



Finland's declaration of independence from Russia in 1917 was followed by a civil war, wars against the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, and a period of official neutrality during the Cold War. Finland joined the United Nations in 1955 and the European Union in 1995.

The Constitution of Finland defines the political system as a representative democracy with a semi-presidential parliamentary system. Aside from state-level politics, residents use their vote in municipal elections every four years and in the European Union elections every five years. The President of Finland is the head of state and responsible for foreign policy in cooperation with the cabinet. The President is also the Commander-in-Chief and has decree and appointment powers. Direct vote is used to elect the president for a term of six years for maximum two consecutive terms. The cabinet (the Finnish Council of State) is presided over by the Speaker of Parliament (the prime minister) and exercises most of the executive powers. The cabinet includes other ministers and the Chancellor of Justice. Parliament majority decides its composition, and a vote of no confidence can be used to modify it.



The 200-member unicameral Parliament of Finland exercises the supreme legislative authority. The parliament may alter laws and the constitution, bring about the resignation of the Council of State, and override presidential vetoes. Its acts are not subject to judicial review. Various parliament committees listen to experts and prepare legislation. Proportional vote in multi-seat constituencies is used to elect the parliament for a term of four years. The judicial system of Finland is divided between courts with regular civil and criminal jurisdiction and administrative courts with responsibility for litigation between the individuals and the administrative organs of the state and the communities.



Text 36. France (French Republic)



France, officially the French Republic, is a state in Western Europe with several of its overseas territories and islands located on other continents and in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans. France is a member state of the European Union, the largest one by area. It is also the third largest in Europe behind Russia and Ukraine. Its capital is Paris.

The French Republic is a unitary semi-presidential republic with strong democratic traditions. The constitution of the Fifth Republic was approved by referendum on 28 September 1958. It greatly strengthened the authority of the executive branch in relation to parliament. The executive branch has two leaders: 1) the President of the Republic, who is the head of state and is elected directly by universal adult suffrage for a 5-year term and 2) the president-appointed Prime Minister, who is the head of government. Since the 1789 French Revolution, French politics is characterized by two politically opposed groupings: left-wing, represented by the French Socialist Party, and the right-wing, centered on the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP). The executive branch is currently composed mostly of the UMP.

The French legislature is vested in a bicameral parliament comprising a National Assembly and a Senate. The National Assembly deputies represent local constituencies and are directly elected for 5-year terms. The Assembly has the power to dismiss the cabinet, and thus the majority in the

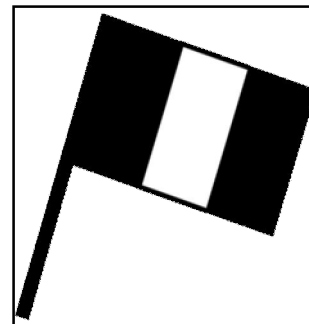


Assembly determines the choice of government. Senators are chosen by an electoral college for 6-year terms, and one half of the seats are submitted to election every 3 years since September 2008. The Senate's legislative powers are limited – in the event of disagreement between the two chambers, the National Assembly has the final word, except for constitutional laws and in some cases – laws that are

directly provided for by the constitution. The government has a strong influence on shaping the agenda of Parliament.

France uses a civil legal system; that is, law arises primarily from written statutes; judges are not to make law, but merely to interpret it

(though the amount of judge interpretation in certain areas makes it equivalent to case law). Basic principles of the rule of law were laid in the Napoleonic Code. In agreement with the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen Law should only prohibit actions detrimental to society, i.e. laws should be used only if they are needed, and if the inconveniences caused by the restrictions do not exceed the inconveniences that the prohibition is supposed to remedy.



French law is divided into two principal areas: private law and public law. Private law includes, in particular, civil law and criminal law. Public law includes, in particular, administrative law and constitutional law. However, in practical terms, French law comprises three principal areas of law: civil law, criminal law and administrative law. France does not recognize religious law, nor does it recognize religious beliefs or morality as a motivation for the enactment of prohibitions. As a consequence, France has long had neither blasphemy laws nor sodomy laws (the latter being abolished in 1791). Constitutional law is a branch of public law dealing with: 1) human rights as applied in French law; 2) constitution and functioning of the public authorities and the government and, in particular the relationship between the three constitutional powers, executive, legislative and judiciary; 3) relationship between citizens and public authorities, in particular the participation of French citizens to the exercise of public powers. It fixes the hierarchy of laws and rules within the French legal system and the relationship between these different norms.

Constitutional law became independent from political science and administrative law with the Constitution of 1958 which included the institution of a constitutional court. Traditionally, European Community law is viewed as a body of rules which are transposed automatically (in the case of a regulation) or by national legislation (in the case of a directive) into French domestic law, be it civil, criminal, administrative or constitutional. Judicial branch is vested in the Supreme Court of Appeals (judges are appointed by the president from nominations of the High Council of the Judiciary); the Constitutional Council (3 members are appointed by the president, 3 – by the president of the National Assembly and 3 – by the president of the Senate); the Council of State.





Text 37. Equatorial Guinea (Republic of Equatorial Guinea)



Equatorial Guinea, officially the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, is a country located in Central Africa. It comprises two parts: a Continental Region (Río Muni), including several small offshore islands and an insular region containing Annobón island and Bioko island where the capital Malabo is situated.

In September 1968, Francisco Macías Nguema was elected the first president of Equatorial Guinea, and independence was recognized on October 12, 1968. In July 1970, Nguema created a single-party state with the reign of terror which led to the death or exile of up to 1/3 of the country's population.

Politics of Equatorial Guinea today takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President is both the head of state and head of government. The current President – Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo – seized his power in a military coup. He was elected by popular vote to a seven-year term and then re-elected. The 1982 constitution of Equatorial Guinea gives the President extensive powers, including naming and dismissing members of the cabinet, making laws by decree, dissolving the Chamber of Representatives, negotiating and ratifying treaties and calling legislative elections. The President retains his role as commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense, and he maintains close supervision of the military activity. Executive power is also exercised by the government. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and operates under powers designated by the President. The Prime Minister coordinates government activities in areas other than foreign affairs, national defense and security.



Another official branch of the government is the State Council. The State Council's main function is to serve as caretaker in case of death or physical incapacity of the President. It comprises the following ex officio members: the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Minister of

Defense, the President of the National Assembly and the Chairman of the Social and Economic Council.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Chamber

of People's Representatives. The Chamber of People's Representatives consists of 100 members, elected for a five year term by proportional representation in multi-member constituencies.

Equatorial Guinea is a single-party dominant state. This means that only one political party, the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea is in fact allowed to hold effective power. Although minor parties are allowed, they are de facto required to accept the leadership of the dominant party.



Equatorial Guinea is divided into 7 provinces.

The President appoints the governors of the provinces. Each province is divided administratively into districts and municipalities. The internal administrative system falls under the Ministry of Territorial Administration; several other ministries are represented at the provincial and district levels.

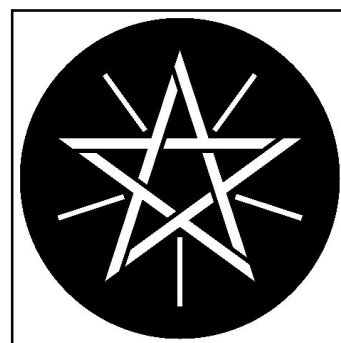
The judicial system follows similar administrative levels. At the top are the President and his judicial advisors (the Supreme Court). In descending rank are the appeals courts, chief judges for the divisions, and local magistrates. Tribal laws and customs are honored in the formal court system when not in conflict with national law. The current court system, which often uses customary law, is a combination of traditional, civil, and military justice, and it operates in an ad hoc manner for lack of established procedures and experienced judicial personnel. Legal system of Equatorial Guinea is partly based on Spanish civil law and tribal custom; the country has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 38. Ethiopia

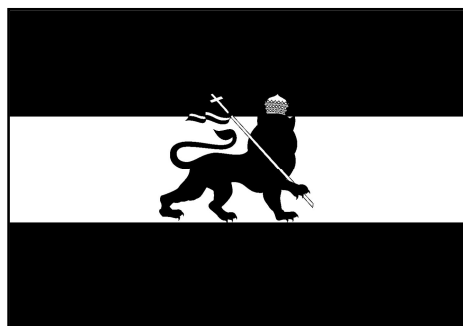
(Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)

Ethiopia, officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa. The capital is Addis Ababa. Though most African nations in their modern form are less than a century old, Ethiopia has been an independent nation since ancient times, being one of the oldest countries in the world (for at least 2,000 years).



A monarchy for most of its history, the Ethiopian dynasty traces its roots to the 10th century BC. The politics of Ethiopia today takes place in a

framework of a federal parliamentary republic. Ethiopia is divided into 9 ethnically based administrative states, subdivided into 68 zones and 2 self-governing administrations or cities.



The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was adopted in December 1994. The current form of government of Ethiopia was installed in August 1995.

The chief of the state is the President who is elected by the House of People's Representatives for a six-year term and is eligible for a second term (next election to be held in October 2013).



Executive power is exercised by the government. The Prime Minister is the head of government, designated by the party in power following legislative elections.



Federal legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament. The bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Federation (or upper chamber) and the House of People's Representatives (or lower chamber). The House of Federation is responsible for interpreting the constitution and federal-regional issues; it has 108 seats; the members

are chosen by state assemblies to serve five-year terms. The House of People's Representatives is responsible for passing legislation. There are 547 seats; its members are directly elected by popular vote from single-member districts to serve five-year terms.

On the basis of Article 78 of the 1994 Ethiopian Constitution, the judiciary is completely independent of the executive and the legislature. The current realities of this provision are questioned in a report prepared by Freedom House. Judicial branch is vested in the Federal Supreme Court. The president and vice president of the Federal Supreme Court are recommended by the prime minister and appointed by the House of People's Representatives. For other federal judges, the prime minister submits candidates for appointment to the House of People's Representatives.



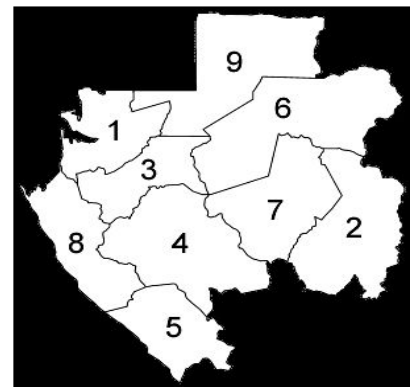
Text 39. Gabon (Gabonese Republic)

Gabon is a country in west central Africa. Since its independence from France on August 17, 1960, Gabon has been ruled by three presidents. In the early 1990s, Gabon introduced a multi-party system and in March 1991 a new democratic constitution was enacted that allowed for a more transparent electoral process and reformed many governmental institutions. Among its provisions is a Western-style bill of rights. There are nine provincial administrations in Gabon. Gabon's capital and the largest city is Libreville.



Politics of Gabon today takes place in a framework of a republic whereby the President of Gabon is the head of state. The president is elected by popular vote for a seven-year term. In 2003, the President amended the Constitution of Gabon to remove any restrictions on the number of terms a president is allowed to serve. The president retains strong powers, such as authority to dissolve the National Assembly, declare a state of siege, delay legislation, conduct referendums, and appoint and dismiss the prime minister and cabinet members. Executive power is exercised by the government. The president-appointed prime minister is the chief of the government. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the prime minister in consultation with the president.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of parliament: the National Assembly and the Senate. The National Assembly has 120 members, 111 members are elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies and 9 members are appointed by the head of state – the President.



The Senate has 91 members, elected for a six year term in single-seat constituencies by local and departmental councilors. Suffrage is universal for citizens over 21 years of age. Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court consisting of three chambers – Judicial, Administrative, and Accounts; the Constitutional Court; the Courts of Appeal; the Court of State Security and County Courts. Since 1960 independence the party system is dominated by the conservative Gabonese Democratic Party.



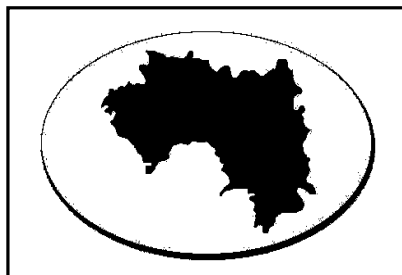
Text 40. Guinea (Republic of Guinea)



Guinea, officially the Republic of Guinea, is a country in West Africa. It is today sometimes called Guinea-Conakry to distinguish it from its neighbor Guinea-Bissau. Conakry is the capital, the seat of the national government, and the largest city. The land that is now Guinea belonged to a series of empires until France colonized it in the 1890s, and made it part of

French West Africa. Guinea declared its independence from France on 2 October 1958. Since its independence, Guinea has had autocratic rulers who have made Guinea one of the poorest countries in the world.

Politics of Guinea today takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President of Guinea is both the head of state and head of government. He is also the President of the National Council for Democracy and Development. The president of Guinea is normally elected by popular vote for a seven-year term (with no term limits); a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected the president. The president governs Guinea, assisted by a council of 25 civilian ministers (the Council of Ministers) appointed by him. Prime Minister of the Transitional Government (since January 2010) is the head of government. The government administers the country through 8 regions, 33 prefectures, 1 special zone and many districts. District-level leaders are elected while the



president appoints officials to all other levels of the highly centralized administration. Executive power thus is exercised by the government.

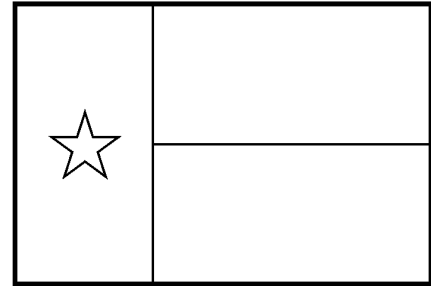
Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral People's National Assembly, which has 114 seats; the members are

elected by a mixed system of direct popular vote and proportional party lists. Judicial branch is composed of the Court of First Instance; the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. Guinea is a one party dominant state with the Party of Unity and Progress in power. Opposition parties are allowed, but are widely considered to have no real chance of gaining power. Its legal system is based on French civil law system, customary law, and decree. It accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.

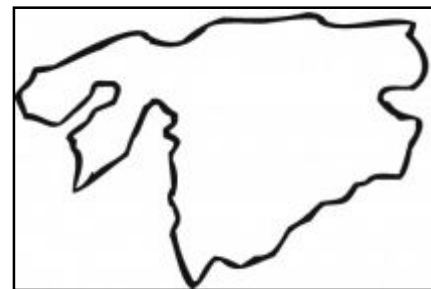


Text 41. Guinea-Bissau (Republic of Guinea-Bissau)

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is located in West Africa. It became the Portuguese colony of Portuguese Guinea in the 19th century. Upon independence, declared in 1973 and recognized in 1974, the name of its capital, Bissau, was added to the country's name to prevent confusion with the Republic of Guinea. The country is divided into 9 regions.



The new Constitution was adopted in 1984, having been amended several times later. Politics of Guinea-Bissau today takes place in a framework of a semi-presidential representative



democratic republic in transition, whereby the President is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government within a multi-party system. The president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. The prime minister is appointed by the president after consultation with party leaders in the legislature. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National People's Assembly. The unicameral National People's Assembly has 102 members, elected for a four year term in multi-member constituencies.

The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, which consists of nine justices who are appointed by the president and serve at his pleasure. It is the final court of appeals in criminal and civil cases. There are Regional Courts, one in each of nine regions, they are the first courts of appeals for Sectoral court



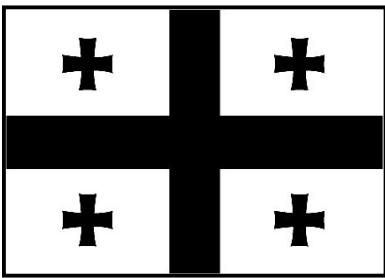
decisions and also hear all felony cases and civil cases valued at over \$1,000. There are 24 Sectoral Courts, where judges are not necessarily trained lawyers, civil cases under \$1,000 and misdemeanor criminal cases are heard there. The legal system of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is based on French civil law, the country accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction. Since 1994 the party system is dominated by the socialist African Independence Party of Guinea and Cape Verde and the Party for Social Renewal.



Text 42. Georgia



Georgia is a sovereign state in the Caucasus region of Europe. Georgia is divided into 9 regions and 2 autonomous republics. These in turn are subdivided into 69 districts. The capital city is Tbilisi.



The history of Georgia can be traced back to the ancient kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia. In 1922 Georgia was incorporated into the Soviet Union. The independence of Georgia was restored in 1991. Like many post-communist countries, Georgia suffered from the economic crisis and civil unrest during the 1990s. After the 2003 Rose Revolution, the new political leadership

introduced democratic reforms. The new Constitution was adopted in 1995. Despite the reforms by the new government, there are still numerous problems concerning respect for human rights in the country. Prisoners are frequently maltreated, journalists are intimidated by the authorities and much of the mainstream media is owned by government supporters.

The Politics of Georgia is structured as a presidential representative democratic republic within a multi-party system. The head of state is the President, who is elected for a term of five years (eligible for a second term). He also serves as the head of government for the power ministries of internal affairs and defense. His constitutional successor is the Chairman of the Parliament. The President appoints the Prime Minister, who serves as the head of the Georgian government. Executive power is exercised by the Cabinet of Ministers. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The unicameral Parliament of Georgia, also known as the Supreme Council, has 150 members, elected for a five-year term: 75 members are elected by proportional representation, 75 from single-seat constituencies. Suffrage is universal for all citizens over 18 years of age. Judicial branch is composed of the Supreme Court (its judges are elected by the Supreme Council on the president's or chairman of the Supreme Court's recommendation); the Constitutional Court and the first and second instance courts. The Legal system is based on civil law system; Georgia accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



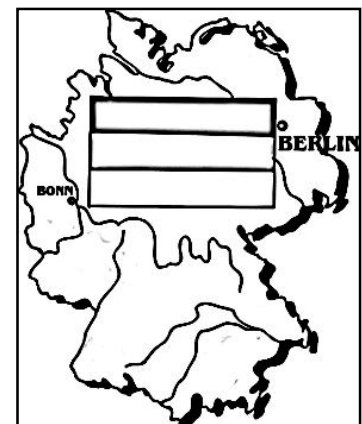
Text 43. Germany (Federal Republic of Germany)

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the most populated country located entirely in Europe, it has the largest population among member states of the European Union, and it is also home to the third-largest number of international migrants worldwide. Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of sixteen states. The capital and the largest city is Berlin.



The German political system operates under a framework laid out in the 1949 constitutional document known as the Grundgesetz (Basic Law). By calling the document Grundgesetz, rather than Verfassung (Constitution), the authors expressed the intention that it would be replaced by a proper constitution once Germany was reunited as one state. Despite the initial intention, the Basic Law remained in effect even after the German reunification in 1990, with only minor amendments. The 1949 Basic Law emphasizes the protection of individual liberty in an extensive catalogue of human rights and also divides powers both between the federal and state levels and between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. There is a multi-party system that, since 1949, has been dominated by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD).

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic, based on representative democracy. The Bundeskanzler (Federal Chancellor) is the head of the Federal Government. He or she is elected by and responsible to the Germany's parliament. Germany, like the United Kingdom, can thus be classified as a parliamentary system. The Chancellor has always been the candidate of the largest party, usually supported by a coalition of two parties with a majority in the parliament. The Chancellor appoints a Vice-Chancellor from among the ministers. By contrast, the duties of the Bundespräsident (Federal President) are largely representative and ceremonial. The President is elected every five years on May 23 by the Federal Assembly, a special body convened only for this purpose.



Federal legislative power is divided between the Bundestag (the Parliament of Germany) and the Bundesrat (the representative body of the regional states). The Bundestag is directly elected by the German people,



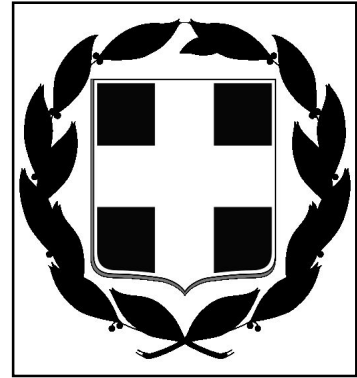
whilst the Bundesrat represents the regional states. The federal legislature has powers of exclusive jurisdiction and concurrent jurisdiction with the states in areas specifically enumerated by the constitution. The Bundestag is more powerful than the Bundesrat and only need the latter's consent for proposed legislation related to revenue shared by the federal and state governments, and the imposition of responsibilities on the states. In practice, this means that the agreement of the Bundesrat in the legislative process is very often required, as federal legislation often has to be executed by state or local agencies. In the event of disagreement between the Bundestag and the Bundesrat a conciliation committee is formed to find a compromise.

The independence of the judiciary of the executive and the legislature is historically older than democracy in Germany, the organization of courts is traditionally strong, and almost all state actions are subject to judicial review. Besides the so-called "ordinary" judicial branch that handles civil and criminal cases, which is in turn composed of four levels of courts up to the Federal Court of Justice of Germany in a fairly complex appeals system, there are separate branches for administrative, tax, labor, and social security issues, etc. Courts are generally under the authority of the states, except for the highest courts of each branch, which are, respectively, federal. Germany has a powerful Constitutional Court (half of the judges are elected by the Bundestag and half by the Bundesrat). The Basic Law stipulates that every person may file a complaint to that court when his or her constitutional rights, especially the human rights, have been violated by the state and when he or she has exhausted all instruments of appeal in the regular court system. In all cases, there is a necessity to have a lawyer, who should be approved for position. The requirements for lawyers to be approved are as such: 1) at least 35 years old, 2) have been an active lawyer for at least five years and 3) got nominated by the electoral committee. Requests for approval are decided by the Federal Ministry of Justice (Germany).



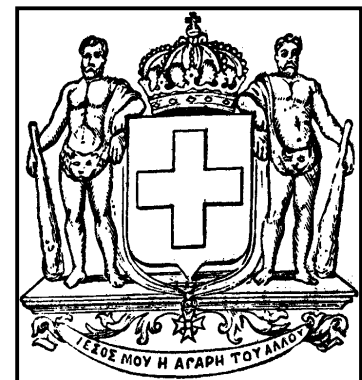
Text 44. Greece (Hellenic Republic)

Greece, also known as Hellas and officially the Hellenic Republic is a country in southeastern Europe, situated on the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula. Modern Greece traces its roots to the civilization of ancient Greece, generally considered to be the cradle of Western civilization. As such, it is the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature and historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, and Western drama, including both tragedy and comedy.



The Politics of Greece takes place in a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The Prime Minister of Greece is the head of government within a multi-party system. The prime minister is elected by the people and he or she is usually the leader of the party controlling the absolute majority of Parliament members. According to the Constitution, the prime minister safeguards the unity of the government and directs its activities. He or she is the most powerful person of the Greek political system and he or she recommends the appointment or the dismissal of the ministers to the President. The President of the Republic is elected by the Parliament for a five-year term (maximum of two terms in office). When a presidential term expires, Parliament votes to elect the new President.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral Hellenic Parliament. 300 members are elected by direct popular vote to serve four-year terms. Greece uses a complex reinforced proportional representation electoral system which discourages splinter parties and makes a parliamentary majority possible even if the leading party falls short of a majority of the popular vote.



The Judicial branch is composed of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Special Supreme Tribunal. All judges are appointed for life by the president after consultation with a judicial council. The legal system is based on codified Roman law. The judiciary is divided into civil, criminal, and administrative courts. Greece accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.



Text 45. Guatemala (Republic of Guatemala)



Guatemala is a country in Central America. Guatemala is divided into 22 departments and subdivided into about 332 municipalities. It gained its independence from Spain on 15 September 1821. Its capital is Guatemala City.

The new Constitution was adopted in 1985, which provides for a separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The 1993 constitutional reforms included an increase in the number of Supreme Court justices from 9 to 13. The terms of office for president, vice president, and congressional deputies were reduced from 5 years to 4 years; for Supreme Court justices – from 6 years to 5 years, and the terms of mayors and city councils were increased from 30 months to 4 years.

Politics of Guatemala today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Guatemala is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The president and vice president are directly elected through universal suffrage for a four-year term and limited to one term. A vice president can run for president after four years out of office. Executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers appointed by the president. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral Congress of the Republic. There are 158 members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. Suffrage is universal for citizens over 18 years of



age, but the members of the armed forces may not vote. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. It is composed of the Constitutional Court which is Guatemala's highest court (five judges are elected by Congress for concurrent five-year terms); the Supreme Court of Justice (its 13

members are elected by Congress to serve concurrent five-year terms and elect a president of the Court each year from among their number). The president of the Supreme Court of Justice also supervises trial judges around the country, who are nominated to five-year terms.



Text 46. Haiti (Republic of Haiti)

Haiti, officially the Republic of Haiti is a Caribbean country. Along with the Dominican Republic, it occupies the island of Hispaniola, in the Greater Antillean archipelago. Haiti's regional and historical position is unique: it was the first independent nation in Latin America and the first black-led republic in the world when it gained independence as part of a successful slave rebellion in 1804. Its capital is Port-au-Prince. Haiti has ten departments. The government is organized unitarily, thus the central government delegates powers to the departments without a constitutional need for consent. The current structure of Haiti's political system was set forth in the Constitution of 1987.



The Politics of Haiti today take place in a framework of a semi-presidential republic within a multiparty system, although it is often claimed to be authoritarian in practice. Haiti's executive branch is composed of two parts, the presidency and the government. The President of Haiti is the head of state directly elected by popular vote every five years. He is assisted by his Cabinet, which must be approved by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister acts as the head of government, and is appointed by the President from the majority party in the National Assembly. Haiti's government is composed of the Prime Minister, the other Ministers, and the Secretaries of State. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the National Assembly of Haiti. The bicameral National Assembly of Haiti consists of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies has 99 members, who are elected for four-year terms. The Senate consists of 30 seats, one third elected every two years. Suffrage is universal for citizens over 18 years of age. The legal system is based on the Roman civil law system. Haiti accepts compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ. The Supreme Court is assisted by local and civil courts at a communal level. Haiti's judicial system remains severely troubled: lacking the modern facilities, properly trained officials, and resources it requires being able to meet the demands placed upon it.





Text 47. Honduras (Republic of Honduras)



Honduras, officially Republic of Honduras, is a republic in Central America. It was formerly known as Spanish Honduras to differentiate it from British Honduras (now Belize). Honduras is divided into 265 countries, dependent areas, and other entities. Its capital is Tegucigalpa. The 1987 constitution of Honduras provides for a fairly strong executive, but many powers conceded to the executive are designated duties of the unicameral National Congress. The constitution delineates mechanisms for amending it, but it also declares eight articles immutable, unalterable and not subject to change, which include guarantees of a republican form of government, and an explicit prohibition against presidential candidacy of anyone who has ever been president previously at any time or for any reason. The constitution also provides for an independent body to supervise and implement elections, the Superior Electoral Tribunal.

Politics of Honduras today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Honduras is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system and is elected by popular vote for a four-year term with no possibility of re-election. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in the National Congress of Honduras. The National Congress of Honduras has 128 members, elected for four year term by proportional representation. The congressional seats are assigned to the parties' candidates on a departmental basis in proportion to the number of votes each party receives. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature, though its members are appointed by the National Congress. The main judiciary body similarly independent of the three main branches of government is the Special Court for Resolution of Conflicts between Branches of Government. The legal system of Honduras is based on the principle that all members of the UN are parties to the statute that established the International Court of Justice (ICJ) or World Court. The party system is dominated by the conservative National Party of Honduras and the Liberal Party of Honduras.



Text 48. Hungary (Republic of Hungary)

Hungary, officially the Republic of Hungary, is a landlocked country in the Carpathian Basin in Central Europe. Hungary is divided into 19 counties, 23 urban counties and 1 capital city. The capital of Hungary is Budapest, which is independent on any county government.

The Republic of Hungary is an independent, democratic and constitutional state, which has been a member of the European Union since 2004. Hungary operates within the provisions of the Constitution of 1949 based on the post-WWII Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany. Since the constitutional amendment of 1989, Hungary is a parliamentary republic. 1989 revision ensured legal rights for individuals and constitutional checks on the authority of the prime minister and also established the principle of parliamentary oversight. 1997 amendment streamlined the judicial system. The legal system is based on the German-Austrian legal system. Hungary accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.

Politics of Hungary today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of the Republic, elected by the National Assembly every five years, has a largely ceremonial role, but he is nominally the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and his powers include the recommendation and nomination of the Prime Minister who is to be elected by a majority of the votes of the Members of Parliament. Due to the Hungarian Constitution, the Prime Minister is the head of government and has the leading role in the executive branch as he selects the Cabinet of ministers and has the exclusive right to dismiss them. Each cabinet nominee appears before one or more parliamentary committees in consultative open hearings supported by a vote of the Parliament and must be formally approved by the president. Executive power thus is exercised by the government.

Legislative power is vested in both the Government and Parliament. The unicameral Parliament, the 386-member National Assembly, is the highest body of state authority and initiates and approves legislation



sponsored by the prime minister. Its members are elected for a four year term. 176 members are elected in single-seat constituencies, 152 by proportional representation in multi-seat constituencies, and 58 so-called



compensation seats are distributed based on the number of votes that did not produce a seat in either the single-seat or the multi-seat constituencies.

Suffrage is universal for citizens over 18 years of age. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The

Constitutional Court has power to challenge legislation on the grounds of unconstitutionality. It should comprise eleven members. This body has never been filled completely and currently convenes with just nine members. The Constitutional Court judges are elected by the National Assembly for nine-year terms. The President of the Supreme Court is generally the head of the Hungarian civil and penal legal system as a whole which is fully independent of the Executive Branch. The Attorney General or the Chief Prosecutor of Hungary is also currently fully independent of the Executive Branch, but his status is actively debated. Several ombudsman offices protect civil, minority, educational and ecological rights in non-judicial matters. They can issue legally binding decisions since 2003. The party system since the last elections is completely dominated by the conservative Hungarian Civic Alliance (or Fidesz). The two larger oppositions are Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) and The Movement for a Better Hungary (commonly known as Jobbik).



Text 49. Iceland (Iceland)



Iceland is a European island country located in the North Atlantic Ocean on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The capital and largest city is Reykjavík, with the surrounding area being home to some two-thirds of the national population. Iceland is divided into 8 regions. The Constitution was adopted in 1944 and has been amended many times. Iceland is a

representative democracy and a parliamentary republic. The president, elected to a 4-year term, has limited powers. The president of Iceland is a largely ceremonial office that serves as a diplomat, figurehead and head of state. The head of government is the Prime Minister, who, together with the Cabinet, takes care of the executive functions of government. The cabinet is appointed by the president after general elections to parliament. This process is usually conducted by the leaders of the political parties, who decide among themselves after discussions which parties can form the cabinet and how its seats are to be distributed under the majority support. Only when the party leaders are unable to reach a conclusion by themselves in reasonable time does the president exercises this power and appoints the cabinet himself. This has never happened since the republic was founded in 1944. The modern unicameral parliament, called "Althing", was founded in 1845 as an advisory body to the Danish king. The Althing is composed of 63 members, elected every 4 years unless it is dissolved sooner. Suffrage for presidential and parliamentary elections is 18 years of age and is universal. Members of the Althing are elected on the basis of proportional representation from six constituencies. The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court and its justices are appointed for life by the Minister of Justice. There are also 8 district courts. The justices are also appointed for life by the Minister of Justice. The constitution protects the judiciary from infringement by the other two branches. The civil law system of Iceland is based on Danish law. Iceland has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 50. Italy (Italian Republic)

Italy, officially the Italian Republic, is a country located partly on the European Continent and partly on the Italian Peninsula in Southern Europe and on the two largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea, Sicily and Sardinia. The land known as Italy today has been the cradle of European cultures and peoples, such as the

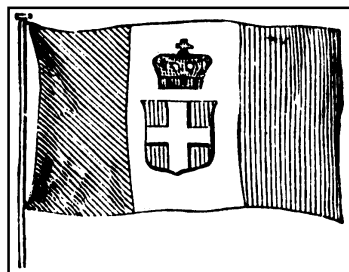


Etruscans and the Romans. Italy's capital, Rome, was for centuries the political centre of Western civilization, as the capital of the Roman Empire.

Modern Italy has been a democratic republic since 2 June 1946, when the monarchy was abolished by popular referendum. The constitution was



promulgated on 1 January 1948. The politics of Italy today take place in a framework of a parliamentary, democratic republic within a multi-party system. The President of the Italian Republic is elected for seven years by the parliament. The President of the Republic is the head of state and as such represents the unity of the nation and has many of the duties previously given to the King of Italy. The President



serves as a point of connection between the three branches of power: he is elected by the lawmakers, he appoints the executive, he is the president of the judiciary and he is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The President nominates the Prime Minister, who proposes the other ministers, formally

named by the president. Executive power is exercised collectively by the Council of Ministers, which is led by the Prime Minister. The Council of Ministers must obtain a confidence vote from both houses of Parliament.

Legislative power is vested in the two houses of Parliament: the Chamber of Deputies, which has 630 members and the Senate of the Republic, comprising 315 elected members and a small number of senators for life. Legislation may originate in either house and must be passed in identical form by a majority in both. The houses of parliament are popularly and directly elected for a maximum of five-year terms through a complex



electoral system which combines proportional representation with a majority prize for the largest coalition. Suffrage is universal for those 18 years and older, but to vote for the Senate, the voter must be 25 or older. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislative. The Italian judicial

system is based on Roman law modified by the Napoleonic code and later statutes. The Supreme Court of Cassation is the court of last resort for most disputes. The Constitutional Court of Italy rules on the conformity of laws with the Constitution. Italy is a founding member of the EU.

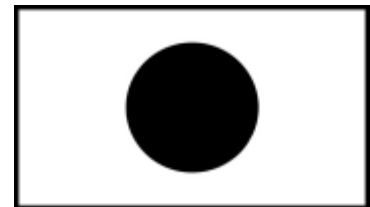


Text 51. Japan (Japan)

Japan is a sovereign island nation located in East Asia. Japan is an archipelago of 6,852 islands. Japan consists of forty-seven prefectures, each overseen by an elected governor, legislature and administrative bureaucracy. Each prefecture is further divided into cities, towns and villages. The Greater Tokyo Area, which includes the capital city of Tokyo and several surrounding prefectures, is the largest metropolitan area in the world, with over 30 million residents.

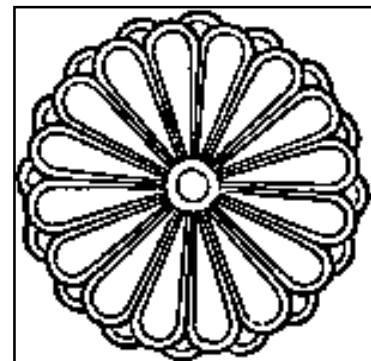


Japan is a constitutional monarchy where the power of the Emperor is very limited. As a ceremonial figurehead, he is defined by the constitution as "the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people". Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan and is the chief of state.



The power is held chiefly by the Prime Minister of Japan and other elected members of the Diet, while sovereignty is vested in the Japanese people. The Prime Minister is the head of government and the Cabinet. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Emperor of Japan after being designated by the Diet from among its members and must enjoy the confidence of the House of Representatives to remain in office. The Prime Minister appoints and dismisses the Ministers of State, a majority of whom must be Diet members.

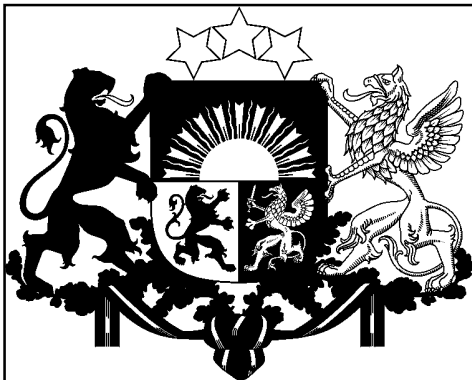
Japan's legislative organ is the National Diet, a bicameral parliament. The Diet consists of the House of Representatives, which has 480 members, elected by popular vote every four years and the House of Councilors, whose 242 popularly elected members serve six-year terms. There is universal suffrage for adults over 20 years of age, with a secret ballot for all elective offices. In 2009, the social liberal Democratic Party of Japan took power after 54 years of the liberal conservative Liberal Democratic Party's rule.



Historically influenced by Chinese law, the Japanese legal system, however, since the late 19th century has been largely based on the civil law of Europe, notably France and Germany. In 1896, the Japanese government established a civil code based on the German model. With post-World War II modifications, the code remains in effect in a present-day Japan. Statutory law originates in Japan's legislature, the National Diet of Japan, with the rubber stamp approval of the Emperor. The current constitution requires that the Emperor promulgates legislation passed by the Diet, without specifically giving him the power to oppose the passing of the legislation. Japan's court system is divided into four basic tiers: the Supreme Court and three levels of lower courts. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is appointed by the monarch after designation by the cabinet. All other justices are appointed by the cabinet. The main body of Japanese statutory law is a collection called the Six Codes.



Text 52. Latvia (Republic of Latvia)



Latvia, officially the Republic of Latvia, is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. Latvia is a unitary parliamentary republic and is divided into 118 municipalities (109 counties and 9 cities). The capital and the largest city is Riga.

Latvia regained its independence in 1991. The politics of Latvia today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President holds a primarily ceremonial role as the Head of State. The president is elected by Parliament for a maximum of two terms of four-years, by secret ballot and by an absolute majority of the vote. Although the President is

formally the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, signs treaties, represents Latvia abroad, and officially appoints ambassadors and other key officials, these powers are constitutionally exercised on the binding advice of the Prime Minister, who is politically responsible for them. The Prime Minister is the head of government within a multi-party system. The Prime

Minister is appointed by the President. The Prime Minister then chooses the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) which has to be accepted by the Parliament. The Parliament can remove the Prime Minister and Cabinet by means of a vote of no-confidence. Executive power is exercised thus by the government.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The unicameral Parliament (Saeima) has 100 members, elected by proportional representation from party lists by



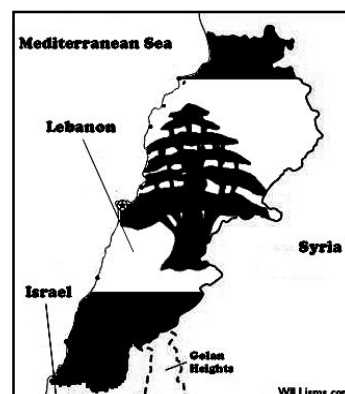
popular vote to serve for a four year term. The parliamentary elections are held on the first Saturday of October. Locally, Latvia elects municipal councils, consisting of 7 to 60 members, depending on the size of the municipality, also by proportional representation for a four year term.

The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Judges' appointments are confirmed by Parliament and are irrevocable, except on the decision of the Judicial Disciplinary Board or on the judgment of a criminal court. There is a special Constitutional Court, with the authority to rule on the constitutionality of laws, whose members must be confirmed by an absolute majority vote of Parliament, by secret ballot. The Supreme Court judges' appointments are also should be confirmed by parliament. The legal system of Latvia is based on civil law system with traces of Socialist legal traditions and practices. Latvia has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 53. Lebanon (Republic of Lebanon)

Lebanon, officially the Republic of Lebanon, is a country on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. The earliest evidence of civilization in Lebanon dates back more than 7,000 years – predating recorded history. Lebanon gained its independence from France in 1943, and established a unique political system, known as confessionalism, where a power-sharing mechanism is based on religious



communities. Lebanon currently is divided into 6 governorates which are further subdivided into 25 districts. The districts themselves are also divided into several municipalities, each enclosing a group of cities or villages.



Beirut is the capital city of Beirut.

Lebanon today is a republic within the overall framework of confessionalism, in which the highest offices are proportionately reserved for representatives from certain religious communities. The constitution grants the people the right to change their government. However, from the mid-1970s until the parliamentary elections in 1992, civil war precluded the exercise of political rights. According to the constitution, direct elections must be held for the parliament every 4 years. The Parliament, in turn, elects a President every 6 years to a single term. The President is not eligible for re-election. The president and parliament choose the Prime Minister. The president is required to be a Maronite, the Prime Minister – a Sunni, and the Speaker of the Parliament – a Shi'a. This confessional system is based on 1932 census data which showed the Maronite Christians as having a substantial majority of the population, something which still holds. The Government of Lebanon continues to refuse to undertake a new census. Suffrage is compulsory for all males over 21 years of age and authorized for women at age 21 with elementary education. It completely excludes military personnel.

Judicial branch is composed of the four Courts of Cassation (three courts for civil and commercial cases and one court for criminal cases); the Constitutional Council (which rules on constitutionality of laws); the Supreme Council (which hears charges against the president and prime minister as needed). There is a system of military courts that also has jurisdiction over civilians for the crimes of espionage, treason, and other



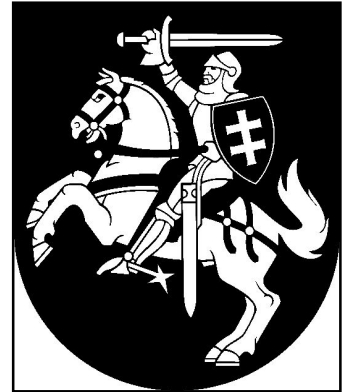
crimes that are considered to be security-related. The legal system of Lebanon is a mixture of Ottoman law, canon law, Napoleonic code, and civil law. The constitutional court reviews laws only after they have been passed. Lebanon has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

Lebanon has numerous political parties, but they play much less significant role in politics rather than they do in most parliamentary democracies. Political parties may be formed but most of them are based on sectarian interests.



Text 54. Lithuania (Republic of Lithuania)

Lithuania, officially the Republic of Lithuania, is a country in Northern Europe, the southernmost of the three Baltic States. On 11 March 1990, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence. The current administrative division was established in 1994 and modified in 2000 to meet the requirements of the European Union. Lithuania has a three-tier administrative division: 10 counties, 60 municipalities and over 500 elderships. The capital and the largest city of Lithuania is Vilnius.



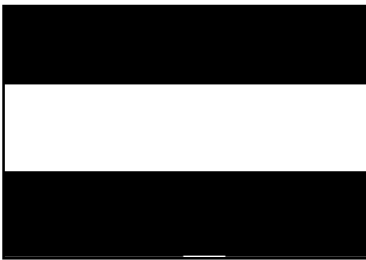
Politics of Lithuania today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of Lithuania is the head of state, elected directly by popular vote for a five-year term and eligible for a second term. The President also serves as the commander-in-chief and performs a variety of duties specified in the Constitution adopted in 1992 (last amended in 2004). The Prime Minister of Lithuania is the head of government, who is appointed by the President and approved by the parliament. Upon the Prime Minister's nomination, the President also appoints, under the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers (13 ministries), as well as a number of other top civil servants and the judges for all courts. In general, the Prime Minister is in charge of the affairs of the country and performs different duties specified in the Constitution.

The unicameral Parliament or Seimas has 141 members, elected for a 4-year term. 71 members are elected by popular vote in single-member districts, 70 – are elected in the nationwide vote using proportional representation by party lists. A party must receive at least 5% of the national vote to be represented in the Seimas.

The Judicial power is vested in the Constitutional Court; the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. 9 judges of the Constitutional Court are appointed by the Seimas for a single nine-year term from the candidates presented by the President, by the Chairman of Seimas, and by the chairman of the Supreme Court. The legal system is based on civil law system. All legislative acts can be appealed to the constitutional court. Lithuania has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 55. Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg)



Luxembourg, officially the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, is a landlocked country in Western Europe. Luxembourg is a founding member of the European Union, NATO, the United Nations, Benelux, etc. Luxembourg is divided into 3 districts, which are further divided into 12 cantons and then 116 communes. Twelve of the communes have city status. The city of Luxembourg, the capital and the largest city, is the seat of several institutions and agencies of the European Union.

Luxembourg has a parliamentary form of government with a constitutional monarchy. The monarchy is hereditary. Under the constitution of 1868, the executive power is exercised by the Grand Duke (or Grand Duchess) and the Cabinet, which consists of a Prime Minister and several other ministers. The prime minister (who is normally the leader of the majority party or coalition) and the deputy prime minister are appointed by the monarch, following the popular elections to the Chamber of Deputies. The current government is a coalition of the Christian Social People's Party (CSV) and the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP).

Legislative power is vested in the unicameral Chamber of Deputies which has 60 members, elected for a five-year term by proportional representation in four multi-seat constituencies. The second important body, the Council of State, is an advisory body composed of 21 ordinary citizens appointed by the Grand Duke. The Council of State advises the Chamber of Deputies in drafting of legislation. The function of a councilor ends after 15 years or when the person reaches the age of 72. The responsibilities of the members of the Council are extracurricular along with their normal professional duties.

Luxembourg's law is a composite of local practice, legal tradition, and French, Belgian, and German systems. The judicial power is vested in different courts and tribunals, such as the Superior Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeals, district courts, administrative courts and tribunals, the magistrates. Judges for all courts are appointed for life by the monarch.



Text 56. Macau (Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China)

Macau, also known as Macao, is one of the two special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China, the other being Hong Kong. Macau was a Portuguese colony and both the first and last European colony in China. The Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration and the Basic Law of Macau stipulate that Macau operates with a high degree of autonomy until at least 2049, fifty years after the transfer of sovereignty to China in 1999.



Politics of Macau today takes place in a framework of a political system dominated by the People's Republic of China. At the same time, under the principle of "one country, two systems", Macau maintains its own legal and monetary systems and enjoys a high degree of autonomy in all areas except for defense and foreign affairs. Macau's government type is a limited democracy.

The Executive branch is represented by the chief of state (the President of China) and the head of government (the Chief Executive of Macau, appointed by the PR of China's central government). The term of office of the chief executive is 5 years, and no individual may serve for more than two consecutive terms. The chief executive presides over the cabinet, the Executive Council, of between 7 to 11 members. The governor has strong policymaking and executive powers similar to those of a president. These powers are, however, limited by the central government in Beijing, to whom the governor reports directly, and, to a more limited extent, by the legislature.

The legislative authority of the territory is the Legislative Assembly, a 29-member unicameral body: 12 members are elected directly; 10 – indirectly, representing functional constituencies; 7 – appointed by the chief executive. Members are elected for four-year terms. The Legislative Assembly is responsible for general lawmaking, including taxation, the budget and socioeconomic legislation.

The legal system is largely based on Portuguese law. The territory has its own judicial system, with a high court, the Court of Final Appeal in Macau, at the apex. Judges are selected by a committee and appointed by the chief executive. Foreign judges may serve on the courts as well.



Text 57. Mexico (United Mexican States)



The United Mexican States, commonly known as Mexico, is a federal constitutional republic in North America. Mexico is a federation comprising thirty-one states and a Federal District with Mexico City as the capital. Each state has its own Constitution and Congress, as well as judiciary, and its citizens elect by direct voting, a governor for a six-year term, as well as the representatives to the respective unicameral state congresses, for three-year terms.

The United Mexican States' government is representative, democratic and republican, based on a presidential system according to the 1917 Constitution. The constitution establishes three levels of government: the federal Union, the state governments and the municipal governments. The federal government is constituted by the powers of the Union.

The Executive power is vested in the President of the United Mexican States, who is the head of state and government, as well as the commander-in-chief of the Mexican military forces. The President also appoints the Cabinet and other officers. The President is responsible for executing and enforcing the law, and has the authority of vetoing bills. Presidential elections are scheduled every six years for a single term. Suffrage is universal, free, secret and direct for all Mexican citizens of 18 and older, and is compulsory (but not enforced).

The Legislative power is vested in the bicameral Congress of the Union, composed of a Senate (128 seats) and a Chamber of Deputies (500 seats), which makes federal law, declares war, imposes taxes, approves the national budget and international treaties, and ratifies diplomatic appointments.

Legislative elections are scheduled every six years for the Senate, to be fully renewed in elections held concurrently with the presidential elections; and every three years – for the Chamber of Deputies. Elections are usually held on the first Sunday of July.

Judicial power is exercised by the judiciary, comprising the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, the Council of the Federal Judiciary and the collegiate, unitary and district tribunals. Justices are appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate.



Text 58. Mongolia

Mongolia is a landlocked country in East and Central Asia. In 1924 the Mongolian People's Republic was declared, which came under strong Russian and Soviet influence. After the breakdown of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, Mongolia saw its own Democratic Revolution in early 1990, which led to a multi-party system and a new constitution of 1992. Mongolia is divided into 21 provinces. Its capital is Ulaanbaatar.



Politics of Mongolia today takes place in a framework of a semi-presidential representative democratic republic within a multi-party system. The President is the head of state, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and head of the national Security Council. He is popularly elected by a national majority for a 4-year term (limited to two terms). The presidential candidates are nominated by parties in the State Great Khural and from these candidates the president is elected. The constitution empowers the president to propose a prime minister, whose appointment should be approved by the State Great Khural. The prime minister chooses a cabinet, subject to State Great Khural's approval. The Cabinet consists of thirteen ministries, who serve for a four-year term. Legislative power is vested in both the government and unicameral parliament, the State Great Khural, which has 76 members, elected for a four year term in single-seat constituencies.



The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body and serves as appeals court for people and provincial courts but rarely overturns verdicts of lower courts. At the apex of the judicial system is the Constitutional Court, which consists of nine members, appointed for 6-year terms. The judges at all levels are nominated by the General Council of Courts and must be approved by the president and the State Great Khural. The legal system of Mongolia is a blend of Soviet and German systems that employ "continental" or "civil" code. Case-precedent may be used to inform judges, but all decisions must refer to the law as written. The Constitution is ambiguous on judicial review of legislative acts.



Text 59. Montenegro



Montenegro (meaning "Black Mountain") is a country located in Southeastern Europe. From 1918, it was a part of various incarnations of Yugoslavia. On the basis of a referendum held on 21 May 2006, Montenegro declared independence. Montenegro is divided into 21 municipalities and 2 urban municipalities. Its capital and the largest city is Podgorica.



The Constitution of Montenegro describes the state as a "civic, democratic, ecological state of social justice, based on the reign of Law." Montenegro is an independent and sovereign republic that proclaimed its new constitution on 22 October 2007. Politics of Montenegro today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of Montenegro is the head of state and is elected for a period of five years through direct and secret ballots. The Prime Minister of Montenegro is the head of government within a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government, which is appointed by majority vote of the Parliament. The Prime Minister on his nomination submits the Government's Program including a list of proposed ministers to the Parliament. The current Government comprises the prime minister, the deputy prime ministers as well as the Cabinet of ministers. The Prime Minister directs the work of the Government. The resignation of the Prime Minister will automatically cause the fall of the Government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Parliament of Montenegro. The unicameral Assembly currently has 81 members, elected for a four-year term. The Assembly passes all laws in Montenegro, ratifies international treaties, appoints the Prime Minister, ministers, and justices of all courts, adopts the budget and performs other duties as established by the Constitution. The judiciary is autonomous and independent. The rulings of the courts must be in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of Montenegro. Judicial power is vested at large in the Constitutional Court (five judges serve nine-year terms) and the Supreme Court (judges have life tenure). The legal system is based on civil law system.



Text 60. Netherlands (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

The Netherlands is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, located in North-West Europe. The capital is Amsterdam and the seat of government is The Hague.

The country is a founding member of the EU. Along with Belgium and Luxembourg it forms the Benelux economic union. The country is host to five international courts: the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The first four are situated in The Hague as is the EU's criminal intelligence agency Europol and judicial co-operation agency Eurojust. This has led to the city being dubbed "the world's legal capital". The Netherlands has been a constitutional monarchy since 1815 and a parliamentary democracy since 1848. The Netherlands is described as a consociation state. Dutch politics and governance are characterized by an effort to achieve broad consensus on important issues, within both the political community and society as a whole.

The politics of the Netherlands today take place within the framework of a parliamentary representative democracy, a constitutional hereditary monarchy and a decentralized unitary state. The monarch is the head of state, at present Queen Beatrix. Constitutionally, the position is equipped with limited powers, though she participates in the formation of government and in the legislative process. The government of the Netherlands constitutionally consists of the queen and the cabinet of ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The ministers together form the Council of Ministers. This executive council initiates laws and policy. There is also a Council of State composed of the monarch, heir apparent, and councilors that provides consultations to the cabinet on legislative and administrative policy. The Council of State also functions as the highest court in most administrative cases. The Dutch political system has five so called High Colleges of State, which are explicitly regarded as independent by the Constitution. Apart from the two Houses of Parliament and the Council of State, these are the



Netherlands Court of Audit and the High Council of State (Nationale Ombudsman). The Court of Audit investigates whether public funds are collected and spent legitimately and effectively. The National Ombudsman

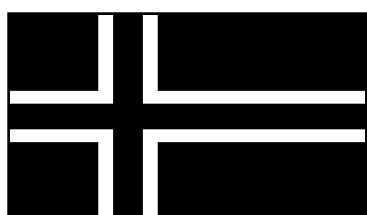


investigates complaints about the functioning and practices of government. As with the advice of the Council of State, the reports from these organizations are not easily put aside and often play a role in public and political debate.

The States-General is the bicameral parliament of the Netherlands. It consists of two chambers, the more important of which is the directly elected House of Representatives (or the Second Chamber, the lower house). It has 150 members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. The Senate (or the First Chamber, the upper house) has 75 members elected indirectly by members of the country's 12 provincial councils to serve four-year terms. The judiciary comprises 19 district courts, five courts of appeal, two administrative courts and the Supreme Court, which has 24 justices. All judicial appointments are made by the Government. Judges nominally are appointed for life but actually retire at age 70. The Netherlands do not have a Constitutional Court and judges do not have the authority to review laws on their constitutionality. International treaties and the Statute of the Kingdom, however, overrule Dutch law and the constitution and judges are allowed to review laws against these in a particular court case. Furthermore all legislation that is not a law in the strict sense of the word (such as policy guidelines or laws proposed by provincial or municipal government) can be tested on their constitutionality. The legal system is based on civil law system incorporating French penal theory. The Constitution does not permit judicial review of acts of the States General. The Netherlands accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.



Text 61. Norway (Kingdom of Norway)



Norway, officially the Kingdom of Norway, is a Nordic country in Northern Europe occupying the western portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula, as well as Jan Mayen and the Arctic archipelago of

Svalbard. Norway is divided into 19 counties. Its capital is Oslo.

According to the Constitution of Norway, which was adopted in 1814 and inspired by the United States Declaration of Independence and French revolution of 1776 and 1798, respectively, Norway is a unitary constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government. The King of Norway is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government. The Monarch is commander-in-chief of the Norwegian armed forces, supreme authority in the Church of Norway, and serves as chief diplomatic representative abroad and a symbol of unity. The Monarch presides over the Council of State or the Privy Council. The duties of the Monarch are highly representative and ceremonial. In practice, it is the Prime Minister who is responsible for the exercise of executive powers. Following the parliamentary elections, the leader of the majority party or the leader of the majority coalition is usually appointed prime minister by the monarch with the approval of the parliament. The Cabinet or State Council is also appointed by the monarch with the approval of parliament. In order to form a government more than half of its members are required to belong to the Church of Norway.

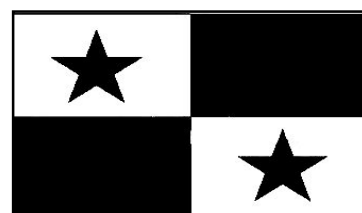


The modified unicameral Parliament (Grand Assembly or Storting) has 169 members elected by popular vote by proportional representation to serve four-year terms. For certain purposes, the parliament is divided into two chambers and elects one-fourth of its membership to the Lagting and three-fourths – to the Odelsting. Norway uses a civil law system where laws are created and amended in Parliament and the system regulated through the Courts of Justice of Norway. Judiciary consists of the Supreme Court (19 permanent judges and a Chief Justice), appellate courts, city and district courts, and conciliation councils. Judges attached to regular courts are appointed by the Monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister.

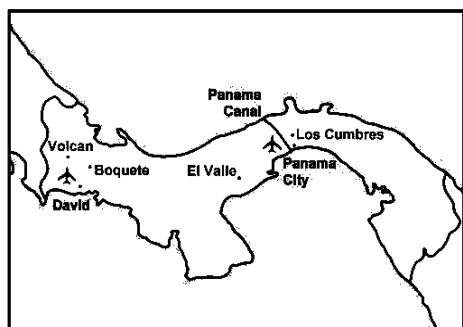


Text 62. Panama (Republic of Panama)

Panama, officially the Republic of Panama, is the southernmost country of both Central America and, in turn, North America. Panama is divided into 9 provinces, with their respective local authorities



(governors) and has a total of 10 cities. Also, there are five Comarcas ("Shires") populated by a variety of indigenous groups. The capital is



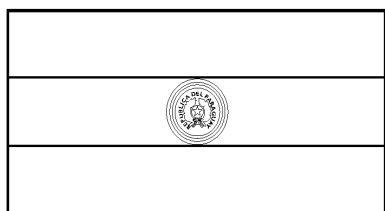
Panama City.

Panama's politics today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Panama is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The Executive branch includes a president plus

one vice president, who are elected on a single ballot for one non-renewable five-year term by direct popular vote. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. The National Assembly is composed of 71 members elected to five-year terms from single-seat and multi-seat constituencies. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice (with nine judges appointed for 10-year terms); five superior courts and three courts of appeal. The Supreme Court of Justice has a power to provide a judicial review of legislative acts. Panama accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations. The political landscape is dominated by two major parties and many smaller parties, many of which are driven by individual leaders. According to Panama's Political Constitution of 1972 the branches of power are united in cooperation and limited through the classic system of checks and balances. Three independent organizations with clearly defined responsibilities are found in the Political Constitution: 1) the Comptroller General of the Republic has the responsibility to manage public funds; 2) the Electoral Tribunal has the responsibility to supervise voter registration, the election process, and the activities of political parties. Everyone over the age of 18 is required to vote, although those who fail to do so are not penalized. And, finally, there exists 3) the Ministry of the Public, which oversees interests of State and of the municipalities.



Text 63. Paraguay (Republic of Paraguay)



Paraguay, officially the Republic of Paraguay, is a landlocked country in South America. Paraguay gained independence from Spain in 1811. Paraguay is divided into 17 departments and one

capital city. The capital city of Paraguay is Asunción.

Paraguay's highly centralized government was fundamentally changed by the 1992 constitution, which reinforced a division of powers that in the previous two Constitutions existed mostly on paper. Politics of Paraguay today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The President of Paraguay is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The National Constitution mandates a separation of powers into three branches. Executive power is exercised solely by the President. The president is popularly elected for a 5-year term. The president nominates his Cabinet or the Council of Ministers. Once Presidents leave office, they are granted by the Constitution the speaking-but-non-voting position of Senator for life. In Paraguay, the post of First Lady is official, and thus the Office of the First Lady of the Nation of the Republic of Paraguay was created.

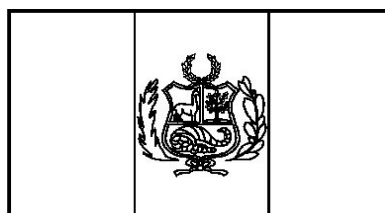


Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the National Congress. The National Congress consists of the Chamber of Deputies, which has 80 members, elected for a five year term by proportional representation, and the Chamber of Senators, which has 45 members, elected for a five year term by proportional representation. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. Paraguay's highest court is the Supreme Court of Paraguay. The Senate and the president appoint its nine members on the basis of recommendations from a constitutionally created Magistrates Council. The judicial power is also vested in other tribunals and courts of civil and criminal law. The Supreme Court of Justice has the power of judicial review of legislative acts. Paraguay accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.



Text 64. Peru (Republic of Peru)

Peru, officially the Republic of Peru, is a country in western South America. Peru is divided into 25 regions and the province of Lima. Each region has an elected government composed of a



president and a council, which serves for a four-year term. The province of the capital Lima is administered by a city council.



Peru is a presidential representative democratic republic with a multi-party system. Under the current constitution, the President is the head of state and government. The President is elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for nonconsecutive reelection). The first and second vice presidents also are popularly elected but have no constitutional functions unless the president is unable to discharge

his duties. The President designates the Prime Minister and, with his advice, the rest of the Council of Ministers. The Peruvian government is directly elected, and voting is compulsory for all citizens aged 18 to 70. The Peruvian government is closely allied with the Catholic Church.

The unicameral Congress has 120 members elected for a five-year term by proportional representation. Bills may be proposed by either the executive or the legislative branch; they become law after being passed by Congress and promulgated by the President. In addition to passing laws, Congress ratifies treaties, authorizes government loans, and approves the government budget. The judiciary is nominally independent.

The judicial branch of government is headed by a 16-member Supreme Court seated in Lima. The National Council of the Judiciary appoints judges to this court. The Constitutional Court interprets the constitution on matters of individual rights. Superior courts in regional capitals review appeals from decisions by lower courts. Courts of first instance are located in provincial capitals and are divided into civil, penal, and special chambers. The judiciary has created several temporary specialized courts in an attempt to reduce the large backlog of cases pending final court action. Peru's legal system is based on civil law system. Peru has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 65. Poland (Republic of Poland)



Poland, officially the Republic of Poland, is a country in Central Europe. During the Revolutions of 1989, communist rule was overthrown, and soon after Poland became what is constitutionally known

as the "Third Polish Republic". Poland is a unitary state, made up of 16 provinces. Poland is a member of the European Union. Its capital is Warsaw.

The politics of Poland today take place in the framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic, whose current constitution was adopted in 1997. The President is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two 5-year terms. The President is the head of state, supreme commander of the Armed Forces and supreme representative of the Republic of Poland. Executive power is exercised by the government, which consists of the Council of Ministers led by the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. The members of the Council of Ministers are typically chosen from a majority coalition in the lower house of parliament. The government is formally proposed by the Prime Minister, appointed by the President and must pass a motion of confidence in the lower house of parliament within two weeks.

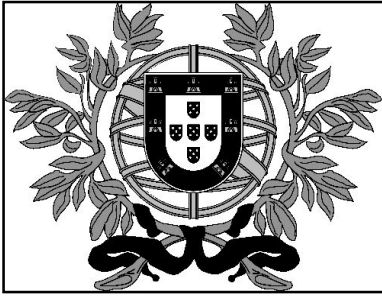


The Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The two chambers of parliament are: Sejm (a 460-member lower house) and Senate (a 100-member upper house). The members of Sejm are elected under a complex system of proportional representation to serve four-year terms. The members of the Senate are elected by a majority vote on a provincial basis to serve four-year terms. The non-ethnic-minority parties must gain at least 5% of the national vote to enter the lower house. The judicial branch plays an important role in decision-making. Its major institutions include: the Supreme Court (judges are appointed by the president on the recommendation of the National Council of the Judiciary for an indefinite period); the Supreme Administrative Court; the Constitutional Tribunal (judges are chosen by the Sejm for nine-year terms; it has power of limited judicial review of legislative acts, but rulings are final) and the State Tribunal. The court decisions can be appealed to the European Court of Justice in Strasbourg. On the approval of the Senate, the Sejm also appoints the ombudsman or the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection for a five-year term. The legal system of Poland is based on a mixture of Continental (Napoleonic) civil law and Communist legal theory. Poland accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.



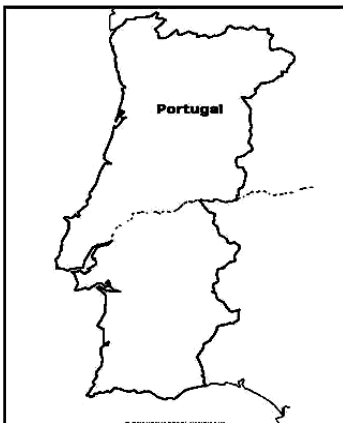


Text 66. Portugal (Portuguese Republic)



Portugal, officially the Portuguese Republic, is a country located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. After the overthrow of the monarchy in 1910, a democratic but unstable republic was established that was then replaced by the "Estado Novo" dictatorship. After the Portuguese Colonial War and the Carnation Revolution in 1974, the democracy was restored. Portugal is a member of the European Union and the United Nations. Its capital is Lisbon.

Portugal today is a parliamentary representative democratic republic ruled by the Constitution of 1976. The President of the Republic is the head of state, who is elected for a 5-year term by direct, universal suffrage. The President is also commander-in-chief of the armed forces. Presidential powers include appointing the prime minister and Council of Ministers, in which the president must be guided by the assembly election results; dismissing the prime minister; dissolving the assembly to call early elections; vetoing legislation, which may be overridden by the assembly; and declaring a state of war or siege. The Council of State, a presidential advisory body, is composed of six senior civilian officers, any former



presidents elected under the 1976 constitution, five members chosen by the assembly, and five selected by the president. The government is headed by the Prime Minister, appointed by the President, who names the Council of Ministers. A new government is required to define the broad outline of its policy in a program and present it to the assembly for a mandatory period of debate. Failure of the assembly to reject the program by a majority of deputies

confirms the government in office.

The Legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament or the Assembly of the Republic, which is composed of up to 230 deputies. The deputies are elected by universal suffrage according to a system of proportional representation to serve four-year terms of office, unless the president dissolves the assembly and calls for new elections.

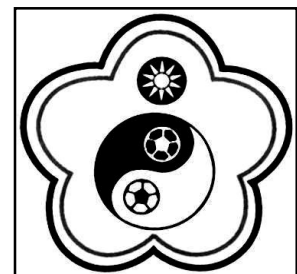
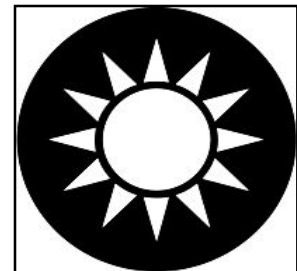
The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The

judicial power is vested in the courts, comprising separate court categories: the judicial, administrative, military and fiscal branches. The national Supreme Court is the court of last appeal; its judges are appointed for life by the National Council of the Judiciary. The 13-member Constitutional Court oversees and reviews the constitutionality of the legislation. The legal system of Portugal is based on civil law system. Portugal accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations.



Text 67. Taiwan, The Republic of China (ROC)

The Republic of China (ROC), commonly known as Taiwan, is a state in East Asia located off the east coast of mainland China. Subject to an ongoing dispute with the People's Republic of China (PRC) that has left it with limited formal diplomatic relations, the government of the Republic of China currently governs the islands of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu and other minor islands. Taiwan is divided into 18 counties, 5 municipalities and 2 special municipalities. The capital of Taiwan is Taipei.



The political status of the Republic of China is a contentious issue. The PRC claims that the ROC government is illegitimate, regarding it as the "Taiwan Authority". The ROC, however, views itself as an independent sovereign state. Moreover, its territory has never been controlled by the PRC. The government of the Republic of China was founded on the Constitution of the ROC and its Three Principles of the People, which states that "the ROC shall be a democratic republic of the people, to be governed by the people and for the people." The government is divided into five administrative branches (Yuan): the Control Yuan, the Examination Yuan, the Executive Yuan, the Judicial Yuan, and the Legislative Yuan. The Pan-Blue Coalition and Pan-Green Coalition are presently the dominant political blocs in the Republic of China.

The head of state is the President, who is elected by popular vote for a four-year term on the same ticket as the Vice-President. The President has authority over the Yuan. The President appoints the members of the Executive Yuan as his cabinet, including a Premier, who is officially the

President of the Executive Yuan, whose members are responsible for policy and administration. The ROC's political system does not fit traditional



models. The Premier is selected by the President without the need for approval from the Legislature and the Legislature can pass laws without regard for the President, as neither he nor the Premier wields veto power. The Constitution does not explicitly state the extent of the President's executive power, but the executive powers are currently concentrated largely in the office of the President rather than the Premier's.

The main legislative body is the unicameral Legislative Yuan with 113 seats. 73 are elected by popular vote from single-member constituencies; 34 – on the proportion of nationwide votes received by participating political parties in a separate party list ballot and 6 – from two three-member aboriginal constituencies. Members serve three-year terms. The Judicial Yuan is the ROC's highest judiciary. The President and Vice-President of that Yuan and 15 Justices form the Council of Grand Justices, appointed by the President of the Republic with the consent of the Legislative Yuan. The Supreme Court, consists of civil and criminal divisions, each presided by the Judge and 4 Associate Judges, appointed for life. In 1993, a separate constitutional court was established to resolve constitutional disputes. There is no trial by jury but the right to a fair public trial is protected by law and respected in practice. Many cases are presided over by multiple judges. Like most Asian democracies, Taiwan still allows the capital punishment. The legal system is based on civil law.



Text 68. Russia (The Russian Federation)



Russia, also officially known as the Russian Federation, is a country in northern Eurasia. The Russian Federation comprises 83 federal subjects. The capital and the largest city is Moscow.

Russia established worldwide power and influence from the times of the Russian Empire. It's been the largest and leading constituent of the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist state and a recognized superpower, which played a

decisive role in the allied victory in World War II. The Russian Federation was founded following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Constitution was adopted by national referendum in 1993.

Today Russia is a federation and formally a semi-presidential republic. It is fundamentally structured as a representative democracy. The President is the head of state, elected by a popular vote for a four-year term (eligible for a second term). The Premier (Prime Minister) is the head of government, appointed by the President with the approval of the State Duma. There is no vice president and if the president dies in office, cannot exercise his powers because of ill health, is impeached or resigns, the Premier serves as the acting President until a new presidential election is held, which must be within three months. The cabinet (the Ministries of the Government or "Government") is composed of the Premier and his deputies, ministers and other civil servants, appointed by the President.

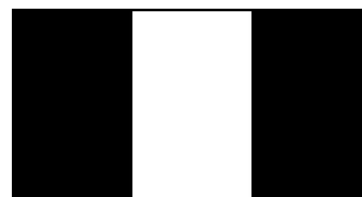


The bicameral Federal Assembly (or Federalnoye Sobraniye) is made up of the Federation Council (or Sovet Federatsii) – an upper house, and the State Duma (or Gosudarstvennaya Duma) – a lower house. The Federation Council of Russia has 168 members, appointed by the top executive and legislative officials in each of the 83 federal subjects to serve four-year terms. The State Duma has 450 members to serve four-year terms, elected by a popular proportional representation vote from party lists and should win at least 7% of the vote. The Judiciary is exercised by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Arbitration and lower federal courts, whose judges are appointed for life by the Federation Council on the recommendation of the president.



Text 69. Romania

Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central and Southeastern Europe on the Lower Danube. Romania is a member state of the European Union. Its capital and the largest city is Bucharest.



The Constitution of Romania is based on the Constitution of France's

Fifth Republic and was approved in a national referendum in 1991. A plebiscite held in October 2003 approved 79 amendments to the Constitution, bringing it into conformity with European Union legislation. Politics of Romania today takes place in a framework of a semi-presidential representative democratic republic.



The President is the head of state within a multi-party system, as well as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and chairperson of the Supreme Council of National Defense. The President is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two 5-year terms. The president nominates the Prime Minister – who is the head of government – with the consent of majority in the Parliament. The nominated prime minister chooses the other members of the government and then the government and its program must be confirmed by a vote of confidence in Parliament. The national legislature is a bicameral Parliament, consisting of the Chamber of Deputies (334 deputies) and the Senate (137 members). All members are elected for 4-year terms by universal suffrage in a party list proportional representation electoral system.

The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court of Justice (11 judges appointed for three-year terms by the president with the consent of the Superior Council of Magistrates, which includes the minister of justice, the prosecutor general, two civil society representatives appointed by the Senate and 14 judges and prosecutors elected by their peers); the Constitutional Court, which makes decisions regarding the constitutionality of laws (9 judges serving nine-year terms, each three being appointed by the president, the Senate, and the Chamber of Deputies) and a separate system of lower courts that includes The High Court of Cassation and Justice. The legal system is based on civil law.



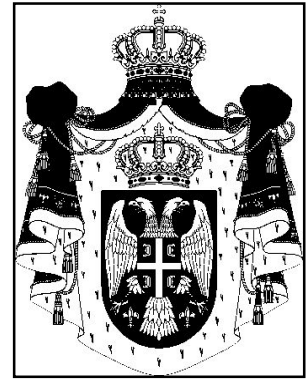
Text 70. Serbia (Republic of Serbia)



Serbia, officially the Republic of Serbia, is a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central and Southeastern Europe, covering the central part of the Balkans. Serbia is divided into

167 municipalities. Its capital city is Belgrade.

As a result of World War I, the country united with other South Slavic peoples into a Yugoslav state which existed in several formations up until 2006, when Serbia once again became independent. In February 2008, the parliament of Kosovo, Serbia's southern province with an ethnic Albanian majority, declared independence, but Serbia still regards Kosovo as an autonomous province of Serbia, governed by the UN mission. After the formation of the Republic of Serbia in 2006, the government proclaimed a referendum that ousted the old constitution to create a new one. Politics of Serbia today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic.



The President is the head of state, elected by direct vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term). The Prime Minister of Serbia is the head of government, who is elected by the National Assembly on the proposal of the President with the consent of all parliamentary leaders. The Government of Serbia is led by the Prime Minister, who, along with the Parliament, nominates the Ministers for the Cabinet (Republican Ministries). Serbia has a multi-party system, in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, so parties must form coalition governments. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral National Assembly of Serbia, which has 250 deputies elected according to party lists to serve four-year terms. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature and is exercised through the courts of general jurisdiction (municipal courts, district courts, Appellate Courts, the Supreme Court of Cassation) and courts of special jurisdiction (commercial courts, the High Commercial Court, the High Magistrates Court, the Administrative Court). The legal system is based on civil law system. Suffrage is universal for citizens from over 18 years old.



Text 71. Slovakia (the Slovak Republic)

Slovakia, officially the Slovak Republic, is a landlocked country in Central Europe. Slovakia is a member state of the European Union. The present-day Slovakia became an independent state on 1



January 1993 after the peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Slovakia is subdivided into 8 counties. Its capital is Bratislava.

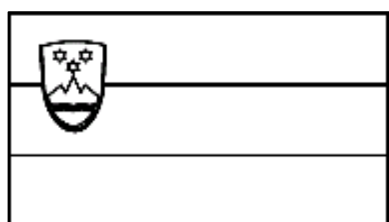


Politics of Slovakia today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic with a multi-party system. The Constitution of the Slovak Republic was adopted in 1992. It was further amended to allow direct election of the president and to comply with the EU law. The

President is the head of state and the formal head of the executive, though with very limited powers. The president is elected by direct, popular vote, under the two round systems, for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised by the government led by the Prime Minister. Following the National Council elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually appointed Prime Minister by the president. Cabinet is appointed by the president on the recommendation of the prime minister and has to receive the majority in the parliament. Legislative power is vested in the parliament and it can be exercised in some cases by the government or directly by citizens. The sole constitutional and legislative body is the 150-seat unicameral National Council. Delegates are elected for 4-year terms on the basis of proportional representation. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. It is vested in a system of regional, district, and military courts. The country's highest appellate forum is the Supreme Court (the judges are elected by the National Council). The Constitutional Court rules on constitutional issues (13 judges are appointed by the president from candidates nominated by Parliament). The law provides for tribunals of judges to be attended by lay judges from the citizenry. The Judicial Council is composed of 18 judges, law professors, and other legal experts, responsible for the nomination of judges and Disciplinary Senates. The legal system is based on Austro-Hungarian codes.



Text 72. Slovenia (Republic of Slovenia)



Slovenia, officially the Republic of Slovenia, is a country in Central Europe touching the Alps and bordering the Mediterranean. Slovenia is a member of the European Union. The traditional

regions of Slovenia are based on the former four Habsburg crown lands and are grouped as East Slovenia and West Slovenia. Slovenia is divided into 210 local municipalities, eleven of which have urban status. The capital and largest city of Slovenia is Ljubljana.

The independence of Slovenia from Yugoslavia was declared on 25 June 1991. The constitution was also adopted in 1991. The politics of Slovenia today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The



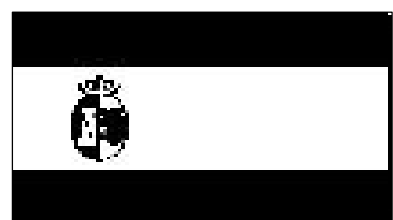
The President is the head of state, who is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised by the government. Following National Assembly elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually nominated to become Prime Minister by the President and elected by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister of Slovenia is the head of government. The Council of Ministers is nominated by the prime minister and elected by the National Assembly. Legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament. The National Assembly has 90 members, elected for a four-year term: 88 members are elected by proportional representation using D'Hondt formula and 2 members are elected by ethnic minorities using the Borda count.

Suffrage is universal for all citizens from 18 years of age or from 16 if employed. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, whose judges are elected by the National Assembly on the recommendation of the Judicial Council, and the Constitutional Court, whose judges are elected for nine-year terms by the National Assembly and nominated by the president. The legal system is based on civil law system with attempts of harmonization with EU law and standards.

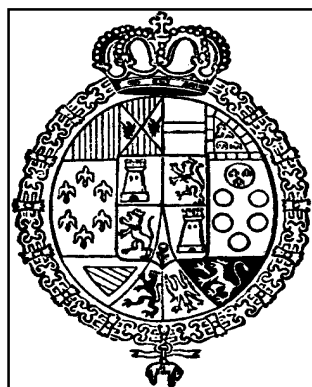


Text 73. Spain (Kingdom of Spain)

Spain, officially the Kingdom of Spain, is a country and member state of the European Union, located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Spanish territory also includes the



Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the African coast, and two autonomous cities in North Africa,

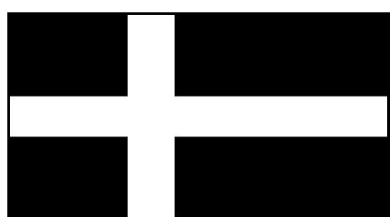


Ceuta and Melilla, that border Morocco. Furthermore, the town of Llívia is a Spanish exclave situated inside French territory. The capital of Spain is Madrid.

The Spanish Constitution of 1978 is the culmination of the Spanish transition to democracy. As a result, Spain is now composed of 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities with varying degrees of autonomy and is regarded as one of the most decentralized countries in Europe. The Politics of Spain today takes place in the framework of a parliamentary representative democratic constitutional monarchy with a hereditary monarch. The Monarch is the Head of State. Executive power is vested in the Council of Ministers, designated and headed by the President of the Government, who is himself nominated by the King, confirmed by a vote of the lower house of parliament and then appointed by the king. The President of the Government (Prime Minister) is the official head of government within a multi-party system. He has three Vice-Presidents, appointed by the monarch on the proposal of the President. Central legislative power is vested in the two chambers of parliament: the Congress of Deputies (with 350 members, elected by popular vote on block lists by proportional representation to serve four-year terms) and a Senate (with 259 seats of which 208 are directly elected by popular vote and the other 51 – are appointed by the regional legislatures to also serve four-year terms). The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. It is the combination of the Courts and Tribunals, composed of judges and justices who have power to administer justice in the name of the King. At the apex of the judicial branch is the Supreme Court. The Spanish legal system is a civil law system based on comprehensive legal codes and laws rooted in Roman law.



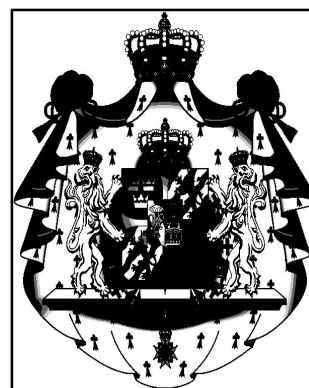
Text 74. Sweden (Kingdom of Sweden)



Sweden, officially the Kingdom of Sweden, is a Nordic country on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe. Sweden is a unitary state, currently divided into twenty-one counties, each

county having a County Administrative Board led by a Governor. The capital of Sweden is Stockholm.

The Constitution of Sweden (1975) consists of four fundamental laws: Instrument of Government (1974); Act of Succession (1809); Freedom of the Press Act (1766) and Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression (1991). Politics of Sweden today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic constitutional monarchy. The Head of State is the hereditary King Carl XVI Gustav of the House of Bernadotte, who became king in 1973. His authority is formal, symbolic, and representational. The Executive power is exercised by the Cabinet, roughly consisting of 22 Ministers, led by the Prime Minister of Sweden. The Prime Minister is first appointed by the Speaker of Parliament and then confirmed by Parliament. The Ministers are appointed by the Prime Minister without any confirmation of the Parliament. The monarch plays no part in this process at all. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament within a multi-party system. The Swedish Social Democratic Party is playing a leading political role. The unicameral Parliament (Riksdag) has 349 members, popularly elected on the basis of proportional representation every 4 years. Legislation may be initiated both by the Cabinet and by members of Parliament. The Judiciary is independent, whose judges are appointed by the government and employed until retirement. The Swedish law is based on Germanic, Roman, and Anglo-American law, it is neither codified (as in France and other countries influenced by the Napoleonic Code), nor dependent on judicial practice and precedents (as in the United States). Civil and criminal cases are decided by the Supreme Court, courts of appeal and district courts. Litigation between the Public and the Government is provided in the Supreme Administrative Court, administrative courts of appeal and county administrative courts.



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Text 75. Switzerland (Swiss Confederation)

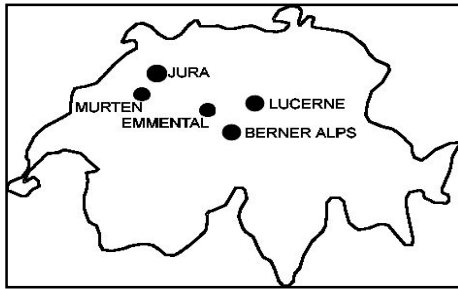
Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a landlocked country, situated in Western Europe. It is a federal republic consisting of 26 cantons. Bern is the seat of the federal authorities and its



capital.

The establishment of the Swiss Confederation is traditionally dated to 1 August 1291. The Federal Constitution adopted in 1848 is the legal foundation of the modern federal state. The new Constitution of 1999 did not introduce notable changes to the federal structure. It outlines basic and political rights of citizens, divides the powers between the Confederation and the cantons and defines federal jurisdiction and authority. Politics of Switzerland today takes place in the framework of a multi-party federal parliamentary democratic republic. Switzerland features a system of government, known as direct democracy. Any citizen may challenge a law that has been passed by parliament, if that person is able to gather 50,000 signatures against the law within 100 days.

The President is the chief of state and head of government representing the Federal Council. The President and Vice President are elected by the Federal Assembly from among the members of the Federal Council for a one-year term (they may not serve consecutive terms). The Federal Council is the formal chief of state and head of government whose council members are elected by the Federal Assembly usually from among its members for a four-year term rotating in one-year terms as well as the Federal President. The legislative power is vested in the bicameral Federal Assembly. It consists of the Council of States, which has 46 members: 2 representatives are elected from each canton and 1 – from each half canton to serve four-year terms and the National Council, which has 200 members, elected by popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms. Most hearings in the parliament are open to everyone, including foreigners. The judicial power is vested in the Federal Supreme Court, with judges elected for six-year terms by the Federal Assembly. The Federal Supreme Court is to hear appeals of cantonal courts or the administrative rulings of the federal administration.



Text 76. Turkey (Republic of Turkey)

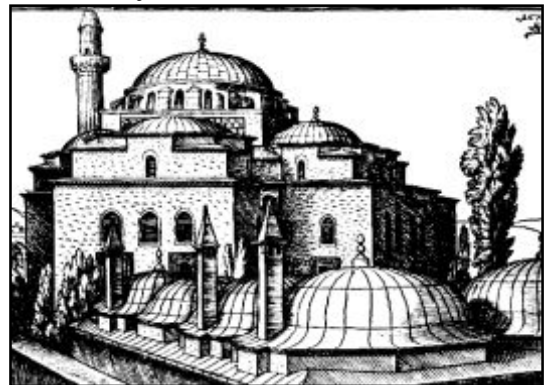


Turkey, officially known as the Republic of Turkey, is a Eurasian country situated in the Anatolian peninsula, located in Western Asia, and Eastern

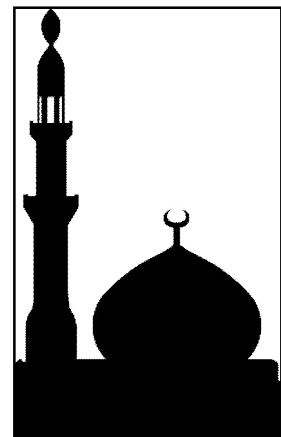
Thrace, located in southeastern Europe. Turkey is one of the six independent Turkic states. Turkey's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a country of significant geostrategic importance. Turkey is divided into 81 provinces. The capital city of Turkey is Ankara.



Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic, with the ancient and historical cultural heritage. The head of state is the President of the Republic and has a largely ceremonial role. The president is elected for a five-year term by direct by a popular parliament round of election votes (eligible for a second term). The Executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister is elected by the parliament through a vote of confidence in the government and is most often the head of the party having the most seats in parliament. Since 1933 there is universal suffrage for both sexes and every Turkish citizen over 18 years of age. The members of the Council of Ministers are appointed by the president on the nomination of the prime minister. Although the ministers do not have to be members of the parliament, ministers with parliament membership are common in Turkish politics.



The legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, which has 550 members, elected by popular vote on a party-list proportional representation system from 85 electoral districts to serve four-year terms. Seven parties are currently represented in the parliament. Only parties surpassing the 10% threshold are entitled to parliamentary seats. The Judicial power is vested in the Constitutional Court; the High Court of Appeals; the Council of State; the Court of Accounts; the Military High Court of Appeals and the Military High Administrative Court. The legal system is based on civil law system derived from various European continental legal systems. It is a member of the European Court of Human Rights, although Turkey claims limited derogations on the ratified European Convention on Human Rights.





Text 77. Ukraine



Ukraine is the second largest country in Eastern Europe. Ukraine is a unitary state composed of 24 provinces, one autonomous republic (Crimea), and two cities with special status: the city of Kiev, which is both the capital and the largest city of Ukraine, and Sevastopol, which houses the Russian Black Sea Fleet under a leasing agreement.



Ukraine became independent after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 under the Act of Independence. According to the constitution of 1996 and recent extensive constitutional reform, Ukraine is a republic under a mixed semi-parliamentary and semi-presidential system with separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The President of Ukraine is the head of state, elected by popular vote for a five-year term (eligible for a second term). The Executive power is vested in the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The Prime Minister is chosen from the parliament members by the majority of its votes with the President's formal proposal. The Cabinet consists of consists of the Prime Minister, the First Vice-Prime Minister, several Vice-Prime Ministers, the Minister of the Cabinet and many other Ministers, who head their assigned Ministries (departments). The Cabinet of Ministers is selected by the Prime Minister, the only exceptions are the foreign and defense ministers, who are chosen by the President. There is also a National Security and Defense Council (NSDC), created in 1992, which is tasked with developing national security policy on domestic and international matters and advising the president.

The legislative power is vested in the unicameral parliament (Verkhovna Rada), which has 450 seats. The authority of the parliament has substantially increased recently: it amends the Constitution of Ukraine, drafts laws, ratifies international treaties, appoints a number of officials, elects judges, etc. The judicial power is vested in the courts of general jurisdiction; high courts with specialized jurisdiction; the Supreme Court, covering all cases; the Constitutional Court as a special body and the Supreme Council of Justice. The legal system is based on civil law system.



Text 78. Uruguay (Oriental Republic of Uruguay)

Uruguay, officially the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, is a country located in the southeastern part of South America. Uruguay won its independence in 1811–1828 following a three-way struggle with Spain, Argentina and Brazil. Uruguay is divided into 19 departments. Its capital is Montevideo.



The Politics of Uruguay today takes place in the framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. The Uruguayan constitution allows citizens to challenge laws approved by Parliament by use of a referendum or to propose changes to the Constitution by the use of a plebiscite. Such system of government is known as "direct democracy". Uruguay's Constitution of 1967 created a strong presidency, subject to legislative and judicial balance. Many of these provisions were suspended in 1973 but

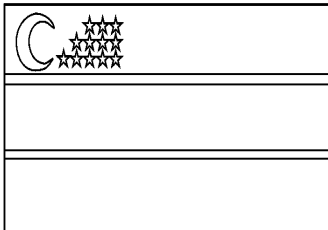


reestablished in 1985. The President of Uruguay is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The President is elected by popular vote for a five-year term, with the vice president elected on the same ticket. The vice president has one vote in the Senate. Thirteen cabinet ministers, appointed by the president, head various executive departments and constitute the Cabinet (the Council of Ministers). The government altogether exercises the executive power.

Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the bicameral parliament. The General Assembly of Uruguay consists of the Chamber of Senators (has 30 seats, elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms) and the Chamber of Representatives (has 99 members, elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms). The Judiciary is independent of the executive and legislature. The Supreme Court is the highest court. Its judges are nominated by the president and elected for 10-year terms by the General Assembly. Below the Supreme Court are appellate and lower courts, as well as justices of the peace. There are also electoral courts and administrative ("contentious") courts, an accounts court, and military justice courts. The legal system of Uruguay is based on Spanish civil law system. Uruguay accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.



Text 79. Uzbekistan (Republic of Uzbekistan)



Uzbekistan, officially the Republic of Uzbekistan, is one of the six independent Turkic states. It is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia, formerly part of the Soviet Union. It has become an independent republic since December 1991. Uzbekistan is now divided into 12 provinces, one autonomous republic (Karakalpakstan) and one independent city, the capital city of Tashkent.

The politics of Uzbekistan today formally takes place in a framework of a democratic presidential republic, though the positions in Uzbekistan's government are largely dependent on clan membership and politics, rather than on party membership. Thus the government type of Uzbekistan, according to the CIA World Fact book, is described as republic under authoritarian presidential rule, with little power outside the executive branch. The President of Uzbekistan is both the head of state and head of government. The President should be elected by popular vote for a seven-year term (eligible for a second term).

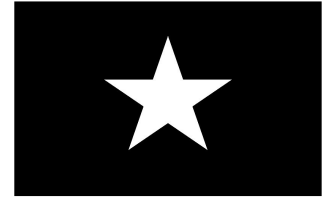
The Executive power is also exercised by the government, which, in effect, holds almost all power. The prime minister, deputy ministers and other ministers are appointed by the president. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the bicameral parliament (the Supreme Assembly). The two chambers of the Supreme Assembly (Oliy Majlis) are the Legislative Chamber and the Senate. The Supreme Assembly has 150 members, elected for five-year terms. The Senate has 100 members: 84 members are elected at the sessions of district, regional and city deputies and 16 members – are appointed by the President.

The national judiciary includes the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and the High Economic Court. Lower courts operate at the regional, district, and town levels. Judges at all levels are appointed by the president and approved by the Oly Majlis. Nominally independent of the other branches of government, the judiciary remains under complete control of the executive. As in the Soviet era, the procurators are both the chief prosecuting officials and investigators in criminal cases and it only limits the pretrial rights of defendants.



Text 80. Vietnam (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Vietnam is divided into 58 provinces and 5 municipalities. The capital is Hanoi (Ha Noi).



The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a single-party state. There are no legally recognized opposition parties. The central role of the Communist Party of Vietnam is reaffirmed in the current constitution, approved in 1992, and is reasserted in all organs of government, politics and society. Vietnam is governed through a highly centralized system dominated by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). There is no separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches. Communist Party policy is set by a fourteen-member Politburo. The top four positions in the Politburo are held by Party General Secretary, General Minister of Public Security, State President and Prime Minister. The members of the Politburo are selected by the party's 160-member central committee. The Party Secretariat, which consists of eight Politburo members, oversees day-to-day policy implementation.



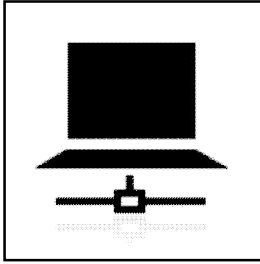
The Vietnamese President is the head of state but also serves as the nominal commander of the armed forces and chairman of the Council on National Defense and Security. The Prime Minister of Vietnam heads the cabinet, composed of 3 deputy prime ministers and the heads of 26 ministries and commissions, all confirmed by the National Assembly. According to the Constitution, the National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people and the only authority with legislative powers. It has a broad mandate to oversee all government functions. The National Assembly consists of 493 members, elected by popular vote for five-year terms. Though the National Assembly has recently become more powerful in lawmaking, it is still largely subject to Communist Party direction.

The Judicial power is mainly vested in the Supreme People's Court, whose Chief Justice is elected by the National Assembly with the consent of the president for a five-year term. The legal system is based on the communist legal theory and French civil law system.



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

Civil law countries



Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview.
- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2)

Population and Human Well-Being; 3) Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5) Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.

**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



Systematize your knowledge of the topic: Fill in the table:

Choose any three countries to compare them in a detailed way.

Countries based on civil law systems

Table 2

Country	Full name of the State	Form of government	Constitution and Suffrage	Head of the State	Head of the government	The Legislative Federal Bodies	The Executive Federal Bodies	The Judicial Federal Bodies



Web – resources and support

№	Тема изучения	Web resources / Интернет ресурсы в помощь при изучении тем
2	Countries based on civil law systems	<p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8023127.stm</p> <p>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3235.htm</p> <p>http://www.cmi.no/research/project/?1190=political-parties-in-angola</p> <p>http://en.academic.ru/dic.nsf/enwiki/524945</p> <p>http://www.dkosopedia.com/wiki/Civil_Law</p> <p>http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1125&context=robert_cooter</p> <p>http://law.jrank.org/pages/5235/Civil-Law.html</p> <p>http://www.adrr.com/adr2/essayr.htm</p> <p>http://www.aboutlawschools.org/law/legalsystems/civillaw/</p> <p>http://www.hcourt.gov.au/speeches/kirbyj/kirbyj_06.pdf</p> <p>http://www.neohouston.com/2009/06/common-law-civil-law-and-the-supreme-court/</p> <p>http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Civil_law_(legal_system)</p> <p>http://www.unidroit.org/english/publications/review/articles/1999-4-tetley2-e.pdf</p> <p>http://www.austlii.edu.au/nz/journals/VUWLRRev/2001/42.html</p> <p>http://www.assetrecovery.org/kc/node/b47c4ece-e7c2-11dd-859a-ab8cb1c9747f.5</p> <p>http://www.wisageek.com/what-is-the-difference-between-common-law-and-civil-law.htm</p> <p>http://www.bookrags.com/research/civil-law-gwcr/</p> <p>http://www.docstoc.com/docs/3422380/Civil-Law-and-Common-Law-Systems</p> <p>http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/lawyer/civil-law-jurisdictions.html</p> <p>http://valtcheva.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=111&Itemid=29</p> <p>http://www.answers.com/topic/code-civil-popularly-code-napoleon-or-napoleonic-code</p> <p>http://www.acc.com/vl/public/ProgramMaterial/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=20236</p> <p>http://www.law.fsu.edu/Journals/transnational/vol11_1/</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A2471564</p> <p>http://www.law.northwestern.edu/library/research/foreignandcomparative/countrylegal/</p>



Unit III

Countries that base their legal systems on common law



Introduction: Common law and case law have essentially the same meaning in many legal systems, including that of the United States. The body of common law is made up of various case laws from different court systems throughout the country. In a civil law state the ruling of one judge or court may have no effect on the ruling on another judge or court.

Common law forms the basis of the legal system in England and many other English-speaking countries, especially those that were former British colonies, including Brunei, Canada except for Quebec, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and the United States with the exception of Louisiana. Common law was invented in England by three courts – King's Bench, Exchequer, and the Court of Common Pleas – in order to establish a system of law that could supersede the judgments of local courts. Also, in terms of its application to civil law, common law was used to compensate people who suffered wrongful acts, known as torts.

The term common law can also refer to the precedent-based element within the legal system, as opposed to statutory law and legislation. The reasoning used to interpret common law is known as casuistry. It is a strict, principle-based reasoning that uses the circumstances of a case to evaluate the laws that are applicable. Decisions made about similar cases in the past are valuable, and casuistry is consequently also known as case-based learning. The case in question is evaluated on the basis of past cases, called paradigms. The strength of the similarity among the cases, in turn, strengthens the reasoning based on them.

The term common law also underlines the fact that this type of law did not originate from equity, maritime, and other special branches of law. Statutes serve as brief explanations of common law, and therefore are not very explanatory. Codification is the process by which a statute is passed, in a single document, so that it is understood within existing common law rather than creating the need for new laws. Judges create common law by writing opinions about cases that bind lower courts in lower jurisdictions. The foundation for common law is formed by torts, property, and contracts. Each state in the US is responsible for its common law, and the system evolves constantly. Federal common laws apply to issues that are not

already addressed by statutes.

Common law and equity are systems of law whose sources are the decisions in cases by judges. Alongside, every system will have a legislature that passes new laws and statutes. The relationships between statutes and judicial decisions can be complex. In some jurisdictions such statutes may overrule judicial decisions or codify the topic covered by several contradictory or ambiguous decisions. In some jurisdictions judicial decisions may decide whether the jurisdiction's constitution allowed a particular statute or statutory provision to be made or what meaning is contained within the statutory provisions. Statutes were allowed to be made by the government.

Common law developed in England, influenced by the Norman conquest of England which introduced legal concepts from Norman law, which in turn was influenced by aspects of Islamic law. Common law was later inherited by the Commonwealth of Nations, and almost every former colony of the British Empire has adopted it (Malta being an exception). The doctrine of *stare decisis* or precedent by courts is the major difference to codified civil law systems.

Common law is currently in practice in Ireland, most of the United Kingdom (England and Wales and Northern Ireland), Australia, India (excluding Goa), Pakistan, South Africa, Canada (excluding Quebec), Hong Kong, the United States (excluding Louisiana) and many other places. In addition to these countries, several others have adapted the common law system into a mixed system. For example, Nigeria operates largely on a common law system, but incorporates religious law. India uses a mixture of Hindu and English law. In the European Union the Court of Justice takes an approach mixing civil law (based on the treaties) with an attachment to the importance of case law. One of the most fundamental documents to shape common law is Magna Carta which placed limits on the power of the English Kings. It served as a kind of medieval bill of rights for the aristocracy and the judiciary who developed the law.

Not all former British colonies and English-speaking countries have legal systems based on common law. Louisiana, Quebec, and South Africa are said to have a pluralistic legal system combining civil, common, customary, and religious law. Furthermore, Louisiana and Quebec use French law, while the South African legal system is based on Roman-Dutch law.

There are several distinct attributes of the common law system. These

become more apparent if we think of England and Wales as the quintessential common law country. They have an unwritten constitution. Their constitution is instead based around a set of principles, legal decisions and Acts of Parliament that have evolved over the years. Courts in England and Wales also have jury trials for most cases at law. Parliament's actions have traditionally been limited (often because for hundreds of years they were only called when the king needed money), with relatively fewer acts and statutes being passed. Thus, the law was created through actions of the courts, interpreting previous rulings and applying this reasoning to new facts. This system had two obvious consequences. One was that the written decisions were often lengthy, fully explaining the judge's reasoning behind the ruling. Second was that, for the system to function properly, it increasingly required the appointment of the most skilled and qualified legal minds.

A common law right exists even when no law has been passed by a legislature to establish that right. The right exists because the courts of the common law jurisdiction have recognized it. A number of rights were recognized at common law, but in the US, in 2011, the term common law is often associated with common law marriage. Common law principles also govern certain aspects of US trademark law. One of the most frequent examples of a common law right arises from common law marriage. This is the relationship that arises when a couple lives together for a certain period of time and presents themselves as a married couple, though no formal wedding ceremony occurred and no marriage certificate was obtained. In jurisdictions that recognize common law marriages, this couple would be entitled to all the rights associated with a marriage. Common law marriage is not recognized in all jurisdictions, however, and consequently, no common law right would arise out of such a relationship in these places. Another common law right arises from the use of a trademark. Most countries have a formal process to trademark an image or symbol, known as a mark, with a government. In the US, however, the right to use a trademark can be established if the trademark has been used for a long period of time, even without having been formally registered. In these circumstances, a company may prohibit another party from using their mark by proving that the mark has been in use and is associated with the company.

According to the experience of the common-law countries the procedural rule-making proved to have been better vested in the courts than in legislative bodies.



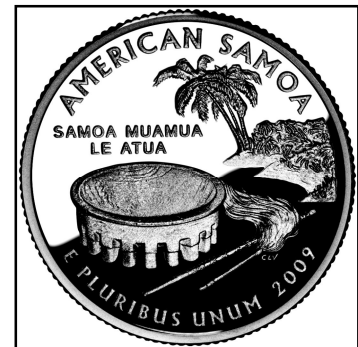
Before you read: My questions to you:

1. What is common law?
2. What are the sources of common law?
3. What is a common law country? How does it differ from the civil law country?
4. What is a conflict of laws? When does it occur?
5. What is a case law? What is a precedent?
6. What is the ruling law for common law countries?
7. Which countries are common law countries?



Text 1. American Samoa

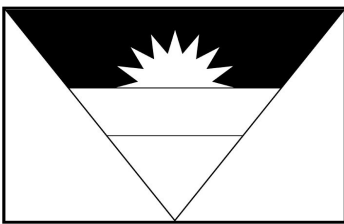
American Samoa is an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the South Pacific Ocean, southeast of the sovereign state of Samoa. American Samoa is a part of the Samoan Islands chain. Tutuila is the largest and most populous island. The de facto capital is Pago Pago, while Fagatogo is the seat of government.



Politics of American Samoa takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic dependency. Its constitution was ratified in 1966 and came into effect in 1967. The Executive power is exercised by the Governor who is the head of government within a multi-party system. The governor and lieutenant governor are elected on the same ticket by popular vote for four-year terms (eligible for a second term). Legislative power is vested in the bicameral Legislative Assembly (or Fono), which consists of the Senate (has 18 members, elected from the local chiefs to serve four-year terms) and the House of Representatives (has 21 members: 20 are elected by popular vote and 1 is an appointed, nonvoting delegate from Swains Island; members serve for two-year terms). The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The High Court chief justice and associate justices are appointed by the US Secretary of the Interior. The territory is administered by the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of the Interior.



Text 2. Antigua and Barbuda



Antigua and Barbuda is a twin-island nation lying between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It consists of two major inhabited islands, Antigua and Barbuda, and a number of smaller islands. There are 6 parishes and 2 dependencies. The capital and the largest city is Saint John's.

The politics of Antigua and Barbuda today takes place in a framework of a federal parliamentary representative democratic monarchy within the Commonwealth Realm system. The head of state is the hereditary Monarch. Elizabeth II is the present Queen of Antigua and Barbuda, having served in that position since the islands' independence from

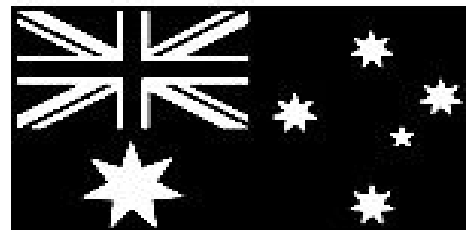
the United Kingdom in 1981. The Sovereign appoints the Governor General on the advice of the prime minister as the vice-regal representative. Executive power is exercised by the government. The Prime Minister is the head of Government, who is normally the leader of the majority party or coalition. He is appointed as the Prime Minister by the Governor General. Then the Council of Ministers is formed on the appointment of the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The legislative power is vested in both the government and the two Chambers of Parliament. The bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (has 17 members, appointed by members of the government and the opposition party, and approved by the Governor-General) and the House of Representatives (has 17 members, elected by first past-the-post to serve five-year terms). Both Houses then choose their heads – the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Antigua is a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The Judicial power is vested in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, based in Saint Lucia. One judge of the Supreme Court is a resident of the islands and presides over the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The British Judicial Committee of the Privy Council used to serve as the Supreme Court of Appeal up until 2001, when the nations of the Caribbean Community voted to alter the right of appeal to the Privy Council in London in favor of a Caribbean Court of Justice. The legal system of the monarchy is based on English common law.



Text 3. Australia (Commonwealth of Australia)

Australia, officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country in the Southern Hemisphere comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania and numerous smaller islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In 1901 the six colonies became a federation and the Commonwealth of Australia was formed. It is also a Commonwealth realm. Australia has 6 states and 2 major mainland territories. The capital is Canberra, but the largest city is Sydney.

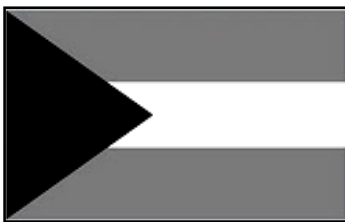


Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the Queen Elizabeth II at its apex as the Queen of Australia. The executive powers, vested in the Queen by the Constitution, are normally exercised in her absence (as she resides in the UK) by her viceroys in Australia – the Governor General at the federal level and the Governors at the state level, appointed by the Monarch on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of government. Following the legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is sworn in as the Prime Minister by the Governor General. The cabinet (the Federal Executive Council) is formed due to the Prime Minister's nomination by the Governor's General appointment from among the members of Parliament to serve as government ministers.

The legislative power is vested in the Queen (via the Governor-General) and the bicameral Federal Parliament. The Parliament consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 76 members: 12 each – from each of the six states and 2 each – from each of the two mainland territories. One-half of state members are elected every three years by popular vote to serve six-year terms while territory members are elected every three years. The House of Representatives has 150 members, elected by popular vote to serve terms of up to three-years. No state can have less than 5 representatives. The judiciary is exercised by the High Court of Australia and other federal courts, whose judges are appointed by the Governor-General on advice of the Council. The legal system is based on English common law.



Text 4. Bahamas, The (Commonwealth of The Bahamas)



The Bahamas, officially the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, is a country consisting of 29 islands, which became a Crown Colony in 1718 when the British clamped down on piracy. In 1973, The Bahamas became fully independent, but retained membership in the Commonwealth of Nations. The capital is Nassau.

The politics of the Bahamas today takes place in a framework of a constitutional democratic monarchy based on the Westminster system of representative parliamentary government. Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state. She is represented ceremonially by a Bahamian Governor General who is appointed by the Monarch, but acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The leader of the majority party in parliament serves as the Prime Minister and the head of government. The cabinet consists of at least nine members, including the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and ministers of executive departments. All of them are politically responsible to the lower House of Assembly.

The Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Parliament; its two chambers are – the House of Assembly and the Senate. The House of Assembly consists of 41 members, elected from individual constituencies for five-year terms. As under the Westminster system, the government may dissolve the parliament and call new elections at any time. The House of Assembly performs all major legislative functions. The Prime Minister is the leader of the party controlling the majority of the House of Assembly seats. The Senate consists of 16 members, appointed by the Governor General to serve five-year terms on the advice of the Prime Minister (9), the Leader of the Opposition (4) and on the basis of their common consultation (3).

The Bahamas is a member of the eastern Caribbean court system. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature and comprises the Magistrates' Courts, the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme (lower) Court. All justices are appointed by the Governor General. The legal system is based on English common law.



Text 5. Barbados

Barbados is an island country of the Lesser Antilles, situated in the western area of the North Atlantic Ocean. Once a Portuguese territorial possession, in 1625 it became English and later a British colony. In 1966, Barbados became an independent nation and the Commonwealth realm. Barbados is divided into 11 parishes. The capital city is Bridgetown.



The Constitution of Barbados of 1966 is the supreme law of the land. Barbados functions as a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, modeled on the Westminster system. Elizabeth II, the Queen of Barbados, is the head of state, represented locally by the Governor General, appointed by the monarch. The Prime Minister is the head of government. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet are formed by the political party which gains a simple majority in the general elections held in Barbados. These elections constitutionally must be held every five years, however new elections can be called whenever the Government so chooses to seek a new mandate or when it loses a vote of confidence in Parliament. Barbados functions as a two-party system, the two dominant parties being – the ruling Democratic Labor Party and the opposition – Barbados Labor Party. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are formally appointed by the Governor General. The legislative power is vested in both the government and bicameral Parliament, which consists of the Senate (has 21 members, appointed by the Governor General: 12 – on the advice of the Prime Minister, 2 – of the opposition leader and 7 – at his discretion to serve five-year terms) and the House of Assembly (has 30 members, elected by direct popular vote to serve five-year terms). Laws, passed by the Parliament, must be given official vice-regal assent by the Governor-General to become law. Barbados is a member of the eastern Caribbean court system. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature and comprises the Magistrates' Courts, the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme (lower) Court. All justices are appointed by the Governor General. The legal system is based on English common law.





Text 6. Belize



Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a country in Central America. Belize is culturally unique among Central American nations. It is the only nation in Central America with a British colonial heritage, although as a part of the Western Caribbean Zone, it shares this heritage with the Caribbean portions of other Central American countries. Despite this, Belize considers itself to be a Central American nation affiliated with both the Caribbean and Latin America. Belize is divided into 6 districts. The capital of Belize is Belmopan and its largest city is Belize City.

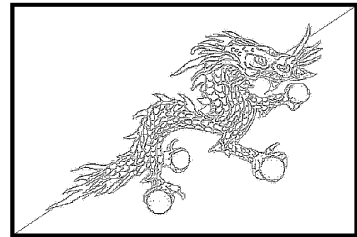
Belize is a parliamentary democracy, a Commonwealth realm, and therefore a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The structure of government is based on the British parliamentary system, and the legal system is modeled on the Common Law of England. The current head of state is Elizabeth II, the Queen of Belize. Since the Queen primarily resides in London, she is represented in Belize by the Governor General. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually appointed a Prime Minister by the Governor General. The Prime Minister recommends the deputy prime minister, and the Cabinet ministers are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. All Cabinet ministers are members of the majority political party in parliament and usually hold elected seats due to their cabinet positions. The bicameral National Assembly of Belize is composed of a House of Representatives (has 31 members, elected by direct popular vote to serve five-year terms) and a Senate. The Governor-General appoints the twelve members of the Senate, with a Senate president selected by the members, to serve five-year terms. The Senate, as the Upper house, is responsible for debating and approving bills passed by the Lower House.

The judiciary is vested in the Summary Jurisdiction Courts (criminal) and District Courts (civil jurisdiction); the Supreme Court (the chief justice is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister); the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council in the UK. Belize is a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).



Text 7. Bhutan (Kingdom of Bhutan)

The Kingdom of Bhutan is a landlocked country in South Asia, located at the eastern end of the Himalaya Mountains. The capital of Bhutan is Thimphu. Until recently Bhutan has been one of the most isolated countries in the world, though Bhutan has never been colonized. King Jigme Singye Wangchuck introduced a series of significant social and political reforms and Bhutan has now entered a new era of democracy. A new constitution was adopted in 2005. Bhutan's political system has developed from an absolute monarchy into a constitutional monarchy. The King ("Dragon King") is the head of state. Although his title is hereditary, he can be removed by a two-thirds majority vote by the parliament, the unicameral National Assembly (or Tshogdu).



The Executive power is vested in the government. The cabinet (the Council of Ministers) is headed by the Prime Minister. The candidates to the Council of Ministers are nominated by the monarch and should be approved by the National Assembly, and must be a part of the legislative assembly. The post of Prime Minister rotates each year between the five candidates who secured the highest number of votes. Members serve fixed, five-year terms. There is also a Royal Advisory Council, its members are nominated by the monarch. The Je Khenpo is the highest religious official of Bhutan. He is typically viewed as the closest and most powerful advisor to the King of Bhutan.

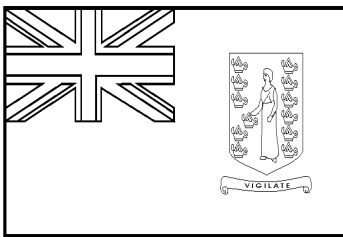
The bicameral Parliament consists of the non-partisan National Council, which has 25 members: 20 members are elected by each of the 20 electoral districts for four-year terms and 5 members are nominated by the King and the National Assembly, which has 47 members, elected by direct, popular vote for five-year terms. The monarch is the final court of appeal ("Supreme Court of Appeal"). The Royal High Court of Bhutan is the highest court. Its judges are appointed by the monarch. The constitution establishes a draft of a Supreme Court to serve as the chief court of appeal. Bhutan's legal system is based on Indian law and English common law. Suffrage is universal for all citizens over 18 years of age.



Text 8. British Virgin Islands



The British Virgin Islands (BVI), also called the Virgin Islands, is a British overseas territory, located in the Caribbean Sea. The islands make up part of the Virgin Islands archipelago, the remaining islands constituting the U.S. Virgin Islands. Technically the official name of the Territory is simply the "Virgin Islands", but in practice since 1917 they have been almost universally referred to as the "British Virgin Islands" to distinguish the islands from the American Territory. The British Virgin Islands are an internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom operating under the English common law system. The capital of the BVI is Road Town.



A new constitution was made in 2007 (the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007). Politics of the British Virgin Islands today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic dependency. The head of the state is the Queen Elisabeth II. The Governor is appointed by the Monarch. Executive power is exercised by the government. The Premier (the Prime Minister) is appointed by the Governor from among the members of the House of Assembly, who is by parliamentary convention the leader of the party holding the largest number of seats. The Premier is the head of the government within a multi-party system. The cabinet (the Executive Council) is appointed by the Governor from among the elected members of the House of Assembly.

The Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Legislative Council. The House of Assembly has 15 members, 13 members are elected for a four-year term, 9 of them – in single-seat constituencies and 4 – at large, one ex officio member and one speaker chosen from outside the council.

Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The Judiciary is vested in the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which consists of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeal (one judge of the Supreme Court is a resident of the islands and presides over the High Court). Furthermore there is a Magistrate's Court; Juvenile Court and a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.



Text 9. Canada

Canada is a country occupying most of the North America and is the world's second largest country by total area. It is a federation consisting of ten provinces and three territories. Its capital is Ottawa.

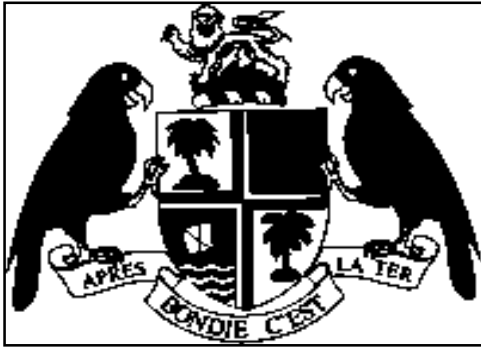
The politics of Canada functions within a framework of constitutional monarchy and a federal system of parliamentary government with strong democratic traditions. Many of the country's legislative practices derive from the unwritten conventions and precedents set by the UK's Westminster system. The Constitution is made up of unwritten and written acts, customs, judicial decisions and traditions. The written part of the constitution consists of the Constitution Acts of 1867 and 1982, which transferred formal control over the constitution from Britain to Canada and added a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and procedures for constitutional amendments.

The legal system is based on English common law, except in Quebec, where civil law system, based on French law, prevails. Since 1952 the official head of state is Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada. Her Viceroy is the Governor General of Canada, appointed by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister for a five-year term. The Prime Minister is the head of government. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition in the House of Commons is generally designated a Prime Minister by the Governor General. The Federal Ministry is chosen by the Prime Minister usually from among the members of his own party in Parliament. The legislature is vested in both the government and the bicameral Parliament, which consists of the Senate (has 105 members, appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister and serve until 75 years of age) and the House of Commons (has 308 members, elected by direct, popular vote to serve five-year terms). The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court (judges are appointed by the Prime Minister and the Governor General); the Federal Court; the Federal Court of Appeal and Provincial Courts, such as the Court of Appeal, the Court of Queen's Bench, the Superior Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Justice.





Text 10. Dominica (Commonwealth of Dominica)



Dominica, officially the Commonwealth of Dominica, is an island nation in the Caribbean Sea. Dominica is divided into 10 parishes. The capital is Roseau.

The United Kingdom set up a government and made the island a colony in 1805. In 1978 Dominica became an independent nation. Politics of Dominica takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic within the Commonwealth of Nations and since 1979; Dominica is also a member of La Francophonie.

Unlike the other former British colonies in the region, Dominica was never a Commonwealth realm, instead becoming a republic on independence.

A President and Prime Minister make up the executive branch. The President is the head of state, elected by the House of Assembly for a five-year term. The Prime Minister is the head of government and the leader of the majority party in the parliament. The Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister from among the members of the ruling party in the parliament. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet are responsible to the parliament and can be removed on a no-confidence vote.

The unicameral parliament consists of the thirty-member House of Assembly, which has twenty-one directly elected members and nine senators, who may either be appointed by the president or elected by the other members of the House of Assembly. The regional representatives decide whether senators are to be elected or appointed. A Speaker is elected by the elected members after an election. There is also 1 ex-officio member, the clerk of the house. Dominica has a two-party system and these two dominant political parties have built a coalition of the Dominica Labor Party and the greatly diminished Dominica Freedom Party.

Dominica's legal system is based on English common law. There are three magistrate's courts, with appeals made to the Eastern Caribbean Court of appeal and to the Privy Council in London. One of the six judges of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court must reside in Dominica and preside over the Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

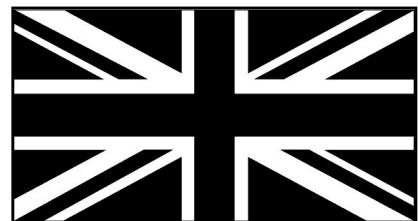


Text 11. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (or the UK), is a sovereign state located in the continental Europe. It is a unitary state, consisting of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is a Member State of the European Union. The capital is London.



The UK is a constitutional monarchy. The UK has an uncodified constitution, which consists of written and unwritten sources, such as statutes, judge-made case law, constitutional conventions and international treaties. The parliamentary government is based on the Westminster system. The head of state, a nominal source of the executive, judicial and legislative power, is the British monarch, currently the Queen Elizabeth II. Today the sovereign has an essentially ceremonial role restricted in exercise of power by convention and public opinion. However the monarch does continue to exercise 3 essential rights: to be consulted, to advice and to warn. The British monarch is also the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations. The head of government is the Prime Minister. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is nominated a prime minister. The Prime Minister is responsible for selecting Cabinet ministers, the heads of ministries, known as departments. The UK is divided into parliamentary constituencies of broadly equal population by the four Boundary Commissions for the purpose of General Elections. The bicameral Parliament consists of the House of Lords (has 740 members: 622 – life peers, 92 – hereditary peers, 26 – clergy) and the House of Commons (has 650 members, elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms). The UK does not have a single legal system and under the Treaty of Union guarantees the continued existence of Scotland's separate legal system (Scots law), English law and Northern Ireland law. In 2009 a new Supreme Court of the UK came into force. The Senior Courts comprise the Court of Appeal, the High Court of Justice and the Crown Courts; the Court of Judicature (Northern Ireland); the Scotland's Court of Session and the High Court of the Justiciary.





Text 12. Fiji (Republic of the Fiji Islands)



Fiji, officially Republic of the Fiji Islands, is a country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean. Fiji comprises an archipelago of more than 332 islands. Suva is the capital and the largest city of Fiji.

The British granted Fiji independence in 1970. The military has been either ruling directly or heavily influencing governments since 1987, so there have been four coups in Fiji, two in 1987, one in 2000 and one in 2006. In 1990 the new Constitution institutionalized the ethnic Fijian domination of the political system. In 2009 the President Iloilo suspended the Constitution, dismissed the Court of Appeal and appointed himself as the Head of the State of Fiji under a "new legal order", which did not alter the Constitution, thus requiring a "reappointment" of the Head of State.

Politics of Fiji today formally takes place in the framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President is the head of state, while the Prime Minister is the head of government. Under the constitution, the President is elected by the Great Council of Chiefs for a five-year term (eligible for a second term). The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. The Cabinet ministers are appointed by the Prime Minister from among the members of Parliament and responsible to Parliament.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Parliament. The bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (has 32 members to serve five-year terms: 14 – are appointed by the president on the advice of the Great Council of Chiefs, 9 – by the president on the advice of the Prime Minister, 8 – on the advice of the opposition leader, and 1 – on the advice of the council of Rotuma) and the House of Representatives (has 71 members to serve five-year terms, elected by universal suffrage: 23 seats are reserved for ethnic Fijians, 19 – for ethnic Indians, 3 – for other ethnic groups, 1 – reserved for the council of Rotuma constituency and 25 open seats).

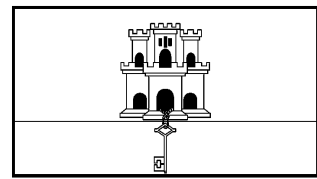
The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The legal system is based on English common law. The judicial power is vested in three courts: the Magistrates' Courts, the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. All judges are appointed by the president.



Text 13. Gibraltar

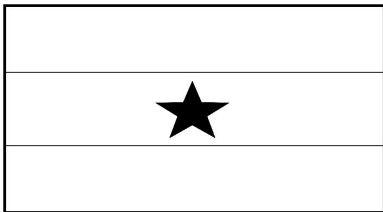
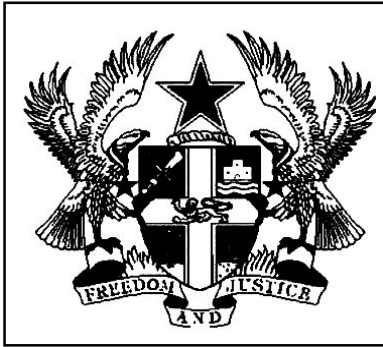
Gibraltar is a British overseas territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula at the entrance of the Mediterranean, overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar. The Rock of Gibraltar is the major landmark of the area and gives its name to the densely populated city – the capital – Gibraltar.

Gibraltar is a British overseas territory. The British Nationality Act 1981 granted Gibraltarians full British citizenship. The UK retains responsibility for defense, foreign relations, internal security and financial stability. Gibraltar is represented in the European Union, having been the only British overseas territory which joined the EC under the British Treaty of Accession (1973). The government of Spain continues with an irredentist territorial claim to Gibraltar, which was ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown in 1713 by the article X of the Treaty of Utrecht. In a referendum held in 2002, a proposal for shared sovereignty was overwhelmingly rejected by the Gibraltar electorate with 98.97% voting against. The sovereignty issue remains an important factor in local politics. Under its current Constitution, of 2007, Gibraltar has almost complete internal democratic self-government. The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, who is represented by the Governor of Gibraltar, appointed by the monarch, who is responsible only for matters of defense and security. The Government of Gibraltar is elected for a term of four years. The Chief Minister is the head of government within a multi-party system. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually appointed the Chief Minister by the Governor. The unicameral Gibraltar Parliament has 18 members to serve four-year terms: 17 – are elected by popular vote, 1 seat is for the Speaker, appointed by the Parliament. The Council of Ministers is appointed from among the 17 elected members of the Parliament by the governor in consultation with the Chief Minister. The Judicial Branch of Gibraltar consists of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. The court of final jurisdiction is the Privy Council in the UK, London. The legal system is based on English law.





Text 14. Ghana (Republic of Ghana)



The Republic of Ghana is a country located in West Africa. The word Ghana means "Warrior King" and is derived from the ancient Ghana Empire. The British established the Gold Coast Crown colony in 1874, which achieved independence from the UK in 1957, becoming the first sub-Saharan African nation to do so and the name Ghana was chosen for the new nation to reflect the ancient Empire of Ghana. Today Ghana is divided into 10 regions and 138 districts. The capital is Accra.

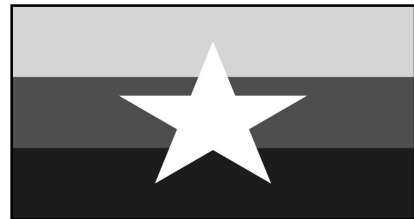
The Constitution of 1992 established the Fourth Republic and provided a basic charter for republican democratic government. It declares Ghana to be a unitary republic with sovereignty residing in the Ghanaian people. Intended to prevent future coups, dictatorial government and one-party states, it is designed to establish the concept of "power sharing". Within a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic, the President of Ghana is both the head of state and head of government. President and Vice President are elected on the same ticket by popular vote for four-year terms (eligible for a second term). The members of the Cabinet (the Council of Ministers) are nominated by the President subject to approval by Parliament. Legislative functions are vested in a unicameral Parliament, which consists of 230 members elected in single-seat constituencies by direct, popular vote (by simple majority vote) to serve four-year terms. To become law, legislation must have the assent of the President, who has a qualified veto over all bills except those to which a vote of urgency is attached. The judiciary is independent of the two other branches of government. The Supreme Court has broad powers of judicial review. It is authorized by the Constitution to rule on the constitutionality of any legislation or executive action at the request of any aggrieved citizen. The hierarchy of courts reflects largely the British juridical system. The Superior Court of Judicature is composed of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court of Justice, regional tribunals and such lower courts or tribunals, as Parliament may establish. The courts have jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters.



Text 15. Myanmar or Burma (Union of Myanmar)

Burma, officially the Union of Myanmar, is the largest country by geographical area in Indochina, the mainland of Southeast Asia. Its capital is Naypyidaw.

Burma's diverse population has played a major role in defining its politics and history in modern times, and the country continues to struggle to mend its ethnic tensions. It used to be a British colony, but gained its independence in 1948. The military has dominated government since General Ne Win led a coup in 1962. Burma remains under the tight control of the military-led



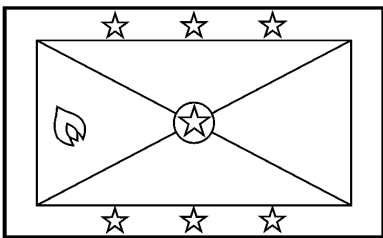
State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the official name of the military regime of Burma, which seized power in 1988.

Burma is governed today by a military junta with the head of state being Senior General Than Shwe, who holds the posts of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the Commander in Chief of the Defense Service and the Minister of Defense. The Prime Minister is General Thein Sein and the majority of ministry and cabinet posts are held by military officers, with a few exceptions. A parliamentary government was elected in 1990, but the military prevented it from convening. So the unicameral People's Assembly was elected but was never seated. Elected delegates in the 1990 People's Assembly election formed the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), a government-in-exile since December 1990, with the mission of restoring democracy. The NCGUB has been outlawed by the military government. There have been no elections in Myanmar since 1990. According to the terms of the constitution approved on 10 May 2008, a bicameral parliament (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw), consisting of an upper house with a maximum of 224 seats and a lower house with a maximum of 440 seats will be selected in elections, planned for 2010. And 25% of seats in both houses are to be reserved for appointed members of the military.

The judiciary today is viewed as the remnants of the British-era legal system (based on English common law), but there is no guarantee of a fair public trial, since the judiciary is highly dependent on the executive.



Text 16. Grenada



Grenada is an island country and sovereign state consisting of the island of Grenada and six smaller islands at the southern end of the Grenadines in the southeastern Caribbean Sea. Grenada is divided into 6 parishes. Its capital is St. George's. In 1877 Grenada was made the British Crown Colony and only in 1974 it gained its independence, though remained a Commonwealth Realm. It is now a parliamentary democracy and its political and legal traditions largely reflect those of the United Kingdom.

The politics of Grenada today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic monarchy, where the Queen Elizabeth

II is the Queen of Grenada and the official head of state. The Crown is represented by a Governor General, who is appointed by the monarch, but acts on the advice of the prime minister and the cabinet. The day-to-day executive power is vested in the head of Government, the Prime Minister. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is usually appointed as a Prime Minister by the Governor General. Though appointed by the Governor-General, the nomination of the Prime Minister should be approved by the majority of votes in the Parliament.

The legislative power is vested in the bicameral Parliament with an elected House of Representatives and an appointed Senate. The House of Representatives has 15 members, elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies. The Senate has 13 appointed members, 10 – are appointed by the government and 3 – by the leader of the opposition.

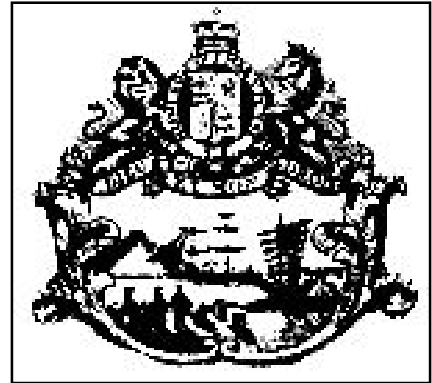
The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The legal system is based on English common law. Grenada is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Court system. The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court consists of a Court of Appeal and a High Court of Justice; two High Court judges are assigned to and reside in Grenada. The Governor General appoints the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. The Governor General appoints the other justices with the advice of a judicial commission.



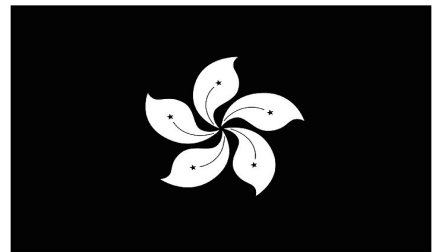
Text 17. Hong Kong (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China)

Hong Kong is one of the two special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China; the other is Macau.

Under the principle of "one country, two systems" and the Sino-British Joint Declaration Hong Kong runs on economic and political systems different from those of mainland China and enjoys a high degree of autonomy as a special administrative region in all areas except for defense and foreign affairs. The declaration stipulates that the region maintains its capitalist economic system and guarantees the rights and freedoms of its people for at least 50 years beyond the 1997 handover. The Basic Law of



1990 is the constitutional document that outlines the executive, legislative and judicial authorities of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, although final authority for interpreting the Basic Law rests with the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.



Hong Kong is regarded as a limited democracy. The chief of state is the President of China. The Chief Executive is the head of government, elected for a five-year term by 800-member electoral committee (college) and then appointed by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. The Cabinet (the Executive Council or ExCo) consists of 15 official members and 14 non-official members.

The legislative power is vested in the unicameral Legislative Council (or LegCo) which has 60 members to serve four-year terms: 30 members are indirectly elected by functional constituencies, 30 – are elected by popular vote. The LegCo voted in June 2010 to expand the electoral committee to 1,200 seats and the LegCo – to 70 seats for the next election (the 10 new seats will be chosen by popular vote), but the measure is subject to approval by the National People's Congress Standing Committee and will require an amendment to Hong Kong's constitution. Hong Kong's independent judiciary functions under the English common law framework. The judicial power is vested in the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong.



Text 18. India (Republic of India)



India, officially the Republic of India, is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by geographical area and the second-most populous country in the world. Four major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism originated here, while Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam arrived in the first millennium CE and shaped the region's diverse culture. Colonized by the United Kingdom from the mid-19th century, India became an independent nation in 1947 after a struggle for independence that was marked by widespread non-violent resistance.

Today India is a federal constitutional republic with a parliamentary democracy, governed under the Constitution of 1955, consisting of 28 states and seven union territories. Its capital is New Delhi. The head of state is the President, elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of

Parliament and the legislatures of the states for a five-year term (with no term limits). The head of government is the Prime Minister, who is chosen by parliamentary members of the majority party following legislative elections. The Cabinet members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The legislative power is vested in the bicameral Parliament (or Sansad), which consists of the Council of States and the People's Assembly. The Council of States (or Rajya Sabha) is a body consisting of not more than 250 members to serve six-year terms: up to 12 members are appointed by the president, the remainder – are chosen by the elected members of the state and territorial assemblies. The People's Assembly (or Lok Sabha) has 545 members to serve five-year terms: 543 members are elected by popular vote, 2 – are appointed by the president. The legal system of India is mainly based on English common law, but separate personal law codes apply to Christians, Hindus, and Muslims. At the apex of the judiciary stands the Supreme Court which has power of judicial review of legislative acts. The Supreme Court Chief Justice and 25 associate justices are appointed by the president and remain in office until they reach the age of 65 or are removed for "the proved misbehavior".

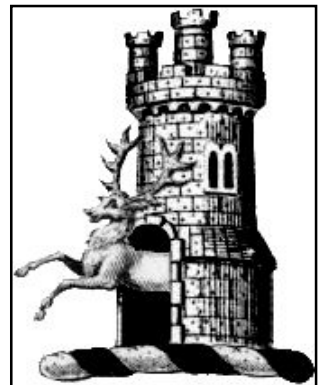


Text 19. Ireland (Republic of Ireland)

Ireland, officially the Republic of Ireland, is a country in north-western Europe. The capital is Dublin.

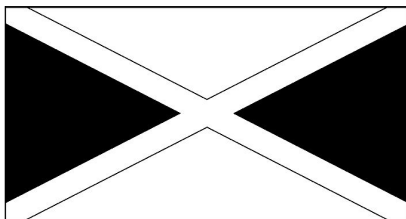
The Irish Free State was established in 1922 as a dominion within the British Commonwealth. It gained increasing sovereignty through the Statute of Westminster and the abdication crisis of 1936. A new constitution was introduced in 1937 which declared it an entirely sovereign state and simply named it as "Ireland. In 1949 Ireland declared itself a republic, formally ceased to be a dominion and left the British Commonwealth. Ireland is a member of the European Union now.

Today Ireland is a republic with a parliamentary system of government. The President of Ireland is the head of state, elected by a popular secret ballot under the Alternative Vote for a seven-year term (eligible for a second term). The presidency is open to all Irish citizens who are over 35 years old. The president is largely a figurehead, but is entrusted with certain constitutional powers and functions. There is no Vice-President in Ireland. If for any reason the President is unable to carry out his functions, the duties of the President are carried out by the Presidential Commission. Under the Constitution the Government may consist of 7 to 15 members. The Prime Minister (or the Taoiseach) is the head of government, appointed by the President, after being nominated by the lower house of the parliament. The Tánaiste (deputy prime minister) and other ministers are nominated by the Taoiseach and appointed by the President. The bicameral Parliament (or Oireachtas) consists of the Senate (has 60 members to serve five-year terms: 49 members are elected by the universities and from candidates put forward by five vocational panels, 11 – are nominated by the prime minister) and the House of Representatives (has 166 members, elected by popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve five-year terms). The legal system is based on English common law substantially modified by indigenous concepts. At the apex of the judiciary is the Supreme Court of Ireland. It has power of judicial review of legislative acts. The Supreme Court judges are appointed by the president on the advice of the Prime Minister and cabinet.





Text 20. Jamaica



Jamaica is an island country of the Greater Antilles, situated in the Caribbean Sea. Once a Spanish possession known as Santiago, in 1655 it became English and later the British colony, known as "Jamaica". It achieved full independence in 1962. It remains a Commonwealth realm. Kingston is the largest city in Jamaica and the country's capital.

Jamaica's current Constitution came into force in 1962. Today Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. The head of state is the Queen Elizabeth II, who officially holds the title "the Queen of Jamaica".

The monarch is represented by the Governor General, appointed by the monarch on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

The monarch and the Governor General serve largely ceremonial roles, apart from their potent reserve power to dismiss the Prime Minister or Parliament. The Prime Minister is the head of government. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition in the House of Representatives is appointed Prime Minister by the Governor General. The Deputy prime minister is recommended by the prime minister. All members of the Cabinet are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Legislative power is vested in both the government and the bicameral parliament. The Parliament consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is a 21-member body appointed by the governor general on the recommendations of the prime minister and the leader of the opposition to serve five-year terms. The ruling party has 13 seats and the opposition – has 8 seats. The House of Representatives has 60 members, elected by a popular vote to serve five-year terms. The judiciary is modeled on the UK system. The Court of Appeal is the highest appellate court in Jamaica. Under certain circumstances, cases may be appealed to the Privy Council in London. Firearms offenses are tried before a dedicated Gun Court established in 1974. The Gun Court hears cases in camera and practices jury trial for cases of treason or murder. All other cases are tried by resident magistrates or justices of the Supreme Court of Jamaica.



Text 21. Kiribati (Republic of Kiribati)

Kiribati, officially the Republic of Kiribati, is an island country, located in the central tropical Pacific Ocean. Kiribati is divided into 3 units, 6 districts and 21 island councils. Its capital is Tarawa.

Kiribati became independent from the United Kingdom in 1979. It is still a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The new constitution came into effect in 1979 to establish Kiribati as a sovereign democratic republic and to guarantee the fundamental rights of its citizens. There are special provisions in the constitution in response to the conflict with the residents of Banaban Island who seek protection of Fiji instead of Kiribati, such as the designation of a Banaban seat in the legislature, etc.

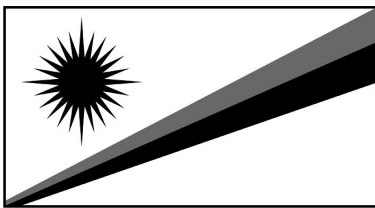
The politics of Kiribati today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President of Kiribati is both the head of state and the head of government within a multi-party system. The House of Parliament (Assembly) chooses 2 or 4 presidential candidates from among its members and then those candidates compete in a general election. The President is elected by popular vote for a four-year term (eligible for two more terms). Executive power is mainly exercised by the cabinet. Its 12 members are appointed by the President from among the members of the House of Parliament. The Attorney-General is also a member of the Cabinet. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral House of Parliament, which has 46 members to serve four-year terms: 44 members are elected by popular vote; 1 ex officio member – is the attorney general; 1 – is nominated by the Rabi Council of Leaders (representing Banaba Island). Suffrage is universal for all citizens over the age of 18. Political parties have existed in Kiribati since 1985 but they still do not have official platforms or party structures. Most candidates formally present themselves as independents. Based on the English common law supplemented by local, customary law, the Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The judiciary is exercised by the Court of Appeal; the High Court; 26 Magistrates' courts. Judges at all levels are appointed by the president.





Text 22. Marshall Islands

(Republic of the Marshall Islands)



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), is a Micronesian country of atolls and islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, just west of the International Date Line and just north of the Equator. In 1986 independence was attained under a Compact of Free Association with the United States, granting the RMI its sovereignty. The Compact provided for aid and U.S. defense of the islands in exchange for continued U.S. military use of the missile testing range at Kwajalein Atoll. The independence procedure was formally completed under international law in 1990, when the UN officially ended the Trusteeship status. The capital

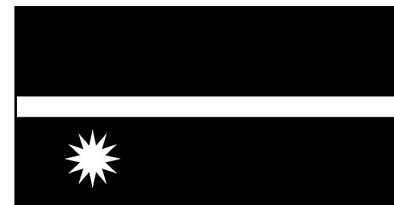
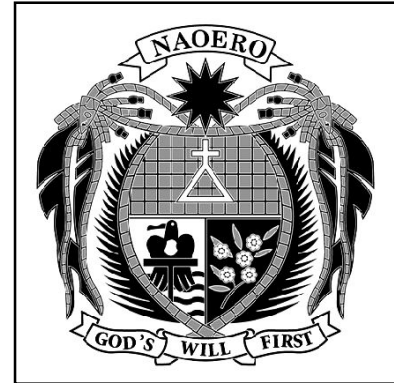
of the RMI is Majuro.

The government of the Marshall Islands operates under a mixed parliamentary-presidential system as set forth in its Constitution of 1979. The President is both the head of state and head of government, elected by the legislative body (Nitijela) from among its members for a four-year term. The Cabinet, which consists of ten ministers, is selected and appointed by the President from among the members of the legislature. The Legislative power is vested in the unicameral legislature (or Nitijela), which has 33 members (senators), elected by popular vote in 19 single-seat and five multi-seat constituencies to serve four-year terms. There is also the Council of Iroij, an advisory body comprising 12 tribal chiefs, which is sometimes regarded as an upper house of the RMI's Parliament. The twenty-four electoral districts into which the country is divided correspond to the inhabited islands and atolls. There are currently three political parties in the Marshall Islands: AKA, United People's Party (UPP) and United Democratic Party (UDP). Rule is shared by the UDP and the UPP. Suffrage is universal for all citizens above 18 years of age. The judiciary is exercised by the Supreme Court, high court, district and community courts, and the traditional rights court. Jurisdiction of the traditional rights court is limited to cases involving titles or land rights or other disputes arising from customary law and traditional practice. Trial is either by jury or a judge. The legal system is based on adapted Trust Territory laws, acts of the legislature, municipal, common, customary laws and the U.S. laws.



Text 23. Nauru (Republic of Nauru)

Nauru, officially the Republic of Nauru, formerly known as the Pleasant Island, is an island country in Micronesia in the South Pacific. Nauru was annexed and claimed as a colony by the German Empire in the late 19th century. After World War I, Nauru became a League of Nations mandate, administered by Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. During World War II, Nauru was occupied by Japanese troops. Nauru was declared independent only in 1968. There is no official capital in Nauru, but Yaren is the seat of the government.



Today Nauru is a republic with a parliamentary system of government. The President is both the head of state and the head of government. The President is elected by the parliament from among its members for a three-year term. The executive power is mainly exercised by the Cabinet, whose members are appointed by the President from among the members of the parliament. Since 1992, local government has been the responsibility of the Nauru Island Council (NIC), which has limited powers and functions as an advisor to the national government on local matters. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the unicameral parliament, which has 18 members, elected by popular vote in multi-seat constituencies to serve three-year terms. Each constituency should have no less than 2 members in the Nauruan Parliament, except for Ubenide, which is entitled to 4 seats.

Suffrage is universal and compulsory for all citizens over 20 years of age. The Judiciary is independent and complex, based on the acts of the Nauru Parliament and English common law. The Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice, is the paramount on constitutional issues. Other cases can be appealed to the two-judge Appellate Court. The Parliament cannot overturn court's decision, but the Appellate Court's rulings can be appealed to the High Court of Australia. Lower courts consist of the District Court and the Family Court, headed by a Resident Magistrate, who is also the Registrar of the Supreme Court. There are also two quasi-courts: the Public Service Appeal Board and the Police Appeal Board, both of which are presided over by the Chief Justice.



Text 24. New Zealand



New Zealand – is an island country in the south-western Pacific Ocean comprising two main landmasses – the North Island and the South Island. The capital is Wellington.

In 1841 New Zealand became a separate Crown colony and in 1907 it declared itself a Dominion within the British Empire. In 1947 the country adopted the Statute of Westminster, making New Zealand a Commonwealth realm.

Today New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. Although it has no codified constitution, the Constitution Act of 1986 may be regarded as the principal formal statement of its constitutional structure. The Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state and the Queen of New Zealand under the Royal Titles Act 1974. She is represented by the Governor General, appointed by her on the exclusive advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor General exercises the Crown's prerogative powers and in rare cases, the reserve powers. The Governor General also chairs the Executive Council, a formal committee consisting of all ministers of the Crown. The head of government is the Prime Minister. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or coalition is appointed a Prime Minister by the Governor General. The Deputy Prime Minister and the cabinet members (Executive Council) are appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The unicameral House of Representatives, commonly called Parliament, has 120 members to serve three-year terms. 70 members are elected by popular vote in single-member constituencies, including 7 Maori constituencies; 50 members are appointed by proportion from party lists. The highest court is the Supreme Court of New Zealand, established in 2004. All superior court judges are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Attorney-General, Chief Justice and Solicitor-General. The Chief Justice is appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister. The legal system has three principal sources: English common law, certain British statutes before 1947, and statutes of the New Zealand Parliament, with special land legislation for the Maori.

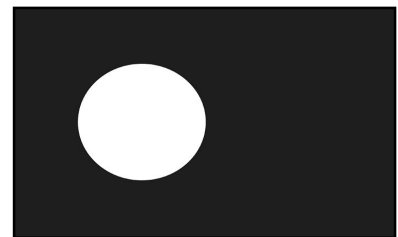
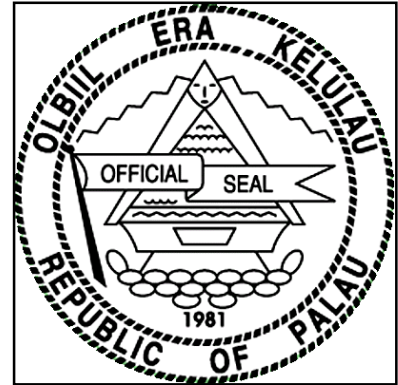


Text 25. Palau (Republic of Palau)

Palau, officially the Republic of Palau, is an island country in the Pacific Ocean. Having emerged from the United Nations trusteeship (administered by the United States) in 1994, it is one of the world's youngest and smallest sovereign states. The capital is Melekeok.

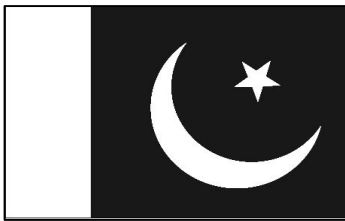
Palau adopted its own constitution in 1981, and the governments of the United States and Palau concluded a Compact of Free Association in 1986, similar to compacts that the United States had entered into with the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The compact entered into force in 1994, concluding Palau's transition from trusteeship to independence as the last portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to gain its independence.

The politics of Palau today takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. Executive power is exercised by the government. The President of Palau is both the head of state and the head of government within a multi-party system. Presidential elections by popular vote take place every four years, when the president and vice president run on separate tickets. Suffrage is universal for all citizens over 18 years of age. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Palau National Congress. The bicameral National Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Delegates. The Senate has 9 members, elected by a popular vote on a proportion of population basis to serve four-year terms. The House of Delegates has 16 members, elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. There is also the Council of Chiefs, which advises the President on traditional laws and customs. It is made up of the highest native chiefs from each state. Each state also elects its own governor and legislature. The Judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The judicial system consists of the Supreme Court, the National Court, the Court of Common Pleas, and the Land Court. The Supreme Court has trial and appellate divisions and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The legal system is based on Trust Territory laws, acts of the legislature, municipal, common, and customary laws.





Text 26. Pakistan (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)



Pakistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is a country in South Asia. Pakistan is a federation of four provinces, a capital territory and a group of federally administered tribal areas. The government of Pakistan exercises de facto jurisdiction over the western parts of the disputed Kashmir region. The capital of Pakistan is Islamabad.

In 1956 Pakistan became an Islamic republic. Under the Constitution of 1973, Pakistan became a federal republic, but its government has at times changed from parliamentary to presidential or semi-presidential. Besides, Pakistan has been under the influence of its military almost since it was founded.

Today Pakistan is a parliamentary federal democratic republic with Islam as the state religion. The President is the head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, elected by secret ballot through an Electoral College comprising the members of the Senate, National Assembly and the provincial assemblies for a five-year term. The President is a largely-ceremonial figurehead. The Prime Minister is the head of government, elected by the National Assembly. The Cabinet is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Federal Ministries assist the cabinet in managing the government. The National Security Council is a consultative body on matters of national security and defense, chaired by the President.

The legislative power is vested in the bicameral Parliament (Council of Advisors), which consists of the Senate (the upper house; has 100 members, indirectly elected by provincial assemblies and the territories' representatives in the National Assembly to serve six-year terms; one half is elected every three years) and the National Assembly (the lower house; has 342 members to serve five-year terms: 272 members – are elected by popular vote; 60 seats – are reserved for women; 10 seats – for non-Muslims). Under the Constitution, the Council also includes the President of Pakistan. The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and the Federal Islamic or Sharia Court, whose justices are appointed by the President. The legal system is based on English common law with some provisions of Islamic law.

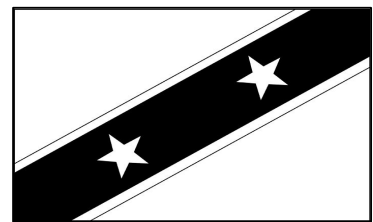


Text 27. Saint Kitts and Nevis (Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis)

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, also known as the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, located in the Leeward Islands, is a federal two-island country in the West Indies. It is the smallest sovereign nation in the Americas, in both area and population. The capital city and the seat of its government is Basseterre on the island of Saint Kitts.



Saint Kitts was home to the first British and French colonies in the Caribbean. St. Kitts and Nevis achieved independence in 1983. It is the newest sovereign nation in the Americas. Today the country is an independent Commonwealth realm with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state. The monarch is represented by a Governor General, who acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, having been appointed by the sovereign. The prime minister, usually the leader of the majority party of the House, is the head of government. The prime minister is appointed from the representatives of the legislature by the Governor General. The Cabinet ministers are also appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are responsible to the Parliament.



The unicameral Parliament (the National Assembly) is composed of 14 members: 11 – are elected Representatives (3 from the island of Nevis) and 3 Senators – are appointed by the Governor General. Two of the senators are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, and one – on the advice of the leader of the opposition. Unlike in other countries, senators do not constitute a separate upper house of parliament, but sit in the National Assembly, along with the representatives. All members serve five-year terms. Saint Kitts and Nevis is a full and participating member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Saint Kitts and Nevis is also a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court consists of the Court of Appeal and the High Court. Two judges of the Supreme Court reside in Saint Kitts and Nevis. The legal system is based on English common law.



Text 28. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a country in the Lesser Antilles chain, namely in the southern portion of the Windward Islands, which lie at the southern end of the eastern border of the Caribbean Sea where the latter meets the Atlantic Ocean. Its capital is Kingstown, also its main port.

The country has a French and British colonial history, but gained its independence in 1979. It is now a part of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. The Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state, bearing also the title of the Queen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Queen is represented in the country by the Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, appointed by the monarch. The office of Governor General has mostly ceremonial functions including the opening of the islands' House of Assembly and the appointment of various government officials. The head of government is the Prime Minister. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party is usually appointed a Prime Minister by the Governor General. The Deputy prime minister is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. There is no local government in St. Vincent, and all six parishes are administered by the central government.

The unicameral House of Assembly has 21 members: 15 – are the representatives, elected in single seat constituencies for a five year term and 6 – are the senators, appointed by the Governor General to serve five-year terms: 4 – are appointed on the advice of the prime minister and 2 – on the advice of the leader of the opposition. As in the other English-speaking Caribbean countries, the judiciary in St. Vincent is based on the English common law. There are 11 courts in three magisterial districts. The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, comprising the High Court and the Court of Appeals, is also known as the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Supreme Court, and is the country's highest court of appeal. Two of the judges of the Supreme Court reside in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Text 29. Singapore (Republic of Singapore)

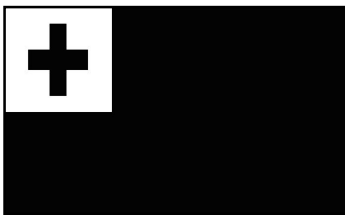
Singapore, officially the Republic of Singapore, is an island country on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. A city-state Singapore is the world's leading financial centre. Even before independence in 1965, Singapore was one of the richest states in East Asia due to its strategic location as a port. The Constitution of 1959 established representative democracy as the nation's political system.

Singapore is a parliamentary republic with a Westminster system representing different constituencies. The People's Action Party (PAP) dominates the political process and has won control of the Parliament in every election since self-government in 1959. The chief of state is the President, elected by popular vote for six-year term. The head of government is the Prime Minister. Neither the prime minister nor members of the cabinet are elected by parliament. Following legislative elections, leader of the majority party or coalition is appointed a prime minister by the president. The deputy prime ministers and the other cabinet members are also appointed by the president. They are responsible to the parliament. The unicameral parliament is the legislature, headed by the President. The Parliament has 84 members, elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms. In addition, there are up to 9 nominated members and up to 3 losing opposition candidates, who came closest to winning seats, appointed as "non-constituency" members. Before any law is passed, it is introduced in the parliament as a draft known as a bill. Bills are usually introduced by a minister on behalf of the cabinet, known as a Government Bill. However, any member of the parliament can introduce a bill, known as a Private Member's Bill. All bills must go through three readings in the parliament and receive the President's assent to become an Act of Parliament. Based on the English common law, the judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and other subordinate courts. The Supreme Court Chief Justice is appointed by the President with the advice of the Prime Minister, other judges are appointed by the President with the advice of the Chief Justice.





Text 30. Tonga (Kingdom of Tonga)



Tonga, officially the Kingdom of Tonga, is a country in the South Pacific Ocean archipelago, which comprises 169 islands, 36 of them being inhabited. The capital of Tonga is Nuku'alofa.

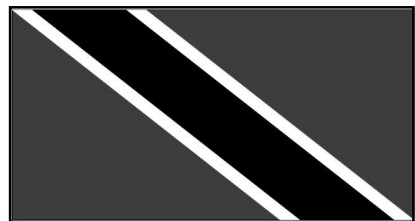
Uniquely among the other island nations in the South Pacific region Tonga avoided formal colonization and remains the only sovereign monarchy among the island nations. Politics of Tonga today takes place in a framework of a constitutional monarchy. King George Tupou V is the head of state, the monarchy is hereditary. The Executive power is vested in both the King and the government. The head of government is the Prime Minister, appointed by the monarch, so is his deputy prime minister. The Cabinet consists of 14 members: 10 are appointed by the monarch for life; 4 – are appointed from among the elected members of the Legislative Assembly, including 2 each from the nobles' and peoples' representatives serving three-year terms. There is also a Privy Council that consists of the monarch, the cabinet and 2 governors.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the Legislative Assembly. The unicameral Legislative Assembly (or Fale Alea) has 32 seats – 14 seats are reserved for cabinet ministers sitting ex officio; 9 – for nobles, selected by the country's 33 hereditary nobles; 9 members are elected by popular vote in multi-seat constituencies to serve three-year terms. The Legislative Assembly sits 4 to 5 months a year. The Assembly is controlled by the royal family and the families of nobles' of Tonga. Parties exist as pressure groups rather than electoral vehicles or patronage dispensers. Candidates are required to register for elections as individuals, not as members of a political party. The People's Democratic Party is the first and the only registered party; two parties exist in opposition. Such electoral system does not allow any party to achieve real power so as to form a truly democratic government. Based on the English common law, the judiciary is exercised by the court system, consisting of the Court of Appeal (Privy Council), the Supreme Court, the Magistrates' Court and the Land Court. Judges are appointed by the monarch.



Text 31. Trinidad and Tobago (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago)

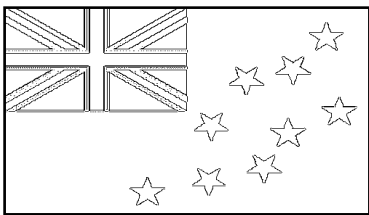
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is the group of the southernmost islands of the Caribbean archipelago (South America). It was a Spanish colony from the times of Christopher Columbus to 1802, when it was ceded to Britain. The country obtained independence in 1962. Trinidad and Tobago is split into Regional Corporations and Municipalities. The island of Tobago is governed by the Tobago House of Assembly, and there are nine corporations and five municipalities in the island of Trinidad. The capital city is Port of Spain, while the largest city is San Fernando.



Under the 1976 Constitution, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago functions as a unitary state regulated by a parliamentary democracy modeled on the UK system. The President is elected by an electoral college, which consists of the members of the Senate and House of Representatives, for a five-year term. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President from among the members of the Parliament. Following legislative elections, the person with the most support among the elected members of the House of Representatives is usually appointed a Prime Minister. The cabinet is appointed from among the elected and appointed Members of both Houses of the Parliament. The two chambers of the Parliament are: the House of Representatives (has 41 members, elected for a five year term in single-seat constituencies) and the Senate (has 31 members: 16 Government Senators are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, 6 Opposition Senators – on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and 9 Independent Senators – by the President). The country's judiciary is vested in the Supreme Court of Judicature comprised of the High Court of Justice and the Court of Appeals. The chief justice is appointed by the president after consultation with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition; other justices are appointed by the president on the advice of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission. The highest court of appeal is the Privy Council in London. It is a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). The legal system is based on English common law.



Text 32. Tuvalu



Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, is a Polynesian island nation located in the Pacific Ocean, midway between Hawaii and Australia. The Ellice Islands were administered by Britain as part of a protectorate from 1892 to 1916 and as part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony from 1916 to 1974. In 1974, the Ellice Islanders voted for separate British dependency status as Tuvalu, separating from the Gilbert Islands which became Kiribati upon independence. Tuvalu became fully independent within the Commonwealth in 1978. The capital is Funafuti.

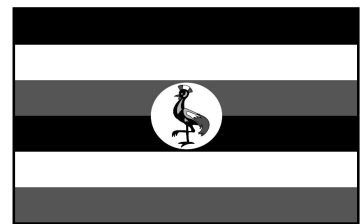
Tuvalu is a constitutional monarchy and Commonwealth realm, with Queen Elizabeth II serving as the country's head of state, bearing the title of the Queen of Tuvalu. The Queen is represented in Tuvalu by a Governor General, who is appointed by the Queen upon the advice of the country's elected Prime Minister. The monarchy is hereditary and Governor General is appointed by the monarch on the recommendation of the prime minister; prime minister and deputy prime minister are elected by and from the members of parliament. The local unicameral parliament has 15 members and is elected every four years. Its members select a Prime Minister who is the head of government. The Cabinet is appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Each island also has its own high-chief and several sub-chiefs and elders, who together exercise informal authority on a local level. Today the elders – who are always chosen on the basis of ancestry and form an island council of elders – share their powers with the elected village presidents. There are no formal political parties and election campaigns are largely on the basis of personal or family ties and reputation. Tuvalu maintains an independent judiciary. Its legal system is based on English common law supplemented by local customary law. The highest court in Tuvalu is the High Court; there are 8 Island Courts with limited jurisdiction. Rulings from the High Court can be appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tuvalu or to the Fiji Court of Appeal. There is also a right of appeal to Her Majesty in Council, the Privy Council in London.



Text 33. Uganda (Republic of Uganda)

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. Uganda takes its name from the Buganda kingdom, which encompassed a portion of the south of the country including the capital Kampala. Uganda has 79 districts.

Uganda is a presidential republic. The President of Uganda is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system. The system is based on a democratic parliamentary system with universal suffrage for all citizens over 18 years of age. Executive power is exercised by the government. The President is elected by a popular vote to a five-year term. This is currently – Yoweri



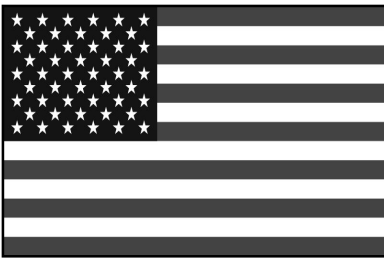
Museveni – who is also the head of the armed forces. The last presidential elections were held in February 2006. The cabinet is appointed by the president from among the elected legislators. The prime minister assists the president in the supervision of the cabinet.

Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly, which has 332 members: 215 members are elected directly – by universal adult suffrage in single-seat constituencies. In addition, each of Uganda's districts elects a Woman Representative by a direct vote, and 25 MPs are selected from the so-called "special interest" groups through a complicated regional electoral college system: 10 – representatives of the UPDF (Uganda's Armed Forces), 5 – youth representatives, 5 – representatives of people with disabilities and 5 – representing workers. The next Parliamentary elections will be contested in 2011.

The Ugandan judiciary operates as an independent branch of government and consists of magistrate's courts, high courts, courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court. Judges for the High Court are appointed by the president; Judges for the Court of Appeal are appointed by the president and approved by the legislature. The Ugandan constitution was adopted on October 8, 1995. Uganda's legal system since 1995 has been based on English common law and African customary law (customary law is in effect only when it does not conflict with statutory law). The country accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations.



Text 34. The United States of America



The United States of America is a federal constitutional republic comprising fifty states and a federal district. The country is situated mostly in central North America. The country also possesses several territories in the Caribbean and Pacific. The capital is Washington, D.C.

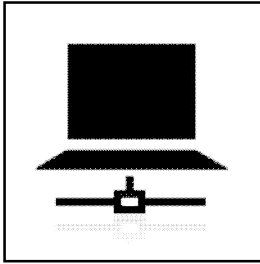
On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence (from the British Empire) was proclaimed. The current US Constitution was adopted in 1787 and made the states part of a single republic with a strong central government. The 1791 Bill of Rights guarantees many fundamental civil rights and freedoms. In the American federalist system, citizens are usually subject to 3 levels of government: federal, state, and local. The local government's duties are commonly split between county and municipal governments. The executive and legislative officials are elected by a plurality vote of citizens by district. There is no proportional representation at the federal level, and it is very rare at lower levels.

The federal executive power is vested in the President of the United States, but power is often delegated to the Cabinet members and other officials. The President and Vice President are elected as running mates for a maximum of two four-year terms by the Electoral College, for which each state, as well as the District of Columbia, is allocated a number of seats based on its representation in both houses of the Congress. The President is the head of state and government, the military commander-in-chief and the chief diplomat. The bicameral Congress consists of the Senate (has 100 members: 2 members are elected from each state by popular vote to serve six-year terms; one-third re-elected every two years) and the House of Representatives (has 435 members, directly elected by popular vote to serve two-year terms). The federal court system is based on English common law. Louisiana is the only state, influenced by the Napoleonic Code. The Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court (has nine justices, nominated by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate and appointed to serve for life); the United States Courts of Appeal; the United States District Courts and State and county Courts.



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

Common law countries



Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview.

- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2)

Population and Human Well-Being; 3) Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5) Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.

**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



Systematize your knowledge of the topic: Fill in the table:

Countries based on common law system

Table 3

Country	Full name of the State	Form of government	Constitution and Suffrage	Head of the State	Head of the government	The Legislative Federal Bodies	The Executive Federal Bodies	The Judicial Federal Bodies



Web – resources and support

№	Тема изучения	Web resources / Интернет ресурсы в помощь при изучении тем
3	Countries based on common law system	<p>http://www.wisegeek.com/what-are-the-different-common-law-countries.htm</p> <p>http://huss.exeter.ac.uk/law/undergraduate/commonlawcountries/</p> <p>http://www.answers.com/topic/common-law</p> <p>http://en.jurispedia.org/index.php/Common_law</p> <p>http://www.govstandard.com/what-is-common-law.html</p> <p>http://www.worldbank.org/html/prddr/trans/novdec99/WDIComLaw.htm</p> <p>http://www.svpvriil.com/OACL.html</p> <p>http://www.expertlaw.com/library/family_law/common_law</p> <p>http://www.law.fsu.edu/journals/transnational/vol102/kilian.pdf</p> <p>http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/rs/rep-rap/2005/rr05_10/p0.html</p> <p>http://www.mcgill.ca/files/maritimelaw/mixedjur.pdf</p> <p>http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521870832</p> <p>http://www.neohouston.com/2009/06/common-law-civil-law-and-the-supreme-court/</p> <p>http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Common_law</p> <p>http://www.duhaime.org/LawMag/LawArticle-1112/The-Death-of-the-Common-Law-Expiry-date-2100.aspx</p> <p>http://members.multimania.co.uk/lawnet/COMMONLA.HTM</p> <p>http://www.experiencefestival.com/administrative_law_-_administrative_law_in_common_law_countries</p> <p>http://www.hcourt.gov.au/speeches/kirbyj/kirbyj_06.pdf</p> <p>http://ivythesis.typepad.com/term_paper_topics/2010/06/comparison-of-the-common-law-and-civil-law-systems.html</p> <p>http://www.acc.com/vl/public/ProgramMaterial/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=20236</p> <p>http://www.spiritus-temporis.com/common-law/common-law-legal-systems.html</p> <p>http://www.ascotadvisory.com/OffshoreArticleLAW.html</p> <p>http://www.sooperarticles.com/law-articles/difference-between-common-law-civil-law-canada-3315.html</p> <p>http://www.dppireland.ie/filestore/documents/Speech_to_European_Conference_of_Prosecutors_2_July_2008_PDF.pdf</p> <p>http://www.ppge.ufrgs.br/giacomo/arquivos/eco02237/mahoney-2000.pdf</p> <p>http://www.ibfd.org/portal/pdf/030CTTL_sample.pdf</p> <p>http://www.allbusiness.com/legal/labor-employment-law-alternative-dispute-resolution/8919665-1.html</p>



Unit IV

Countries that base their legal systems on religious law

Introduction: Religious law refers to the notion of a religious system or document being used as a legal source, refers to the concept that "the word of God is law". Religious law emanates from the sacred texts of religious traditions and in most cases purports to cover all aspects of life as a seamless part of devotional obligations to a transcendent, imminent, or deep philosophical reality, either personal or cosmological. Religion for law must be defined broadly but its truth value need not and ought not to be addressed. Most religious law gradually came to apply in its most institutional form to its own organizations and to familial or contractual matters. Application to ritual is a gray area but generally excluded from discussion and classification.



The use of religion for public law has a static and permanent quality, preventing improvement during legislative acts of government or development during judicial antecedent, though the methodology used varies. For example, the use of Jewish Halakha for public law has a static and unalterable quality, precluding amendment through legislative acts of government or development through judicial precedent; Christian Canon law is more similar to civil law in its use of civil codes; and Islamic Sharia law (and Fiqh jurisprudence) is based on legal precedent and reasoning by analogy (Qiyas), and is thus considered similar to common law. The main kinds of religious law thus are Sharia in Islam, Halakha in Judaism, and canon law in some Christian groups. In some cases these are intended purely as individual moral guidance, whereas in other cases they are intended and may be used as the basis for a country's legal system. The latter was particularly common during the middle Ages.

Islamic Law: Essential Facts: The Islamic legal system of Sharia (Islamic law) and Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) is the most widely used religious law, and one of the three most common legal systems in the world alongside common law and civil law. It is not a divine law, however, as only a fraction of Sharia law is based on the Qur'an and Sunnah, while the majority of its rulings are based on the "Ulema" (jurists) who used the methods of "Ijma" (consensus), "Qiyas" (analogical deduction), "Ijtihad" (research) and "Urf" (common practice) to derive "Fatwā" (legal opinions).

An Ulema was required to qualify for an "Ijazah" (legal doctorate) at a "Madrasah" (school) before they could issue Fatwā. During the Islamic Golden Age, classical Islamic law may have had an influence on the development of common law and several civil law institutions. Sharia law governs a number of Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, though most countries use Sharia law only as a supplement to national law. It can relate to all aspects of civil law, including property rights, contracts or public law.

According to the excellent outline provided by *Irshad Abdal-Haqq* in "Islamic Law: An Overview of Its Origin and Elements", 7 J. Islamic L. & Culture 27 (2002), Islamic law might refer to all the law and jurisprudence of Islam and includes: 1) the primary sources of law (Shari'ah): the Qur'an and the Sunnah (traditions of Muhammad ibn Abdullah, the last prophet of Islam), which means the things he said, i.e. hadith; and the way he lived his life, his conduct; 2) the subordinate sources of law and the methods used to discover and apply the law (Islamic jurisprudence or fiqh), described by Mr. Abdal-Haqq as follows: While the principles and injunctions of the Shari'ah are infallible and not subject to amendment, fiqh-based standards may change according to the circumstances... Four methods, often called sources of law by Muslim writers, for deducing and establishing fiqh-based law are universally recognized by Islamic jurists: 1) the extraction of Qur'anic injunctions and principles based on interpretations of it; 2) the application of the principles reflected through the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad; 3) the consensus of opinion from among the companions of Muhammad or the learned scholars (ijma); 4) analogical deduction (qiyas).

Nineteen schools of fiqh (fiqh madhhabs) developed during the first four centuries of Islam. By the fall of Baghdad (in 1258 C.E. to the Mongols, that is- not to be confused with modern events) the number of major madhhabs had dwindled to five (four sunni and one shia). At present, the four major schools of fiqh among the sunni Muslims are: 1) Hanafi; 2) Maliki; 3) Shafi'i, and 4) Hanbali. Among the shia, the Jafari school predominates. Judges also use individual judgment and reasoning, known as "ijtihad" (can include reasoning from analogy), but greatly varying over time. Currently, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Iran stand alone as those countries that fully recognize the Shari'ah as the official law of the land. Qatar, the two Yemens, Kuwait and Bahrain also acknowledge Shari'ah principles but to a lesser degree. All other legal systems in the Muslim world are hybrids of Islamic and European law.

Jewish Law: Essential facts: "Jewish law is the legal system of the Jewish people as it has developed from Biblical times to the present". This definition by Phyllis Weisbrod in "Basic books and periodicals on Jewish law: a guide for law librarians", 82 Law Libr. J. 519 (1990) summarizes a complex written, oral, and oral-as-written textual history of sources for Jewish law. "Torah" is the term used for the divine source of wisdom relating to all of creation, so to work towards a definition that relates to the narrower scope of its application as law, or "halakhah", begins with the Torah in a more literal sense, namely, the first five books of what the Christian western tradition calls the "Pentateuch" or first five books of what came to be the Bible. While the status in Biblical and form-based criticism of the ancient compilers of this narrative is beyond the scope of this guide, an oral history of commentary on the Torah arose and became written down as the "Mishnah" in approximately the year 200. Talmud and Torah also contain non-legal teachings bound up with legend, myth and philosophy, referred to as aggadah.

Learned opinions based on this addition to the divine tradition were recorded as a commentary on the Mishnah and became known as the "Talmud" or "study". The Jerusalem Talmud (or Gemarah in Aramaic) dates from the fifth century after Christ and approximately 100 years later there appeared the Babylonian Talmud, a more authoritative text. Other sources of the "oral" law include the "Tosefta" and the "Midrashe Halakhah".

After the fall of the Second Temple in 70 and the ending of the assembly of elders known as the "Sanhedrin", interpretation fell to the institution of a bet din or rabbinical court of three rabbis. Such a court continued through the "diaspora" wherever there was a Jewish population. There is no appeal or stare decisis; one can ask the court to correct an erroneous judgment or re-open a criminal case. The tradition is much closer to that of the European civil law in that regard. Codes of restatement also appeared over time; the "codes of Moses Maimonides" in the 12th century and of "Joseph Karo" in the 16th century are considered authoritative. As those rabbis learned in the law applied it in opinions, these became written down as answers and advice known as "response", and these constitute a living law.

Archaeological research and scroll discoveries have also added to the wealth of study and potential sources for Jewish law. In 1896, noted Talmud scholar and educator Solomon Schechter discovered evidence of

sectarian Jewish documents which later were found to be medieval versions of the Damascus Document fifty years before the Qumran discoveries.

The Halakhah or halakha is followed by orthodox and conservative Jews in both ecclesiastical and civil relations. No country is fully governed by Halakha, but two Jewish people may decide, because of personal belief, to have a dispute heard by a Jewish court, and be bound by its rulings. Jewish law is now applied in personal law (such as marriage and family) in Israel and Morocco and others which recognize such applications to religious communities. On the difficulties of separating legal and non-legal treatments of Jewish daily ritual life as well as commercial and family law areas to which it also applies, and the impact on law cataloging, see *Kuperman, Aaron*, "Technical Services Law Librarian", Volume 25, No. 1 (September 1999).

Christian Canon Law (Roman Catholic Church): Essential facts:
The canon law of the Roman Catholic Church began to develop alongside Roman law and indigenous law in Europe after the end of the Roman Empire and the retreat of ancient Roman law. Gradually canon law and its Roman law elements would develop into a body of law that could challenge emerging monarchies to develop a coherent national law or the civil law code tradition of secular law in most of Europe today.

Canon law is not a divine law, properly speaking, because it is not found in revelation. Instead, it is seen as human law inspired by the word of God and applying the demands of that revelation to the actual situation of the church. Canon law regulates the internal ordering of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion. Canon law is amended and adapted by the legislative authority of the church, such as councils of bishops, single bishops for their respective sees, the Pope for the entire Catholic Church, and the British Parliament for the Church of England.

From *the Catholic Encyclopedia online via New Advent* we have the following definitions and description: Canon law is the body of laws and regulations made by or adopted by ecclesiastical authority, for the government of the Christian organization and its members.... but the expression "canon law" (*jus canonicum*) becomes current only about the beginning of the twelfth century, being used in contrast with the "civil law" (*jus civile*), and later we have the "*Corpus juris canonici*", as we have the "*Corpus juris Civilis*". Canon law is also called "ecclesiastical law" (*jus ecclesiasticum*); however, strictly speaking, there is a slight difference of

meaning between the two expressions: canon law denotes in particular the law of the "Corpus Juris", including the regulations borrowed from Roman law; whereas ecclesiastical law refers to all laws made by the ecclesiastical authorities as such, including those made after the compiling of the "Corpus Juris".

By the twelfth century the mass of laws or canons were systematized and rationalized by canonist Gratian in the "decretals" or Concordance of Discordant Canons near the same time as the revived study of ancient Roman law began at the university at Bologna, but further work was done to create the decretals of Pope Gregory IX in 1234 and so by the end of the 13th century, the "Corpus Iurus Canonici" consisted of the following texts: 1) the "Decretals" of Gregory IX; 2) those of Boniface VIII (Sixth Book of the Decretals); 3) those of Clement V (Clementinæ) i.e. the collections which at that time, with the "Decree" of Gratian, were taught and explained at the universities. (*Catholic Encyclopedia online*) Ecumenical councils of the church, the Pope and Apostolic Letters such as bulls or briefs, decrees of the Roman Curia or Acts of the Holy See also form part of canon law.

The "Roman Curia" or departments of the Holy See consist of Roman Congregations, the tribunals, and the offices of Curia. The "Tribunals" consist of the Sacred Penitentiaria, the Sacred Roman Rota, and the Apostolic Signatura. The "Sacred Roman Rota" consists of auditors who hear contentious cases and are doctors of canon law and theology. They take appeals from the episcopal tribunals of first instance or may be of the first instance for some matters. Cases may be criminal or regarding ordination or matrimony, involving a defender of the bond (of marriage). Advisory opinions may be requested as well. Conclusions of the court must be accompanied by reasons.

A common type of case in canon law relates to requests to grant an annulment of marriage after a civil divorce, since the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church does not recognize divorce. It is a matter of controversy as to whether there have been in fact "ecclesiastical divorces" for influential persons or under experimental canons used in the United States before the latest Code of Canon Law, promulgated in 1983 (and as amended by Pope John Paul II in "Ad tuendam fidem", apostolic letter "motu proprio") but no Catholic theologian or canon lawyer would ever admit to such. The "annulment concept" came into secular law to void forced marriages and in several other instances, and in both religious and secular arenas, the court declares that no marriage ever existed and so it cannot be dissolved.

Hindu Law: Essential facts: From an ancient time, 2000-1500 B.C., the Vedic literature existed, and while they inform a tradition of gods they point to the concept of the One as interpreted by the Brahmans, these teachers also used the "sutras" or memorized books (like textbooks) of law or "dharma" (in one of its meanings; closer to "way of life").

The "Laws of Manu", a mythical author, of circa 200 B.C. shows the beginnings of the legal tradition of great variety although he focus was family, property, and succession law. This early Sanskrit literature was replaced gradually in the colonial period when the British substituted their own translations and understanding in place of what came before; Anglo-Indian law preserved family law areas (five elements of family law – marriage, child marriage, polygamy, divorce, and maintenance) as Hindu personal law and replaced the rest with colonial British law. It was a judge who made the law. The "Hindu Code of independence" became one among other personal codes and preserved much of the British innovation. Custom and local tradition could prevail over sacred texts even in the time of classical Indian law. According to the "Laws of Manu", there are four sources of "dharma": 1) the Vedas; 2) tradition, especially as set forth in treatises like "Dharmasastras"; 3) customary laws created by local or regional communities, and 4) personal preference.

The important post-colonial acts of Parliament for the Hindu Code include: 1) the Hindu Marriage Act No. XXV of 1955, Hindu Code (1955); 2) the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act 78 of 1956, Hindu Code (1956); 3) the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act No. 32 of 1956, Hindu Code (1956); 4) the Hindu Succession Act No. XXX of 1956, Hindu Code (1956); and 5) the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act No. XXXIX of 2005.

Buddhist Law and Legal Theory: Essential Facts: Tibet 1940-1959 is the most illustrative jurisdiction for an examination of what followers of the Buddha in an authentic Buddhist culture regard as the source of laws and rules that govern a monastically inclined community as well as householders' obligations.

According to *Rebecca French*, there are five major sources for Tibetan legal concepts: 1) religious source material such as the "Vinaya" which is a canonical text outlining the rules for the monks to follow as Buddha spoke them case by case; 2) extant official documents which include administrative law books, edicts, decision documents, treatises, government contracts, estate record books, tax records and deeds to land; 3)

documents issued by non-governmental institutions such as monastic constitutions, private leases and private contract documents; 4) law codes; and 5) written and oral statements describing the legal system.

"Dhammasattha" is the Pali term for the genre of legal literature which may be examined in relationship to householders and communities or "sanghas" used by such communities in Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand and this literature probably dates from the first millennium. Courts of law in colonial times used "Acts of Truth" in Sri Lanka's Sinhala Buddhist community for proof in judicial proceedings. These were oaths taken upon consequences to be observed as between truth-tellers and others. In Thailand, legal proceedings that replace informal "injury narratives" in tort cases (or events which may or may not result in a case) appear less effective in resolution of claims than the traditional methods under Buddhist obligations. These exercises in legal history and anthropology bear on modern developments in criminal law and restorative justice as well.

Confucian Law and Legal Theory: Essential Facts: The teachings of "K'ung-tzu" (older form Kong fou-tseu) known in the west as Confucius bear on the informal legal tradition of the Chinese jurisdictions where the rite and custom of persuasive example or "li" has been an alternative even within that culture to legalistic codes or more positive law ("fa"). Penal and administrative law has been more prominent than any private law and so the influence as of other religious systems on family law or obligations is not seen in the positive law. "Confucianism" is often seen as a philosophy and not a religion, but it is included here as a basis for law as a means of social control and reinforcing roles, similar in some ways to ancient Roman law.



Before you read: My questions to you:

1. What is Religious Law?
2. What are the main concepts and ideas which religious law could include?
3. What are the sources of Religious Law?
4. How Does Religious Law interact with other forms of Laws?
5. What Types of Religious Law do you know?
6. How important is Religious Law today?
7. Are there many countries in the world which exercise religious law?

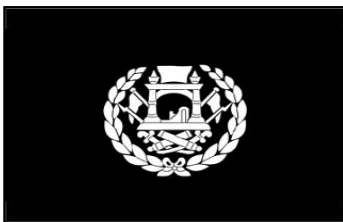




Text 1. Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan)



The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South-Central Asia. Afghanistan is administratively divided into 34 provinces, and for each province there is a capital. Each province is then divided into many provincial districts, and each district normally covers a city or several townships. Its capital is Kabul.



Politics in Afghanistan has historically consisted of power struggles, bloody coups and unstable transfers of power. With the exception of a military junta, the nation has been governed by nearly every system of government over the past centuries, including a monarchy, republic, theocracy and communist state. The constitution ratified by the 2003 Loya jirga (a phrase in the Pashto language meaning "grand council") restructured the government as an Islamic republic consisting of the three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. In recent years the politics of Afghanistan have been dominated by the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan by the NATO forces and the subsequent efforts to stabilize and democratize the country. The nation's new constitution has been adopted and the executive president was democratically elected in 2004. The parliamentary elections took place the following year, in September 2005.

The constitution of Afghanistan creates a strong presidency. A president is elected with two Vice-presidents. The president appoints ministers and governors. The 2005 Parliamentary Election for the House of the People (or Wolesi Jirga) was the first parliamentary election in Afghanistan since 1969. 2707 candidates, including 328 women, competed for 249 seats. The election was conducted with multiple seat electoral constituencies. Each province is a constituency and has a varying number of seats, depending on population. Voters have a single non-transferable vote. The Meshrano Jirga or House of the Elders consists of 102 members. One-third of the members were appointed by the president, while another third was elected by the provincial councils. Elections for the provincial councils were held simultaneously with those for the Wolesi Jirga. The remaining

third is supposed to be elected by district councils. However, elections for the district councils have been postponed, meaning that one-third of the seats in the Meshrano Jirga will be vacant when it assembles.

Despite Taliban and other anti-government forces stating they intended to disrupt the elections, the polling day went by with minimal violence. The Constitution of Afghanistan mandates a Supreme Court. Other minor courts were created too, such as high courts, appeals courts, and other district Courts. Political parties in Afghanistan are in flux and many prominent players have plans to create new ones. As of the 2005 Parliamentary Election, political parties are not legally recognized and candidates must run as independents, although parties can support candidates who are members.



Text 2. Bangladesh (The People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Bangladesh, officially the People's Republic of Bangladesh, is a country in South Asia. Its name means "Country of Bengal" in the official Bengali language. The borders of present-day Bangladesh were established with the partition of Bengal and India in 1947, when the region became the eastern wing of the newly formed Pakistan. The war for independence of 1971 led to the establishment of Bangladesh.

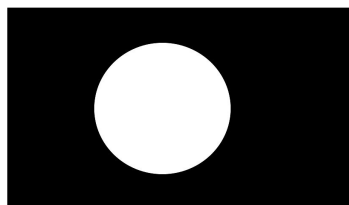
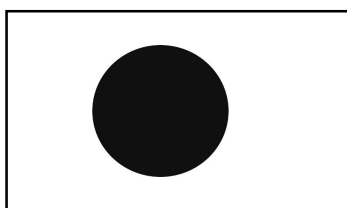


After independence, the new state endured famines, natural disasters and widespread poverty, as well as political turmoil and military coups. The restoration of democracy in 1991 has been followed by relative stability and economic progress. The capital of Bangladesh is Dhaka.

The Constitution of Bangladesh was written in 1972. Politics today takes place in a framework of a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President is the head of state, but it is largely a ceremonial post. The real power belongs to the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. The president is elected by the legislature every five years and normally is limited in powers that are substantially expanded during the

period of transition to a new government.

Bangladesh has instituted a unique system of transfer of power; when



at the end of the tenure of the government, all power is handed over to members of a civil society for 3 months, who run the general elections and transfer the power to the elected representatives. This system was first practiced in 1991, to become a part of the constitution in 1996. The prime minister is appointed by the president and must be a member of parliament (MP) with the majority of the MPs' support. The cabinet is composed of the ministers selected by the prime minister and appointed by the president. The

National Parliament consists of 300 members and is elected by universal suffrage (for citizens over 18 years old) every 5 years. Since 1991 political parties during their tenure in government have initiated the separation of the judiciary, which was later signed and passed by the president. The highest judiciary body now is the Supreme Court which has judiciary and administrative authority over all lower courts.



Text 3. The Gambia (Republic of the Gambia)



The Gambia, officially the Republic of the Gambia, is a country in Western Africa. The Gambia is the smallest country of Africa. The Gambia is divided into 5 divisions and one city. Banjul is the Gambia's capital, but the largest conurbation is Serekunda.

The Gambia shares historical roots with many other African nations in the slave trade, which was the key to the establishment of a colony on the Gambia River, first by the Portuguese and later by the British colonists. Since gaining its independence in 1965, the Gambia has enjoyed relative stability, with the exception of a brief period of military rule in 1994.

Before the coup d'état in July 1994, The Gambia was one of the oldest existing multi-party democracies in Africa. It had conducted freely contested elections every 5 years since independence. After the military coup, politicians from deposed President Jawara's People's Progressive

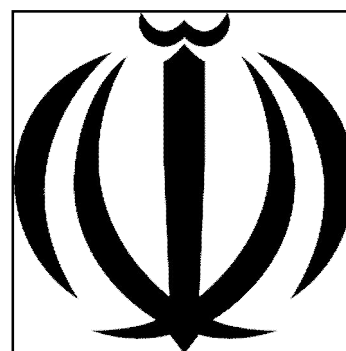
Party (PPP) and other senior government officials were banned from participating in politics until July 2001.

Politics of the Gambia today takes place in a framework of a presidential republic, whereby the President of The Gambia is both the head of state and head of government. The president is elected by popular vote for a five-year term; the number of terms is not restricted. The Office of the President is the Highest Executive Office in The Gambia. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet; he is the Commander in Chief of The Armed Forces and the Chief Custodian of the Sacred Constitution of The Gambia. The President is also the Minister of Defense and holds responsibility over several Departments. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. The National Assembly has 53 members, 48 members are elected for a five year term and 4 members are appointed by the President. The Gambia is a one party dominant state with the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction in power (though a multi-party system theoretically has been adopted). Opposition parties are allowed, but are widely restricted in gaining real power. Judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court of the Gambia.



Text 4. Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Iran, also known as Persia, officially the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a country in Central Eurasia and Western Asia. Persia (Iran) is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations. The first Iranian dynasty was formed during the Elamite kingdom in 2800 BCE. Iran is divided into 30 provinces, each governed by an appointed governor. The provinces are divided into counties, and subdivided into districts and sub-districts. Iran has one of the highest urban growth rates in the world. The capital city is Tehran.



The politics of Iran today takes place in a framework of theocracy guided by an Islamic ideology. The political system of the Islamic Republic is based on the 1979 Constitution and its 1989 amendment. According to the Constitution, it is the duty of the Islamic government to furnish all citizens with equal and appropriate opportunities,

to provide them with work, and to satisfy their essential needs, so that the course of their progress may be assured. The Constitution also declares that

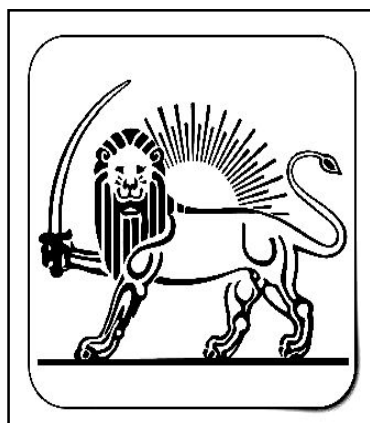


Shi'a Islam of the Twelver school of thought is Iran's official religion.

The most powerful political office in the Islamic Republic is that of the Supreme Leader, of which there have been two: the founder of the Republic, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and his successor, Ali Khamenei. The Leader appoints the heads of many powerful posts – the commanders of the armed forces, the director of the national radio and television network, the heads of the major religious foundations, the prayer leaders in city mosques, and the members of national security councils dealing with defense and foreign affairs. He also appoints the chief judge, the chief prosecutor, special tribunals and, with the help of the chief judge, half of the 12 jurists of the Guardian Council.

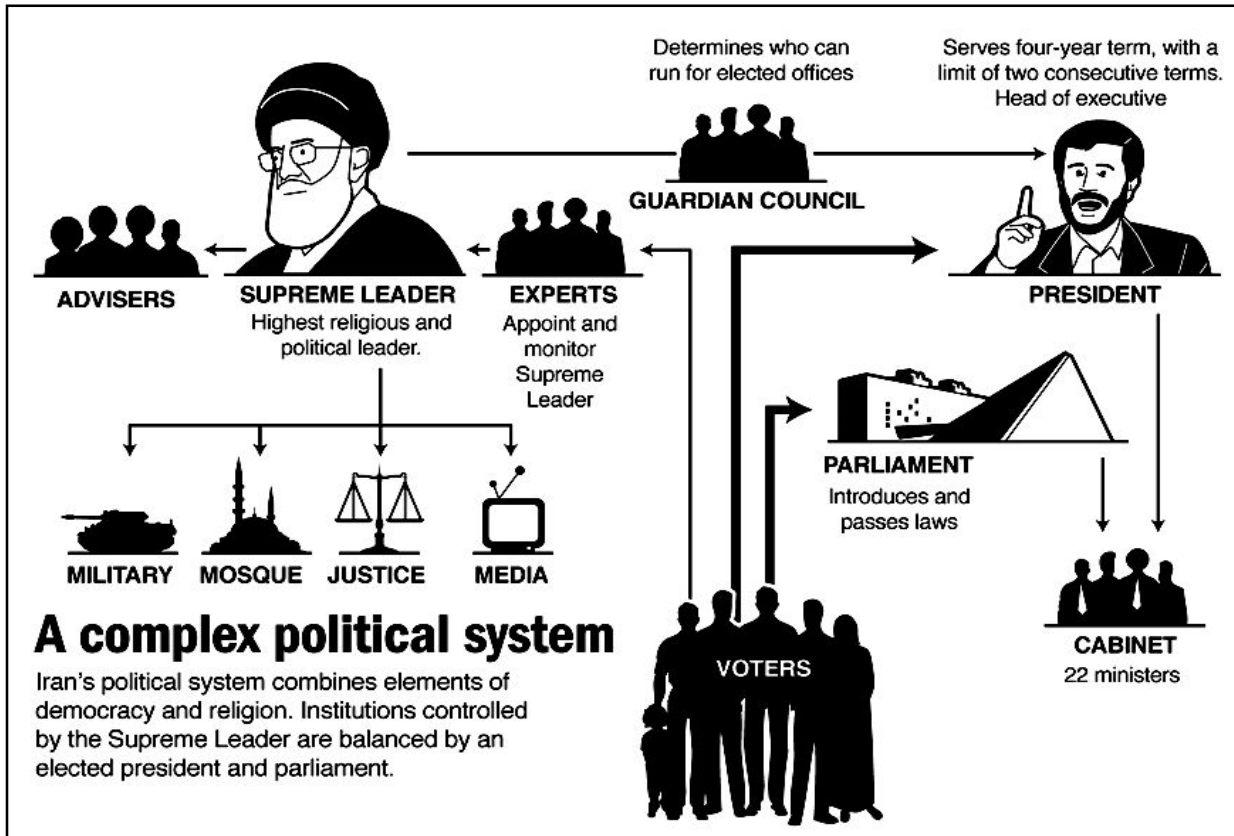
The Assembly of Experts, which meets for at least two days, twice annually, comprises 86 "virtuous and learned" clerics elected by adult suffrage for eight-year terms. Based on the laws approved by the first Assembly, the Council of Guardians has to determine candidates' eligibility using a written examination. The Assembly elects the Supreme Leader and has the constitutional authority to remove the Supreme Leader from power at any time. As all of their meetings and notes are strictly confidential, the Assembly has never been known to challenge any of the Supreme Leader's decisions.

The Constitution defines the President as the highest state authority after the Supreme Leader. The President is elected by universal suffrage, by



those over 18 years old, for a term of four years. Presidential candidates must be approved by the Council of Guardians prior to running. The President is responsible for the implementation of the Constitution and for the exercise of executive powers, except for matters directly related to the Supreme Leader. The President appoints and supervises the Council of Ministers, coordinates government decisions, and selects government policies to be placed before the legislature. Currently, 10 Vice-Presidents serve under the President, as well as a cabinet of 21 ministers, who must all

be approved by the legislature. Unlike many other states, the executive branch in Iran does not control the armed forces. Although the President appoints the Ministers of Intelligence and Defense, it is customary for the President to obtain explicit approval from the Supreme Leader for these two ministers before presenting them to the legislature for a vote of confidence.



The current legislature of Iran is unicameral. Before the Iranian Revolution (also known as the Islamic Revolution of 1979 which led to the overthrow of Iran's monarchy), the legislature was bicameral, with the senate (upper house) half elected, half appointed by the Shah. The senate was removed in the new constitution.

The Parliament of Iran today comprises 290 members elected for four-year terms. The Parliament drafts legislation, ratifies international treaties, and approves the national budget. All Parliament candidates and all legislation from the assembly must be approved by the Council of Guardians. The Guardian Council is composed of 12 jurists, including six clerics appointed by the Supreme Leader, and six jurists elected by the Majles from among the Muslim jurists nominated by the Head of the Judicial System. The Council interprets the constitution and may reject bills from parliament deemed incompatible with the constitution or Sharia (Islamic law). These are referred back to parliament for revision. The Guardian Council – is the powerful body that decides both what bills may

become law and who may run for president or parliament. The Guardian Council is also a part of the Executive branch of the government. The

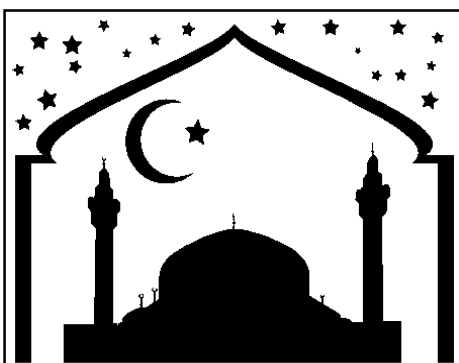


Expediency Council has the authority to mediate disputes between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, and serves as an advisory body to the Supreme Leader, making it one of the most powerful governing bodies in the country. Its members include heads of the three government branches, the clerical members of the Guardian Council and various

other members appointed by the supreme leader for three-year terms. Cabinet members and parliamentary leaders also serve as temporary members when issues under their jurisdictions are under review.

The Supreme Leader appoints the head of the Judiciary, who in turn appoints the head of the Supreme Court and the chief public prosecutor. There are several types of courts including public courts that deal with civil and criminal cases, and "revolutionary courts" which deal with certain categories of offenses, including crimes against national security. The decisions of the revolutionary courts are final and cannot be appealed. The Special Clerical Court handles crimes allegedly committed by clerics, although it has also taken on cases involving lay people. The Special Clerical Court functions independently of the regular judicial framework and is accountable only to the Supreme Leader. The Court's rulings are final and cannot be appealed. It has also been known to organizations such as the United Nations and the World Criminal Court that a very complex system of bribery has developed because of the high crime rate.

Local councils are elected by public vote to 4-year terms in all cities and villages of Iran. According to article 7 in Iran's Constitution, these local



councils together with the Parliament are "decision-making and administrative organs of the State". This section of the constitution was not implemented until 1999 when the first local council elections were held across the country. Councils have many different responsibilities including electing mayors, supervising the activities of municipalities;

studying the social, cultural, educational, health, economic, and welfare affairs.



Text 5. Libya

(Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Libya, officially the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, is a country located in North Africa. The word "jamāhīriyya" in the full title of the country is the Arabic term for "republic". The capital of Libya is Tripoli.

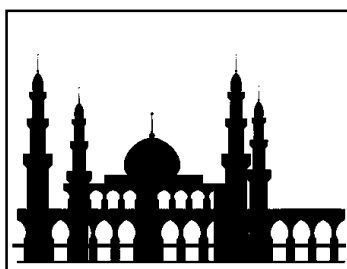
Libya has no formal constitution. The country's political system is based on the political philosophy of Muammar al-Qadhafi's Green Book, which combines socialist and Islamic theories and rejects parliamentary democracy and political parties. Political parties were banned by the Prohibition of Party Politics Act Number 71 of 1972.

According to the Association Act of 1971, the establishment of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is allowed. As they are required to conform to the goals of the revolution, however, the number of NGOs in Libya is small in comparison with neighboring countries. Unions do not exist as such at all.

Libya is considered a de-facto dictatorship and is ruled by Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi. In theory, there are two branches of government in Libya. Politics of Libya thus takes place in a framework of a dual government structure. The "revolutionary sector" comprises: Revolutionary Leader Gaddafi, the Revolutionary Committees and the remaining members of the 12-person Revolutionary Command Council, which was established in 1969. The historical revolutionary leadership is not elected and cannot be voted out of office; they are in power by virtue of their involvement in the revolution. The second sector, the Jamahiriya sector, comprises: Local People's Congresses in each of the 1,500 urban wards, 32 Sha'biyat People's Congresses for the regions, and the National General People's Congress (the total number of representatives is 2700). These legislative bodies are represented by corresponding executive bodies – Local People's Committees, Sha'biyat People's Committees and the National General People's Committee (or the Cabinet). Every four years, the members of the Local People's Congresses elect their own leaders and the secretaries for the People's Committees, sometimes after many debates and a critical vote. The leadership of the Local People's Congress represents the local congress at



the People's Congress of the next level. The members of the National General People's Congress elect the members of the National General

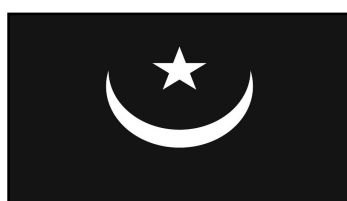


People's Committee (the Cabinet, whose members are secretaries of Libyan ministries) at their annual meeting. In theory, Libya is a direct democracy in which the people govern themselves through the numerous popular councils and communes. In practice, it is understood that Gaddafi exercises absolute control over the government and the country.

The Libyan court system consists of four levels: summary courts, which try petty offenses, the courts of first instance, which try more serious crimes; the courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court, which is the final appellate level. The GPC appoints justices to the Supreme Court. Special "revolutionary courts" and military courts operate outside the court system to try political offenses and crimes against the state. Libya's justice system is nominally based on Sharia law.



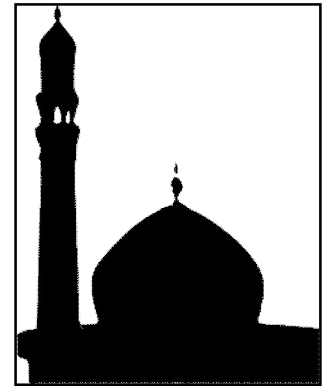
Text 6. Mauritania (Islamic Republic of Mauritania)



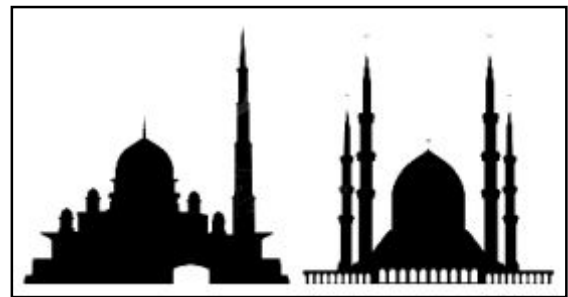
Mauritania, officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in North Africa. It is named after the Roman province of Mauretania, even though the modern state covers a territory far to the southwest of the old province. Mauritania is divided into 12 regions and one capital district in Nouakchott, which in turn are subdivided into 44 departments. The capital and the largest city is Nouakchott, located on the Atlantic coast.

Personalities have long exercised an important influence in the politics of Mauritania – the effective exercise of political power in the country depends on control over resources; perceived ability or integrity; and tribal, ethnic, family, and personal relations. Conflict between white Moor, black Moor, and non-Moor ethnic groups, centering on language, land tenure, and other issues, continues to pose challenges to the idea of national unity.

The Government type of modern Mauritania is a military junta. The Executive power is vested in the President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz – who is the chief of state and the Prime Minister Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf – who is the head of government. The current President deposed democratically elected President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdellahi in a coup and installed himself as President of the High State Council on 6 August 2008, then he retired from the military office and stepped down from the Presidency in April 2009 to run for the president; he was elected the President in an election held on 18 July 2009. The Mauritanian lawmaker, Mohammed Al Mukhtar, announced that "many of the country's people were supporting the takeover attempt and the government is "an authoritarian regime" and that the president had "marginalized the majority in parliament." The Cabinet supports the current President and consists of the Council of Ministers.

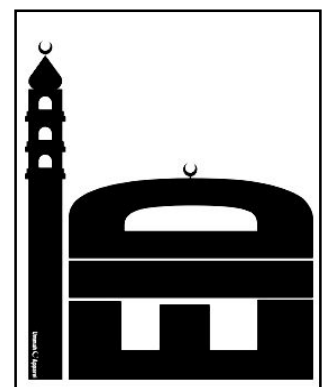


Legislative branch is represented by the bicameral legislature which consists of the Senate (or Majlis al-Shuyukh) and the National Assembly (or Al Jamiya Al Wataniya). The Senate has 56 seats: 53 members – are elected by municipal leaders and 3 members – are elected for Mauritians abroad to serve six-year terms; a portion of seats change every two years (one third renewed every two years). The National Assembly has 95 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms in single-seat constituencies. The suffrage is universal, for all citizens over 18 years of age. The position of the parliament in the present situation is unclear.



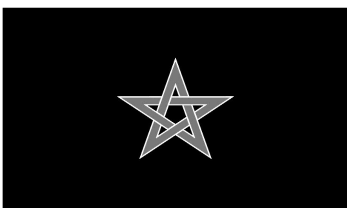
The Legal system of Mauritania is a combination of Islamic law and French civil law; the country has not accepted compulsory ICJ (International Court of Justice) jurisdiction. Judicial branch is composed of the Supreme Court; the Court of Appeals and lower courts. Until 2005, Mauritania was a one party dominant state with the Democratic and Social Republican Party, now only the Republican Party for Democracy and Renewal is in power. Opposition political parties are allowed, but had no real chance of gaining power.

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Text 7. Morocco (Kingdom of Morocco)



Morocco, officially the Kingdom of Morocco, is a country located in North Africa. The history of Morocco spans over 12 centuries, the country was first created by the Idrisid dynasty, whose origins were from Saudi Arabia, representing the first Islamic state in Africa autonomous from the Arab Empire. Morocco is divided into 16 administrative regions; the regions are administered by the governors appointed by the King. The capital of Morocco is Rabat.

Politics of Morocco today take place in a framework of a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, whereby the Prime Minister of Morocco is the head of government within a multi-party system. The Moroccan Constitution provides for a monarchy with a Parliament and an independent judiciary. The constitution grants the king all the extensive powers: he is both the secular political leader and the "Commander of the Faithful" as a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. He presides over the Council of Ministers; appoints the Prime Minister following legislative elections, and on recommendations from the latter, appoints the members of the government. Theoretically the king could terminate the tenure of any minister, and after consultation with the heads of the higher and lower Assemblies, to dissolve the Parliament, suspend the constitution, call for new elections, or rule by decree, the only time this happened was in 1965. The King is formally the chief of the military. Executive power is exercised by the government.

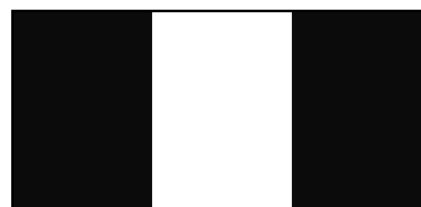
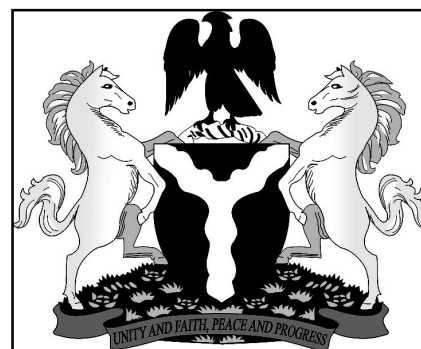
Legislative power is vested in both the government and the parliament. Since the constitutional reform of 1996, the bicameral legislature consists of two chambers: the Assembly of Representatives of Morocco and the Assembly of Councilors. The Assembly of Representatives of Morocco has 325 members elected for a five year term: 295 – elected in multi-seat constituencies and 30 – in national lists consisting only of women. The Assembly of Councilors has 270 members, elected for a nine year term: 162 – elected by local councils, 91 – by professional chambers and 27 – by wage-earners.

The Parliament's powers, though limited, were expanded under the 1992 and 1996 constitutional revisions and include budgetary matters, approving bills, questioning ministers, and establishing ad hoc commissions of inquiry to investigate the government's actions. The lower chamber of Parliament may dissolve the government through a vote of no confidence. The highest court in the judicial structure of Morocco is the Supreme Court, whose judges are appointed by the King. The government continues to implement a reform program to develop greater judicial independence and impartiality.



Text 8. Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria)

Nigeria, officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a federal constitutional republic comprising 36 states and its Federal Capital Territory. The country is located in West Africa. The three largest and most influential ethnic groups in Nigeria are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. In terms of religion Nigeria is roughly split between Muslims and Christians with a very small minority who practice traditional religions. The Capital city is Abuja.



Nigeria is a Federal Republic modeled after the United States, with executive power exercised by the president and with influences from the Westminster System on the composition and management of the bicameral legislature.

However, the President of Nigeria is both the head of state and head of government within a multi-party system, who is directly elected by the people. Nigerian politics takes place thus within a framework of a federal, presidential, representative democratic republic. Executive branch is divided between the Federal Ministries, headed by ministers appointed by the President. One member of each of the 36 states should be included in his cabinet at least. The President's appointments are confirmed by the Senate of Nigeria. In some cases a Federal minister is responsible for more than one ministry (e.g. Environment and Housing), and may be assisted by one or more ministers of State. Each ministry also has a Permanent Secretary, who is a senior civil servant. The ministries are responsible for

various government-owned corporations such as universities (Education), National Broadcasting Commission (Information) and Nigerian National Petroleum Corp (Petroleum). Other government-owned corporations are the responsibility of the Office of the Presidency.



Legislative power is vested in both the government and the two chambers of the legislature: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together the two chambers make up the law-making body known as the National Assembly. The House of Representatives is presided over by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It has 360 members, elected for a four year term in single-seat constituencies. The Senate is presided over by the President of the Senate. It has 109 members, elected for a four year term in 36 three-seat constituencies (corresponding to the country's 36 states) and one

seat in a single-seat constituency (the federal capital, Abuja).

The highest judiciary body of government is the Supreme Court of Nigeria. It is presided over by the Chief Justice of Nigeria and thirteen associate justices, appointed by the President of Nigeria on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council and subject to confirmation by the Senate. Nigeria also practices Baron de Montesquieu's theory of the separation of powers. The National Assembly serves as a watchdog to the excesses of the executive arm of government.

The law of Nigeria is based on the rule of law and the independence of the Judiciary, and also on the British common law system—because of the long history of British colonial influence. The legal system is therefore similar to the common law systems used in England and Wales and in other



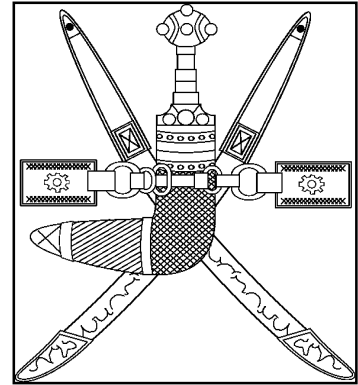
Commonwealth countries. The constitutional framework for the legal system is provided by the Constitution of Nigeria. There are four distinct systems of law in Nigeria: 1) English Law is derived from its colonial past with Britain; 2) Common law, case law – since colonial independence; 3) Customary law is

derived from indigenous traditional norms and practices; 4) Sharia law, used only in the predominantly Hausa and Muslim north of the country.



Text 9. Oman (Sultanate of Oman)

Oman, officially the Sultanate of Oman, is an Arab country in southwest Asia on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Its capital and the largest city is Muscat. The Omanis were among the first people to embrace Islam. The conversion of the Omanis is usually ascribed to Amr ibn al-As, who was sent by the prophet Muhammad around 630 AD to invite the joint rulers of Oman at that time, to accept the faith, in which he eventually succeeded. In accepting Islam, Oman became an Ibadhi state, ruled by an elected leader, the Imam.



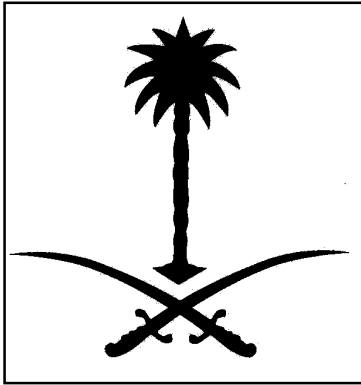
Politics of Oman takes place in a framework of an absolute monarchy whereby the Sultan of Oman, who is the hereditary sultan, is not only the head of state, but also the head of government. Along with his position as Sultan, he is prime minister, defense minister, finance minister, foreign affairs minister, and chair of the central bank.

The Sultan of Oman appoints a cabinet to assist him. In the early 1990s, the Sultan instituted an elected advisory council, the Majlis ash-Shura, though few Omanis were eligible to vote. Universal suffrage was instituted on 4 October, 2003 for those over 21. The Consultative Assembly systematizes and broadens public participation in government. The Assembly has 83 elected members with only consultative tasks. The Sultanate has neither political parties nor legislature, although the bicameral representative bodies provide the government with advice. The sultan does not designate a successor when alive. Instead, the ruling family tries to unanimously designate a new sultan after his death.

Oman's judicial system has traditionally been based on the Shari'a – the Qur'anic laws and the oral teachings of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Traditionally, Shari'a courts fell under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs. The current structure of the criminal court system was established in 1984 and consists of the courts of first instance for criminal cases and Shariah cases, the magistrate court, commercial, shari'a and civil courts – all under the control of the Ministry of Justice. Among the Bedouins, tribal custom often is the law.



Text 10. Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)



Saudi Arabia, officially Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is the largest Arab country of the Middle East. The Kingdom is sometimes called "The Land of the Two Holy Mosques" in reference to Mecca and Medina, the two holiest places in Islam. The two mosques are Masjid al-Haram and Masjid Al-Nabawi.

The current Kingdom was founded by Abdul-Aziz bin Saud, whose efforts began in 1902 when he captured the Al-Saud's ancestral home of Riyadh, and culminated in 1932 with the proclamation and recognition of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia today is an Islamic absolute monarchy form of government. The central institution of the Saudi Arabian government is the Saudi monarchy. The Basic Law of Government adopted in 1992 declared that Saudi Arabia is a monarchy ruled by the sons and grandsons of the first king, Abd Al Aziz Al Saud. It also claims that the Qur'an is the constitution of the country, which is governed on the basis of the Sharia (Islamic Law). The Basic Law of Saudi Arabia (Alternative name: Basic System of Governance) is a constitution-like charter divided into nine chapters, consisting of 83 articles. It is in accordance with the Salafi understanding of Sharia and does not override Islamic laws.

National legislation comes from the Saudi Council of Ministers, but must be ratified by royal decree and be found to be fully compatible with the kingdom's interpretation of Shari'a law. Justice is administered according to Shari'a by a system of religious courts whose judges are appointed by the king on the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council, composed of 12 senior jurists. In theory, the independence of the judiciary is protected by law. The king acts as the highest court of appeal and has the power to pardon. Access to high officials (via public audience) and the right to petition them directly are well-established Saudi traditions.

Criminal cases are tried under Sharia courts in the country. These courts exercise authority over the entire population. Cases involving small penalties are tried in Shari'a summary courts. More serious crimes are adjudicated in Shari'a courts of common pleas. Courts of appeal handle

appeals from Shari'a courts. The Saudi legal system prescribes capital punishment or corporal punishment, including amputations of hands and feet for certain crimes such as murder, robbery, rape, drug smuggling, homosexual activity, and adultery. Theft is also punishable by amputation of the hand, although it is rarely prescribed for a first offense. The courts may impose less severe punishments, such as floggings, for less serious crimes against public morality such as drunkenness, however, these information are not supported by any reliable sources. Murder, accidental death and bodily harm are open to punishment from the victim's family. Retribution may be sought in kind or through blood money. Slavery was abolished in 1962. A lot of laws related to these carry harsh punishments such as floggings for entering the incorrect type of visa.



Civil cases may also be tried under Sharia courts with one exception: Shia may try such cases in their own courts. Other civil proceedings, including those involving claims against the Government and enforcement of foreign judgments, are held before specialized administrative tribunals, such as the Commission for the Settlement of Labor Disputes and the Board of Grievances.

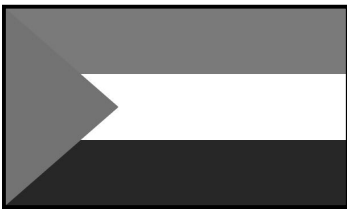
Main sources of Saudi law are Hanbali fiqh as set out in a number of specified scholarly treatises by authoritative jurists, other schools of law, state regulations and royal decrees (where these are relevant), and custom and practice. Saudi Arabia has little formal criminal code, and instead criminal laws largely come out through the kingdom's adherence to a form of Sunni Islam commonly known as Salafi Islam and the desire of the royal family to prevent any type of political opposition. The kingdom does have an extensive civil and commercial code, mainly to encourage economic development and foreign investment.



The Basic Law makes no mention of women. Discussion of discrimination against women and their status as second class citizens has for a long time been a taboo, despite all the misery of women for no reason other than their having been born female. The Saudi Government is an active censor of Internet use within its borders.



Text 11. Sudan (Republic of the Sudan)



Sudan, officially the Republic of the Sudan, is a country in northeastern Africa. It is the largest country in Africa, and the Arab World, and 10th largest in the world by area. The world's longest river, the Nile, divides the country between east and west sides. The Capital city – is Khartoum, while Omdurman remains the largest city. Sudan is divided into – 25 states, which in their turn are subdivided into – 87 districts; 10 states in the Southern Sudan are subdivided into – 84 counties.

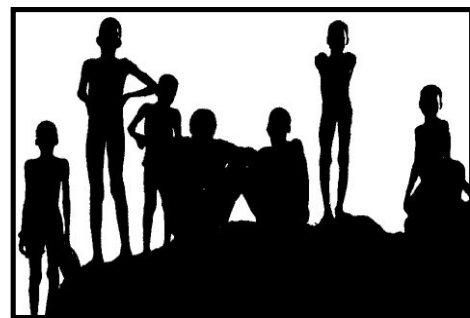
Officially, the politics of Sudan takes place, in the framework of a federal presidential representative democratic republic, where the President of Sudan is the Head of State, Head of Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces within a multi-party system. The Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Legislature. According to the new 2005 constitution, the bicameral National Legislature is the official Sudanese parliament, and is divided between two chambers: the National Assembly (a lower house) – with 450 seats, and the Council of States (an upper house) – with 50 seats. The parliament consists altogether of 500 appointed members, where they are indirectly elected by state legislatures to serve six-year terms. Executive posts are divided between the National Congress Party (NCP), the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Eastern Front and factions of the Umma Party (UP) and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The peace agreement with the rebel group of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) granted Southern Sudan autonomy for six years, to be followed by a referendum on independence in 2011.

The legal system in Sudan is based on English common law and Islamic Sharia. Islamic law was implemented in all of the north as of 20 January 1991, by the now-defunct Revolutionary Command Council; this applies to all residents of the northern states regardless of their religion. The 2005 Naivasha Agreement, ending the civil war between North and South Sudan, established some protections for non-Muslims in Khartoum. International Court of Justice jurisdiction is accepted, though with

reservations. Under the Naivasha Agreement, Islamic law does not apply in the south; the legal system there is still developing. The judiciary of the northern government is regarded as independent and exercised by the Constitutional Court (which consists of 9 justices); the National Supreme Court and National Courts of Appeal, and other national courts; the National Judicial Service Commission provides overall management for the judiciary. However, Sudan is widely recognized as an authoritarian state where all effective political power belongs to the President (Omar al-Bashir) and the ruling National Congress Party (NCP). The political system of the Republic of Sudan was restructured following a military coup of the 30th June 1989, when Omar al-Bashir, then a colonel in the Sudanese Army, led a group of officers and ousted the government of Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi.



The new military government suspended political parties and introduced an Islamic legal code at the national level. In 1993, Sudan was transformed into an Islamic authoritarian single-party state as al-Bashir abolished the Revolutionary Command Council and created the National Islamic Front (NIF) with a new parliament and government obtained solely by members of the NIF. At the same time, the structure of regional administration was replaced by the creation of twenty-six states, each headed by a governor, thus making Sudan a federal republic. As a result, the civil war with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was only escalated on. Following the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government of Omar al-Bashir and the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army), a Government of National Unity was installed in Sudan in accordance with the Interim Constitution whereby a co-Vice President position representing the south was created in addition



to the northern Sudanese Vice President. This allowed the north and south to split oil deposits equally, but also left both the north's and south's armies in place. Following the Darfur Peace Agreement, the office of senior Presidential advisor was allocated to the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA), and this thus became the fourth highest constitutional post.



Text 12. Vatican City (State of the Vatican City)



Vatican City, officially the State of the Vatican City, is a landlocked sovereign city-state whose territory consists of a walled enclave within the city of Rome, the capital city of Italy. It has an area of approximately 44 hectares and a population of just over 800 people. It is the sovereign territory of the Holy See (Sancta Sedes) and the location of the Pope's residence, referred to as the Apostolic Palace. Vatican City was established in 1929. It is distinct from the Holy See, which is the main Episcopal See of 1.147 billion Latin and Eastern Catholic adherents around the globe. Ordinances of Vatican City are published in Italian; official documents of the Holy

See are issued mainly in Latin. The two entities even have distinct passports: the Holy See, not being a country, only issues diplomatic and service passports; the state of Vatican City – issues normal passports. Ambassadors are accredited to the Holy See, never to the Vatican City State.

The politics of Vatican City takes place in an absolute elective monarchy, in which the head of the Roman Catholic Church — the bishop of Rome — the Pope — takes power. The government of Vatican City has a unique structure. The Pope is the sovereign of the state. Legislative authority is vested in the unicameral Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, a body of 7 cardinals appointed by the Pope for five-year periods. It is led by the President of the Pontifical Commission. Executive power is in the hands of the President of that commission, who is regarded as the principal subordinate government official for Vatican City State, assisted by the General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary – together comprising the Governorate of Vatican City – each appointed by the pope for five year terms. Since 2001, the President of the Pontifical Commission also has the title of President of the Governorate of the State of Vatican City. The Governorate oversees the central governmental functions through several departments and offices. There are specific departments that deal with health, security, telecommunications, etc. The directors and officials of these offices are appointed by the pope for five year terms. The highest state

functionaries are all Catholic clergymen of various nationalities. Judicial functions are delegated to a supreme court, an appeals court, a tribunal, and a trial judge. In all cases, nevertheless, the pope may choose at any time to exercise supreme legislative, executive, or judicial functions in the state. In fact, the pope has full and absolute executive, legislative and judicial power over Vatican City. He is currently the only absolute monarch in Europe. The Pope is ex officio the head of state and head of government of Vatican City. The term Holy See refers not to the Vatican state but to the Pope's spiritual and pastoral governance, largely exercised through the Roman Curia. His official title with regard to Vatican City is Sovereign of the State of the Vatican City. The Pope resides in the Papal Apartments of the Papal Palace just off Saint Peter's Square. The current Pope is Benedict XVI, born Joseph Alois Ratzinger in Bavaria, Germany.

Unlike citizenship of other states, which is based either on jus sanguinis (birth from a citizen, even outside the state's territory) or on jus soli (birth within the territory of the state), citizenship of Vatican City is granted jus officii, namely on the grounds of appointment to work in a certain capacity of the service of the Holy See. It usually ceases upon cessation of the appointment. Citizenship is extended also to the spouse, parents and descendants of a citizen, provided they are living with the person who is a citizen. Anyone who on loss of Vatican citizenship possesses no other citizenship, according to Italian law, automatically becomes an Italian citizen. Vatican City is currently the only widely-recognized independent state that has not become a member of the United Nations. The Holy See, which is distinct from Vatican City State, has permanent observer status with all the rights of a full member except for a vote in the UN General Assembly.



Text 13. Yemen (Republic of Yemen)

Yemen, or officially the Republic of Yemen, is a country located on the Arabian Peninsula in Southwest Asia. Yemen is divided into 17 governorates. Its capital is Sana'a. The modern history of Yemen began in 1918 when North Yemen gained independence from the Ottoman Empire. North Yemen became a republic



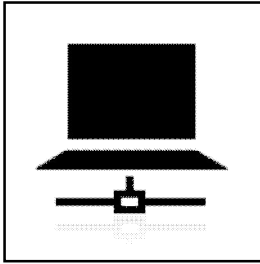
in 1962, but it was not until 1967 that the British Empire, which had set up a protective area around the southern port of Aden in the 19th century, withdrew from what became South Yemen. In 1970, the southern government adopted a Communist governmental system. The two countries were formally united as the Republic of Yemen on May 22, 1990.

Politics of Yemen takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. Under the constitution, an elected president, an elected House of Representatives, and an appointed 111-member Shura Council share power. Executive power is exercised by the government. The President of Yemen is the head of state. The constitution provides that the president should be elected by popular vote from at least two candidates endorsed by Parliament. The presidential term of office is 7 years. The vice-president, prime minister and deputy prime ministers are appointed by the President. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the President on the advice of the prime minister. The Prime Minister of Yemen (who is appointed by the President) is the head of government. Yemen is a republic with a bicameral legislature. The Assembly of Representatives (Majlis al-Nuwaab) has 301 members, elected for a six year term in single-seat constituencies. Suffrage is universal from over 18. In May 1997, the president created a Consultative Council, sometimes referred to as the upper house of Parliament; its 59 members are all appointed by the president. The constitution calls for an independent judiciary. The Judiciary is theoretically independent but in reality it is prone to interference from the executive branch. The former northern and southern legal codes have been unified. The legal system includes separate commercial courts and a Supreme Court based in Sanaá. The Quran is the basis for all laws, and no law may contradict with it. Indeed many court cases are debated on the religious basis of the laws, i.e. through interpretation of the Quran. For this reason, many judges are religious scholars as well as all the representatives of the legal authorities. Religion in Yemen consists primarily of two principal Islamic religious groups. 52% of the Muslim population is Sunni and 46% is Shi'a. Less than 1% of Yemenis are non-Muslim, adhering to Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism and Atheism. Although the Republic of Yemen has been notionally a multi-party system since unification, in reality it is completely dominated by one party, the General People's Congress. Yemen is a member of the UN, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and also participates in the nonaligned movement.



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

Religious law countries



Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview.
- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2)

Population and Human Well-Being; 3) Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5) Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.

Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!



Systematize your knowledge of the topic: Fill in the table:

Choose any three countries to compare in a detailed way:

Countries based on religious law systems

Table 4

Country	Full name of the State	Form of government	Constitution Suffrage	Head of the State	Head of the government	The Legislative Federal Bodies	The Executive Federal Bodies	The Judicial Federal Bodies



It is interesting to know: 10 Weird Religious Practices:

Most religions have one or two unusual practices or devices but occasionally you find one which is just completely weird. This list contains ten of the more unusual things found in modern religions.

1. Shamanism:



"Shamanism" refers to a range of traditional beliefs and practices concerned with communication with the spirit world. The practice of Shamanism is nearly as old as human consciousness itself. Arising from a primary impulse towards ecstasy, the shaman seeks communion with all that is, and in the

process adopts the role of mediator, counsel and healer to his or her community. Because he seeks union with Nature in all its manifestations, he becomes conversant with the Natural Powers, and by following their guidance he is able to achieve feats denied to ordinary mortals. He is, however, bound to the rules of the Cosmos, and as such, he or she is also entrusted with their safekeeping.

There are many variations in shamanism throughout the world, but there are some beliefs that are shared by all forms of shamanism. Its practitioners claim the ability to diagnose and cure human suffering and, in some societies, the ability to cause suffering. This is believed to be accomplished by forming a special relationship with, or gaining control over, spirits. Shamans have been credited with the ability to control the weather, divination, the interpretation of dreams, astral projection, and traveling to upper and lower worlds. Shamans were used in Tibetan Buddhism as a form of divination by which the Dalai Lama was given prophesies of the future and advice.

2. Dowry and Bride (Bridal) Prices:

The customs involving dowries and bride prices date back to ancient times. They were referred to in many of our oldest written records, including the Code of Hammurabi from 1790 BC and the Old Testament of the Bible. A dowry was essentially a gift of money, goods, or land that a bride brought to her husband at marriage. There were several purposes to the establishment of the dowry. One was to help the husband with the

expenses of his new family. The dowry was also intended as a form of life insurance for the bride and her children from the marriage; upon her husband's death she or their shared children would inherit the dowry that her family had paid to the groom. In addition, a dowry was supposed to offer a new wife some assurance that she would not be mistreated or divorced by her husband, as he would be required to return the dowry in those circumstances.

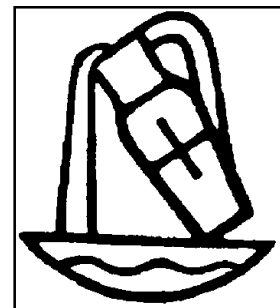
Dowries and bride prices are not only the relics of the past, but, in fact, they are quite common even today. Now this is a cultural practice rather than a religious one. The practice of dowry exists across India, where despite strict laws against it, the practice of dowry continues (the severe punishment to anyone demanding dowry is prescribed in Indian Penal Code (Section 498A)). The girl child's dowry and wedding expenses often sends her family into a huge debt trap.



As consumerism and wealth increase in India, dowry demands are growing. In rural areas, families sell their land holdings, while the urban poor sell their houses. The bride price or bride wealth is a payment that is given by the groom and his family to the bride's family. It is important to note that the bride price was usually paid to the bride's father or family, not to the bride herself. There are several rationales behind the bride price. One is that it was to compensate the bride's family for the loss of her labor. Another reason to pay a bride price was to form a strong bond between the two families. Just as with the dowry, in some parts of the world (particularly Africa) the marriage was not official until the bride price was paid in full.

3. Mormon Baptism of the Dead

"Baptism for the dead", vicarious baptism or proxy baptism is a religious practice of baptizing a living person on behalf of an individual who is dead; the living person is acting as the deceased person's proxy. It has been practiced since 1840 in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where it is also called temple baptism because it is performed only in dedicated temples.



In the practice of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a living person, acting as proxy, is baptized by immersion on behalf of a

deceased person of the same gender. The baptism ritual is as follows: after calling the living proxy by name, the person performing the baptism says,



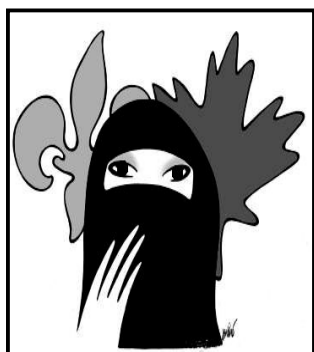
"Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you for and in behalf of (full name of deceased person), who is dead, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen". The proxy is then immersed briefly in the water. Baptism for the dead is a distinctive ordinance of the church and is based on the belief that baptism is a required ordinance for entry into the Kingdom of God. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints vicariously baptizes people regardless of race, sex, or creed. This includes both victims and perpetrators of genocide. Some Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and their supporters have objected to this practice.

4. Jainist Digambaras



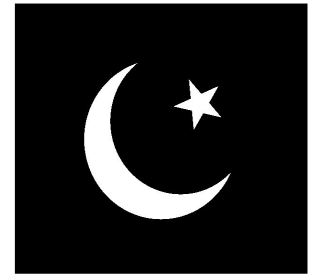
"Digambar" also spelled Digambara is one of the two main sects of Jainism. Senior Digambar monks wear no clothes, following the practice of Lord Mahavira. They do not consider themselves to be nude – they are wearing the environment. Digambaras believe that this practice represents a refusal to give in to the body's demands for comfort and private property — only Digambara ascetics are required to forsake clothing. Digambara ascetics have only two possessions: a peacock feather broom and a water gourd.

5. Islamic Niqab (نقاب)



A "niqab" is a veil which covers the face, worn by some Muslim women as a part of sartorial hijab, which is both the head covering traditionally worn by Muslim women and modest Muslim styles of dress in general. The niqab is popular in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf but it can also be found in North Africa, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Women who wear the niqab are often called niqabiah. The niqab is regarded differently by the various schools of Islamic jurisprudence. Some see it as obligatory, or fard, while others see it as recommended, or mustahab, and a few see it as forbidden. The majority of Islamic scholars, though, say the

niqab is not obligatory in Islam and is merely a custom that dates back to tribal, nomadic societies living in the Arabian desert and other dusty and dry areas before Islam began, in order to provide protection against dust and sand. Saudi women are not required by law to wear the niqāb, however, in large cities most women observe niqab as tradition and it remains de facto obligatory. Women may be harassed by the religious police if they do not cover their faces. Efforts in some countries, like Turkey, to ban the niqab have been met with protests. In fact, Turkey tends not to enforce this law because some women feel protected by wearing the niqab.



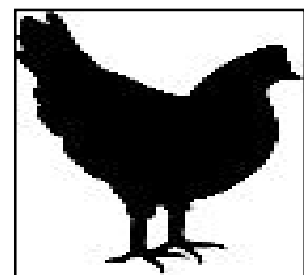
6. Jehovah's Witnesses Refusal of Blood Transfusions

A fundamental doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses teaches that the Bible prohibits consumption, storage and transfusion of blood, including in cases of emergency. This doctrine was introduced in 1945, and has been elaborated upon since then. Although accepted by a majority of Jehovah's Witnesses, evidence indicates a minority does not wholly endorse this doctrine. Facets of the doctrine have drawn praise and criticism from both members of the medical community and Jehovah's Witnesses alike. In 1964, Jehovah's Witnesses were prohibited from obtaining transfusions for pets, from using fertilizer containing blood, and were even encouraged to write to dog food manufacturers to verify that their products were blood-free. Later that year, Jehovah's Witnesses doctors and nurses were instructed to withhold blood transfusions from fellow Jehovah's Witnesses. As to administering transfusions to non-members, The Watchtower stated that such a decision is "left to the Christian doctor's own conscience".



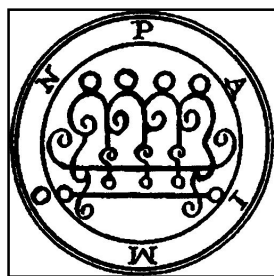
7. Jewish Kaparot (כפרות)

"Kaparot" is a traditional Jewish religious ritual that takes place around the time of the High Holidays. Classically, it is performed by grasping a live chicken by the shoulder blades and moving around one's head three times, symbolically transferring one's sins to the chicken. The chicken is then slaughtered and donated to the poor, preferably eaten at the pre-Yom Kippur feast. In modern times,



Kaparot is performed in the traditional form mostly in Haredi communities. The ritual is preceded by the reading of Psalms and Job. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals charged those supporting the Kaparot tradition with animal cruelty for the drowning deaths of the chickens. In response to the reports of the mistreatment of chickens, animal rights organizations have begun to picket public observances of kaparot, particularly in Israel.

8. Exorcism



"Exorcism" is the practice of evicting demons or other evil spiritual entities from a person or place which they are believed to have possessed (taken control of). The practice is quite ancient and still part of the belief system of many religions, though it is seen mostly in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. Solemn exorcisms, according to the Canon law of the church, can only be exercised by an ordained priest (or higher prelate), with the express permission of the local bishop, and only after a careful medical examination to exclude the possibility of mental illness. The Catholic Encyclopedia (1908) enjoined: "Superstition ought not to be confounded with religion, however much their history may be interwoven, nor magic, however white it may be, with a legitimate religious rite".

9. Scientology E-Meter




An "E-meter" is an electronic device manufactured by the Church of Scientology at their Gold Base production facility. It is used as an aid by Dianetics and Scientology counselors and counselors-in-training in some forms of auditing, the application of the techniques of Dianetics and Scientology to another or to oneself for the express purpose of addressing spiritual issues. E-meter sessions are conducted by church employees known as auditors. Scientology materials traditionally refer to the subject as the "preclear", although auditors continue to use the meter well beyond the clear level. The "preclear" holds a pair of cylindrical electrodes ("cans") connected to the meter while the auditor asks the "preclear" a series of questions and notes both the verbal response and the activity of the meter. Auditor training describes many types of needle movements, with each having their own special

significance. A 1971 ruling of the United States District Court specifically stated: "The E-meter has not proven usefulness in the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of any disease, nor is it medically or scientifically capable of improving any bodily function".

10. Mormon Temple Garments

In some denominations of the "Latter Day Saint movement", the temple garment (or the "Garment of the Holy Priesthood", or informally, the garment or garments) is a set of sacred underclothing worn by adult adherents who have taken part in a ritual ceremony known as washing and anointing ordinance, usually in a temple as part of the Endowment ceremony. Adherents consider them to be sacred and may be offended by public discussion of the garments. According to generally-accepted Mormon doctrine, the marks in the garments are sacred symbols. One proposed element of the symbolism, according to early Mormon leaders, was a link to the "Compass and the Square", the symbols of freemasonry, to which Joseph Smith (creator of Mormonism) had been initiated about seven weeks prior to his introduction of the Endowment ceremony.



 Web – resources and support		
№	Тема изучения	Web resources / Интернет ресурсы в помощь при изучении темы
4	Countries based on religious law systems	http://www.essortment.com/lifestyle/quran_ttgu.htm http://www.religlaw.org/ http://www.nyulawglobal.org/ http://www.lawteacher.net/religious-law.php http://www.cfr.org/publication/8034/islam.html http://www.washington-report.org/ http://www.religionlaw.co.uk/ http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1575 http://www.explaininglaw.com/religion/ http://www.iclrs.org/ http://www.religioustolerance.org/isl_adul1.htm http://www.pakspectator.com/ http://wwrn.org/articles/7503/?&place=mongolia http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/edumat/study_guides/religion



Unit V

Pluralistic systems or mixed legal systems countries



Introduction: Pluralism – is, in general sense, the acknowledgment of diversity. The concept is often used in different ways and for a wide range of issues.

Firstly, legal pluralism – is the existence of multiple legal systems within one geographic area. Plural legal systems are particularly prevalent in the former colonies, where the law of the former colonial authority may coexist with the traditional legal system.

When these systems developed, the idea was that some certain issues (e.g., commercial transactions) would be covered by colonial law, while the other issues (e.g., family and marriage) would be covered by traditional law. Over time, these distinctions may tend to break down and the individuals would be able to choose the benefits of those systems that they thought would offer them the best advantages.

Secondly, legal pluralism occurs when different laws govern different groups within one country. For example, in India and Tanzania, there are special Islamic courts which apply Islamic law principles while deciding cases of and for the members of Muslim community. Secular courts deal with the similar issues of the members of other communities respectively.

It would be misleading to discuss the problem of legal pluralism only in relation to non-Western legal systems. It is important to note that modern Western legal systems can also be pluralistic. The recognized sources of Islamic law include the Koran, Sunna, and Ijma, whereas most of the modern western nation-states take roots of their legal systems from the Christian superpowers of the past (i.e. Britain, France, etc.). This is also why some moral rules found in the Bible have actually become fully-fledged laws, with the initial grand norm set far back in legal history, hence fulfilling the priority of both the positivists and the naturalists. This category concerns those political entities where two or more systems apply cumulatively or interactively, and also those entities where there is a juxtaposition of systems as a result of more or less clearly defined fields of application. Legal pluralism as a result allows some unwritten moral rules, norms to finally take shape of actual or formal laws. These laws include, for example, religious accommodations that are unjustified to receive a full pedigree in the eyes of a positivist law.

Broadly speaking, any country that has more than one legal system could be considered as following a legal pluralism model. The world's legal systems are all products of history, largely by conquest and colonization, but also in modern times by reasoned and deliberate adoption by one state of at least part of the legal framework of another. Two important examples are the modernization of Japanese and Egyptian law, and more recently the adoption of western models of commercial, financial and property law in the former socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Legal pluralism also exists to some extent in societies where the legal systems of the indigenous population have been given some recognition. In Australia for example, the "Mabo" decision gave recognition to native title and thus, elements of traditional Aboriginal law. Elements of traditional Aboriginal criminal law have also been recognized, especially in sentencing. This has, in effect, set up two parallel sentencing systems.

Another example is South Africa which has a "hybrid" or "mixed" legal system, made of the interweaving of a number of distinct legal traditions: a civil law system inherited from the Dutch, a common law system inherited from the British, and an indigenous law system inherited from indigenous Africans (often termed African Customary Law). These traditions have had a complex interrelationship, with the English influence most apparent in procedural aspects of the legal system and methods of adjudication, and the Roman-Dutch influence most visible in its substantive private law. As a general rule, South Africa follows English Law in the areas of Procedural Law, Company Law and the Law of Evidence; while Roman-Dutch Common Law is followed in the South African Law of Contract, Law of Delict (tort), Law of Persons, Law of Things, Family Law, etc. With the commencement in 1994 of the interim Constitution, and in 1997 its replacement, the final Constitution, another strand has been added to this weave. According to Prof. Caroline Nicholson (University of Pretoria), "The South African legal system is a complex one and there are no legal systems in the world that have escaped external influences".

The term "mixed systems", which we have chosen over other terms such as "hybrid" or "composite", embraces any legal system in which the law in force is derived from more than one legal tradition or legal family. Thus this category includes political entities where two or more systems apply cumulatively or interactively, but also entities where there is a juxtaposition of systems as a result of more or less clearly defined fields of application.



Before you read: My questions to you:





1. What is "pluralism"? What is "legal pluralism"?
2. What are the sources of legal pluralism?
3. What are "mixed legal systems"? Are they different from those based on "legal pluralism"?
4. Is there any connection between mixed legal systems and Colonialism?
5. What are "hybrid legal systems"? Are they different from those called "mixed legal systems"?
6. Are there many countries in the world based on legal pluralism?

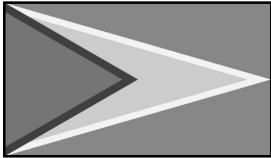






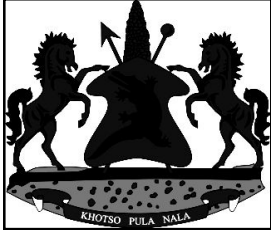


Topic № 1: Civil law and common law countries:




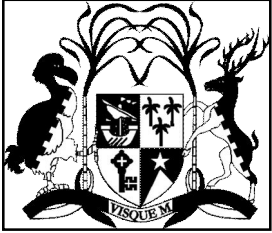
*All links valid as of the 20th of June 2011

Country	Description
<p>Botswana</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Botswana</p> <p>Government type – parliamentary republic</p> <p>Capital – Gaborone</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 9 districts and 5 town councils</p> <p>Constitution – March 1965; effective 30 September 1966</p> <p>Legal system – based on Roman-Dutch law and local customary law and South African law; judicial review limited to matters of interpretation; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bc.html</p> <p>http://www.gov.bw/</p> <p>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1830.htm</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1068674.stm</p> <p>http://www.cso.gov.bw/</p> <p>http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Botswana.html</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/botswana/</p> <p>http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/bots.html</p> <p>http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Botswana.html</p> <p>http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/bw.htm</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Cameroon</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Cameroon</p> <p>Government type – republic; multiparty presidential regime</p> <p>Capital – Yaoundé</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 10 regions</p> <p>Constitution – approved by referendum 20 May 1972; adopted 2 June 1972; revised January 1996</p> <p>Legal system – based on French civil law system with common law influence; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cm.html</p> <p>http://www.spm.gov.cm/</p> <p>http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/cameroon.htm</p> <p>http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/cameroon.htm</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1042937.stm</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/cameroon/</p> <p>http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Cameroon.html</p> <p>http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Cameroon.html</p> <p>http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/cameroon.htm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cyprus</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Cyprus</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Nicosia (Lefkosia)</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 6 districts</p> <p>Constitution – 16 August 1960</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law with French and Greek civil law modifications and public law, Italian civil law, Indian contract law, Greek Orthodox canon law, Muslim religious law, and Ottoman civil law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cy.html</p> <p>http://www.cyprus.gov.cy/portal/portal.nsf/dmlcitizen_en/dmlcitizen_en?OpenDocument</p> <p>http://www.cyprusembassy.net/home/index.php?module=page&pid=12</p> <p>http://www.cyprus.com/cyprus-government-politics.php</p> <p>http://www.police.gov.cy/police/</p> <p>http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2006.nsf/index_en/index_en</p> <p>http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04589a.htm</p>

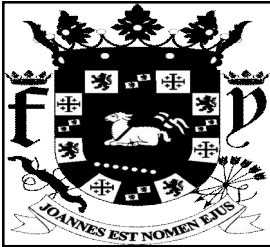
<p style="text-align: center;">Guyana</p>  	<p>Country name – Cooperative Republic of Guyana Government type – republic Capital – Georgetown Administrative divisions – 10 regions Constitution – 6 October 1980 Legal system – based on English common law with certain admixtures of Roman-Dutch law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gy.html http://opnew.op.gov.gy/ http://www.guyana.org/ http://www.gina.gov.gy/ http://www.parliament.gov.gy/ http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Guyana.htm http://www.guyanaguide.com/ http://www.ourkulture.com/ http://www.guyana.org/Handbook/handbook.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Israel</p>  	<p>Country name – State of Israel Government type – parliamentary democracy Capital – Jerusalem Administrative divisions – 6 districts Constitution – no formal constitution; some of the functions of a constitution are filled by the Declaration of Establishment (1948), the Basic Laws of the parliament (Knesset), and the Israeli citizenship law; since May 2003 the Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee of the Knesset has been working on a draft constitution</p> <p>Legal system – influenced by German civil law; mixture of English common law, British Mandate regulations, and in personal matters Jewish (halakhah), Christian, and Muslim legal systems; religious law plays a role, especially in matters of personal status and family law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/ http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA http://www.gov.il/firstgov/english</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Lesotho</p>  	<p>Country name – Kingdom of Lesotho</p> <p>Government type – parliamentary constitutional monarchy</p> <p>Capital – Maseru</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 10 districts</p> <p>Constitution – 2 April 1993</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law and Roman-Dutch law; South African law (a mixed system); judicial review of legislative acts in High Court and Court of Appeal; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/lt.html</p> <p>http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/home/</p> <p>http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Lesotho.html</p> <p>http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/leso.html</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/lesotho/</p> <p>http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/lesotho-guide/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Louisiana (U.S.)</p>  	<p>Country name – United States of America</p> <p>Government type – Constitution-based federal republic; strong democratic tradition</p> <p>Capital – Washington, DC</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 50 states and 1 district</p> <p>Constitution – 17 September 1787, effective 4 March 1789</p> <p>Legal system – federal court system based on English common law; each state has its own unique legal system of which all (but one – Louisiana, which is still influenced by the Napoleonic Code, whose laws are based on French and Spanish civil law, but federal laws based on common law are in effect in Louisiana as well) is based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>http://www.louisiana.gov/</p> <p>http://www.legis.state.la.us/</p> <p>http://www.civilservice.la.gov/index.asp</p> <p>http://wvp.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/usa/louisiana/</p> <p>http://wvp.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/usa/louisiana/</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Malta</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Malta</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Valletta</p> <p>Administrative divisions – none (administered directly from Valletta)</p> <p>Constitution – 1964; amended many times</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law and Roman civil law; eventually progressed to the Code de Rohan, Code Napoleon with influences from Italian Civil Law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/</p> <p>http://www.gov.mt/index.asp?l=2</p> <p>http://www.ezilon.com/regional/malta/government/</p> <p>http://www.foreign.gov.mt/Default.aspx</p> <p>http://www.doi.gov.mt/</p> <p>http://www.mjha.gov.mt/home.html</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1045691.stm</p> <p>http://www.electoral.gov.mt/</p> <p>http://flagspot.net/flags/mt.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mauritius</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Mauritius</p> <p>Government type – parliamentary democracy</p> <p>Capital – Port Louis</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 9 districts and 3 dependencies</p> <p>Constitution – 12 March 1968; amended 12 March 1992</p> <p>Legal system – based on French civil law system with elements of English common law in certain areas; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.mauritius.net/index.php</p> <p>http://www.gov.mu/portal/</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1063172.stm</p> <p>http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107775.html</p> <p>http://www.mauritius-embassy.de/</p> <p>http://www.mauritiusorchid.com/</p> <p>http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/mauritius.html</p> <p>http://www.mbendi.com/land/af/mr/p0005.htm</p> <p>http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=MU</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Namibia</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Namibia</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Windhoek</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 13 regions</p> <p>Constitution – ratified 9 February 1990, effective 12 March 1990</p> <p>Legal system – based on Roman-Dutch law and 1990 constitution; South African law (a mixed system) transferred uno acto through a proclamation of reception; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/wa.html</p> <p>http://www.namibia-travel.net/namibia/government.htm</p> <p>http://www.dmoz.org/Regional/Africa/Namibia/Government/</p> <p>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5472.htm</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/namibia/</p> <p>http://www.namibian.com.na/</p> <p>http://www.lexadin.nl/wlg/legis/nofr/oeur/lxwenam.htm</p> <p>http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/namibia.htm</p> <p>http://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/africaregion/pages/naindex.aspx</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Philippines</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of the Philippines</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Manila</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 80 provinces and 120 chartered cities</p> <p>Constitution – 2 February 1987, effective 11 February 1987</p> <p>Legal system – based on Spanish and Anglo-American common law after 1898 Spanish and Philippine-American Wars; personal law based on Sharia law applies to Muslims; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.philippines.hvu.nl/</p> <p>http://www.gov.ph/</p> <p>http://www.topix.com/world/philippines</p> <p>http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=PH</p> <p>http://pinas.dlsu.edu.ph/history/history.html</p> <p>http://www.chanrobles.com/philsupremelaw.htm</p>

**Puerto Rico
(U.S.)**



Country name – **Commonwealth of Puerto Rico**

Government type – organized territory of the US with commonwealth status; policy relations between Puerto Rico and the US conducted under the jurisdiction of the Office of the President; commonwealth

Capital – San Juan

Administrative divisions – none (territory of the US with commonwealth status); there are no first-order administrative divisions as defined by the US Government, but there are 78 municipalities

Constitution – ratified 3 March 1952; approved by US Congress 3 July 1952; effective 25 July 1952

Legal system – based on civil Spanish law; influenced by U.S. common law after 1898 victory of the U.S. over Spain in the Spanish-American war of 1898 and cession of Puerto Rico to the U.S.; operates within the US Federal system of justice; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

More Information:

<https://www.cia.gov/library>

<http://gopuertorico.about.com/od/introductiontopuertorico/>

<http://www.topuertorico.org/government.shtml>

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/states/us-pr.php>

**Quebec
(Canada)**



Country name – **Canada**


Government type – a parliamentary democracy, a federation, and a constitutional monarchy


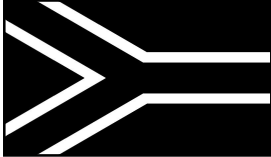
Capital – Ottawa

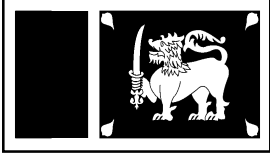

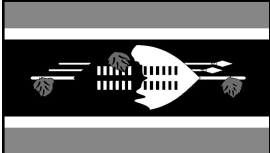
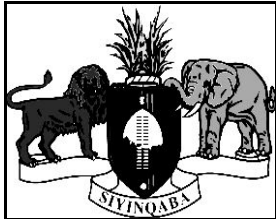
Administrative divisions – 10 provinces and 3 territories



Constitution – made up of unwritten and written acts, customs, judicial decisions, and traditions; the written part of the constitution consists of the Constitution Act of 29 March 1867, which created a federation of four provinces, and the Constitution Act of 17 April 1982, which transferred formal control over the constitution from Britain to Canada, and added a Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as procedures for constitutional amendments


Legal system – based on English common law, except

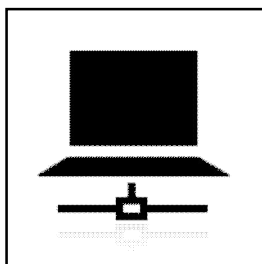
	<p>in Quebec, where civil law system based on French law prevails; however, as Quebec is part of the Canadian Confederation, English-based laws applied at the federal level are in effect in Quebec also; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ca.html http://www.gouv.qc.ca/portail/quebec/pgs/commun/?lang=en</p>
<p>Saint Lucia</p>  	<p>Country name – Saint Lucia</p> <p>Government type – parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm</p> <p>Capital – Castries</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 11 quarters</p> <p>Constitution – 22 February 1979</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law and "Code Napoleon"; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.stlucia.gov.lc/ http://www.geographia.com/st-lucia/ http://www.stats.gov.lc/ http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107931.html http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Saint_Lucia.html http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1210491.stm</p>
<p>Scotland (UK)</p>  	<p>Country name – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Great Britain includes England, Scotland, and Wales</p> <p>Government type – constitutional monarchy and Commonwealth realm</p> <p>Capital – London</p> <p>Administrative divisions – England: 27 two-tier counties, 32 London boroughs and 1 City of London or Greater London, 36 metropolitan districts, 56 unitary authorities (including 4 single-tier counties); Northern Ireland: 26 district council areas; Wales: 22 unitary authorities; Scotland: 32 council areas</p> <p>Constitution – unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practices (constitutional conventions)</p> <p>Legal system – based on common law tradition with</p>

	<p>early Roman and modern continental influences; in Scotland – based on Roman and continental law, with common law elements dating back to the High Middle Ages; has nonbinding judicial review of Acts of Parliament under the Human Rights Act of 1998; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.scotlandistheplace.com/stitp/174.3.42.html http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/scottish_legal_history.htm</p>
<p>Seychelles</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Seychelles</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Victoria</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 23 administrative districts</p> <p>Constitution – 18 June 1993</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law, French civil law, and customary law, where the substantive civil law is based on the French Civil Code, the criminal law and court procedure are based on the English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.seychelles.travel/en/home/index.php http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/6268.htm http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1070461.stm http://www.nation.sc/ http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Seychelles.html</p>
<p>South Africa</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of South Africa</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Pretoria (administrative capital)</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 9 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – 10 December 1996; note - certified by the Constitutional Court on 4 December 1996; was signed by then President Mandela on 10 December 1996; and entered into effect on 4 February 1997</p> <p>Legal system – based on Roman-Dutch civil law and English common law as well as Customary Law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p>

	<p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.gov.za/ http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/southafrica/index.html http://www.safrika.info/</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p>  	<p>Country name – Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Government type – republic Capital – Colombo Administrative divisions – 9 provinces Constitution – adopted 16 August 1978, certified 31 August 1978; amended 20 December 2001 Legal system – a highly complex mixture of English common law, Roman-Dutch civil law, Kandyan, and Customary Law of Jaffna Tamil law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.lanka.net/ http://www.priu.gov.lk/ http://www.lankalibrary.com/ http://www.gov.lk/gov/ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles/1168427.stm http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/srilanka/index.html</p>
<p>Swaziland</p>  	<p>Country name – Kingdom of Swaziland Government type – monarchy Capital (s) – Lobamba, Mbabane Administrative divisions – 4 districts Constitution – signed by the King in July 2005; went into effect on 8 February 2006 Legal system – based on South African Roman-Dutch civil law in statutory courts and Swazi traditional law and custom in traditional courts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.welcometoswaziland.com/ http://www.gov.sz/ http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Swaziland.html http://www.realnet.co.sz/newsite/index.asp http://www.mbendi.com/land/af/sw/p0005.htm</p>

<p>Thailand</p>  	<p>Country name – Kingdom of Thailand</p> <p>Government type – constitutional monarchy</p> <p>Capital – Bangkok</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 76 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – 24 August 2007</p> <p>Legal system – based on civil law system with influences of common law – an amalgam of German, Swiss, French, English, Japanese, Italian, and Indian laws and practices; Islamic laws and practices exist in four southern provinces; Thai law has naturally taken on its own Thai identity; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.thailandguru.com/thailand-governmental-organizations.html</p> <p>http://www.mfa.go.th/web/15.php</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1237845.stm</p> <p>http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/th.html</p> <p>http://www.thailand.com/index.php</p> <p>http://www.thailand.net.au/</p> <p>http://leweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/thtoc.html</p> <p>http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=TH</p> <p>http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/thailand.htm</p>
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	<p>Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation</p> <p>Civil law and common law countries</p>
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Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview;
- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2) Population and Human Well-Being; 3)



Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5) Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.


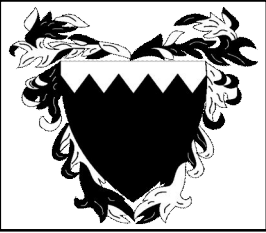



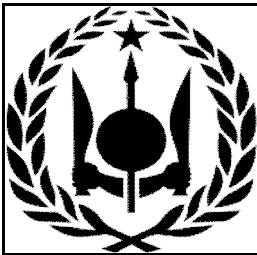
**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*





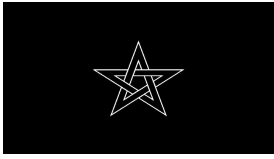

Topic № 2: Civil law and religious law countries:


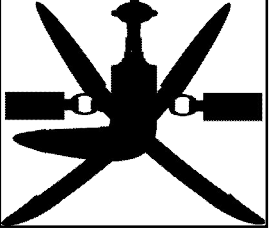
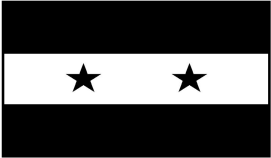

*All links valid as of the 20th of June 2011

Country	Description
<p>Afghanistan</p>  	<p>Country name – Islamic Republic of Afghanistan</p> <p>Government type – Islamic republic</p> <p>Capital – Kabul</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 34 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – drafted 14 December 2003-4 January 2004; signed 16 January 2004; ratified 26 January 2004</p> <p>Legal system – based on mixed civil and sharia law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://en.afghanistan.ru/</p> <p>http://www.afghanistans.com/</p> <p>http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpsrv/world/countries/afghanistan</p> <p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/</p> <p>http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=afghanistan</p> <p>http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/InDepth/OperationsInAfghanistan.htm</p>
<p>Algeria</p>  	<p>Country name – People's Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Algiers</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 48 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – 8 September 1963; revised 19 November 1976; effective 22 November 1976; revised 3 November 1988, 23 February 1989, 28 November 1996, 10 April 2002, and 12 November 2008</p> <p>Legal system – socialist, based on French and Islamic law; judicial review of legislative acts in ad hoc Constitutional Council; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.law.emory.edu/ifl/legal/Algeria.htm</p> <p>http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/dz.html</p> <p>http://www.algeria-us.org/</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/790556.stm</p>


<p>Bahrain</p>  	<p>Country name – Kingdom of Bahrain Government type – constitutional monarchy Capital – Manama Administrative divisions – 5 governorates Constitution – adopted 14 February 2002 Legal system – based on Islamic law and English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/bahrain.htm http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/bh.html http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/790690.stm http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107313.html</p>
<p>Comoros</p>  	<p>Country name – Union of the Comoros Government type – republic Capital – Moroni Administrative divisions – 3 islands and 4 municipalities Constitution – 23 December 2001 Legal system – French and Islamic law in a new consolidated code; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.ksu.edu/sasw/comoros/ http://allafrica.com/comoros/ http://www.mbendi.com/land/af/cm/p0005.htm</p>
<p>Djibouti</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Djibouti Government type – republic Capital – Djibouti Administrative divisions – 6 districts Constitution – approved 4 September 1992 Legal system – French civil law system, traditional practices, and Islamic law; accepts ICJ jurisdiction with reservations More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/djibouti.htm#Government http://allafrica.com/djibouti/ http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/djibouti.html</p>

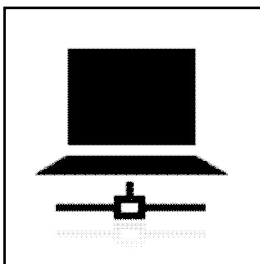
<p style="text-align: center;">Egypt</p>  	<p>Country name – Arab Republic of Egypt</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Cairo</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 29 governorates</p> <p>Constitution – 11 September 1971; amended 22 May 1980, 25 May 2005, and 26 March 2007</p> <p>Legal system – based on Islamic and civil law (particularly Napoleonic codes and French law); judicial review by Supreme Court and Council of State; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu2.html</p> <p>http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Default.aspx</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/28/whats-going-on-in-egypt_n_815734.html</p> <p>http://leweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/egtoc.html</p> <p>http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/egypt.htm</p> <p>http://www.egyptdailynews.com/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Eritrea</p>  	<p>Country name – State of Eritrea</p> <p>Government type – transitional government</p> <p>Capital – Asmara (Asmera)</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 6 regions</p> <p>Constitution – adopted on 23 May 1997, but has not yet been fully implemented</p> <p>Legal system – primary basis is the Ethiopian legal code of 1957 with revisions; new civil, commercial, and penal codes have not yet been promulgated; government also issues unilateral proclamations setting laws and policies; also relies on customary and post-independence-enacted laws and, for civil cases involving Muslims, Islamic law; does not accept compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/eritrea/</p> <p>http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/eritrea/index.html</p> <p>http://www.dehai.org/</p> <p>http://www.eritreadaily.net/</p> <p>http://eritreadiary.info/glance.asp</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Indonesia</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of Indonesia</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Jakarta</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 30 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – August 1945; abrogated by Federal Constitution of 1949 and Provisional Constitution of 1950, restored 5 July 1959; series of amendments concluded in 2002</p> <p>Legal system – based on Roman-Dutch law (mainly civil law of Holland) substantially modified by indigenous concepts and adat cultural law of Indonesia and by new criminal procedures and election codes; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.indonesia.go.id/en/ http://indonesia.elga.net.id/ http://www.embassyofindonesia.org/ http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVLPages/IndonPages/WWWVL-Indonesia.html http://www.geographia.com/indonesia/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Morocco</p>  	<p>Country name – Kingdom of Morocco</p> <p>Government type – constitutional monarchy</p> <p>Capital – Rabat</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 15 regions</p> <p>Constitution – 10 March 1972; revised 4 September 1992, amended September 1996</p> <p>note: the amendment of September 1996 was to create a bicameral legislature</p> <p>Legal system – based on Islamic law and French and Spanish civil law systems; judicial review of legislative acts in Constitutional Chamber of Supreme Court; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.maroc.ma/PortailInst/An/ http://www.al-bab.com/maroc/gov/gov.htm http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/amed/morocco/ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/791867.stm http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Morocco.html http://www.nationmaster.com/country/mo-morocco http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/morocco.htm</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Oman</p>  	<p>Country name – Sultanate of Oman</p> <p>Government type – monarchy</p> <p>Capital – Muscat</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 5 regions</p> <p>Constitution – none; on 6 November 1996, Sultan Qaboos issued a royal decree promulgating a basic law, considered by the government to be a constitution, which clarifies the royal succession, provides for a prime minister, bars ministers from holding interests in companies doing business with the government, establishes a bicameral legislature, and guarantees basic civil liberties for Omani citizens; the codified Basic Statute of the State</p> <p>Legal system – initially based on English common law and Islamic law; new law of the Sultanate; ultimate appeal to the monarch; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.oman.org/</p> <p>http://www.omanlawyers.com/Omanlegalsystem.html</p> <p>http://www.omanet.om/english/home.asp</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/791892.stm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Syria</p>  	<p>Country name – Syrian Arab Republic</p> <p>Government type – republic under an authoritarian military-dominated regime</p> <p>Capital – Damascus</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 14 provinces</p> <p>Constitution – 13 March 1973</p> <p>Legal system – based on a combination of French and Ottoman civil law; Islamic law is used in the family court system; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.syriagate.com/Syria/Government/Index.htm</p> <p>http://www.syriaonline.com/Categories/govern.htm</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/801669.stm</p> <p>http://lweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/sytoc.html</p> <p>http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/syria.htm</p> <p>http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Syria.html</p>

<p>Tunisia</p>  	<p>Country name – Tunisian Republic</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Tunis</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 24 governorates</p> <p>Constitution – 1 June 1959; amended 1988, 2002</p> <p>Legal system – based on French civil law system and Islamic law; some judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court in joint session; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.tunisie.gov.tn/index.php?lang=english</p> <p>http://www.cometotunisia.co.uk/</p> <p>http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Tunisia.html</p> <p>http://tunisia.embassyhomepage.com/</p> <p>http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/tunisia.htm</p> <p>http://www.llrx.com/features/tunisia.htm</p> <p>http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/country_profiles/tunisia/</p> <p>http://www.hejleh.com/countries/tunisia.html</p> <p>http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/spotlight/tunisia/</p> <p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/tunisia/</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/tunisia/</p> <p>http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ts-tunisia</p> <p>http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/tunisia.htm</p>
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 **Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation**
Civil law and religious law countries



Strategy Tips:

- (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.
- (2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview;
- (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2) Population and Human Well-Being; 3)


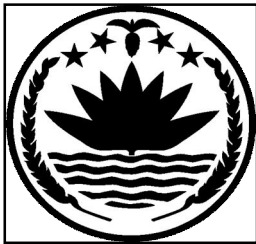


Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5) Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.




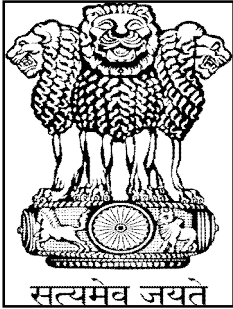
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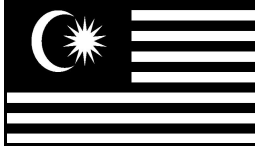
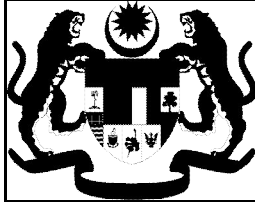
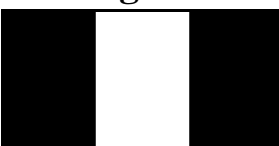
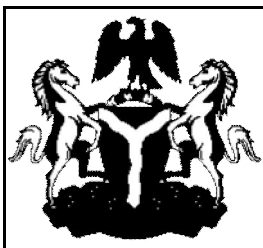


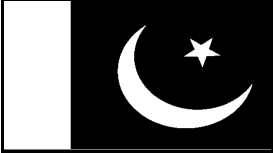

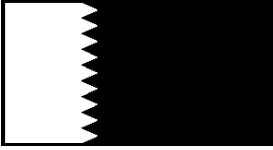

Topic № 3: Common law and religious law countries:

*All links valid as of the 20th of June 2011

Country	Description
<p>Bangladesh</p>  	<p>Country name – People's Republic of Bangladesh</p> <p>Government type – parliamentary democracy</p> <p>Capital – Dhaka</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 7 divisions</p> <p>Constitution – 4 November 1972; effective 16 December 1972; suspended following coup of 24 March 1982; restored 10 November 1986; amended many times</p> <p>Legal system – based on mixed system modeled on both Indo-Mughal and English common law; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/</p> <p>http://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/</p> <p>http://www.minlaw.gov.bd/aboutbangladesh.htm</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1160598.stm</p>
<p>Brunei</p>  	<p>Country name – Brunei Darussalam</p> <p>Government type – constitutional sultanate (locally known as Malay Islamic Monarchy)</p> <p>Capital – Bandar Seri Begawan</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 4 districts</p> <p>Constitution – 29 September 1959 (some provisions suspended under a State of Emergency since December 1962, others since independence on 1 January 1984)</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law; for Muslims, Islamic sharia law supersedes civil law concerning Muslim marriages and inheritance; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.jpm.gov.bn:81/</p> <p>http://www.law.emory.edu/ifl/legal/brunei.htm</p> <p>http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2700.htm</p> <p>http://www.sultanbrunei.com/</p> <p>http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations/brunei.php</p> <p>http://www.bruneiresources.com/</p> <p>http://www.judicial.gov.bn/</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Gambia</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of The Gambia</p> <p>Government type – republic</p> <p>Capital – Banjul</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 5 divisions and 1 city</p> <p>Constitution – approved by national referendum 8 August 1996; effective 16 January 1997</p> <p>Legal system – based on a composite of English common law, Islamic law, and customary law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.gambia.gm/</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/gambia/</p> <p>http://us-africa.tripod.com/gambia.html</p> <p>http://www.gambianow.com/home/</p> <p>http://www.statehouse.gm/</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1032156.stm</p> <p>http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Country_Specific/Gambia.html</p> <p>http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/gambia.html</p> <p>http://www.gambia.dk/gam.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">India</p>  	<p>Country name – Republic of India</p> <p>Government type – federal republic</p> <p>Capital – New Delhi</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 28 states and 7 union territories</p> <p>Constitution – 26 January 1950; amended many times</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law; separate personal law codes apply to Christians, Hindus, and Muslims except in Goa which follows Civil law based on Portuguese civil laws, but criminal penal law is uniform; judicial review of legislative acts; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations;</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://india.gov.in/</p> <p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/india</p> <p>http://www.india.com/</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1154019.stm</p> <p>http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/intoc.html</p> <p>http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107629.html</p> <p>http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/</p> <p>http://www.censusindia.net/</p> <p>http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=india</p> <p>http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/in.htm</p>

<p>Malaysia</p>  	<p>Country name – Malaysia</p> <p>Government type – constitutional monarchy; nominally headed by paramount ruler (commonly referred to as the King) and a bicameral Parliament consisting of a nonelected upper house and an elected lower house</p> <p>Capital – Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 13 states and 1 federal territory</p> <p>Constitution – 31 August 1957; amended many times the latest in 2007</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court at request of supreme head of the federation, Islamic law is applied to Muslims in matters of family law and religion; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://www.malaysia.gov.my/EN/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>http://www.kln.gov.my/web/guest/home</p> <p>http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/159/country_guide/South-East-Asia/Malaysia.html</p> <p>http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/my.htm</p> <p>http://www.mymalaysia.net.my/</p> <p>http://www.malaysia-today.net/</p> <p>http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/malaysia.htm</p> <p>http://www.statistics.gov.my/portal/index.php?lang=en</p>
<p>Nigeria</p>  	<p>Country name – Federal Republic of Nigeria</p> <p>Government type – federal republic</p> <p>Capital – Abuja</p> <p>Administrative divisions – 36 states and 1 territory</p> <p>Constitution – adopted 5 May 1999; effective 29 May 1999</p> <p>Legal system – based on English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations</p> <p>More Information:</p> <p>https://www.cia.gov/library/</p> <p>http://nigeriaworld.com/</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/nigeria/</p> <p>http://www.nigeria.gov.ng/</p> <p>http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/nigeria.html</p> <p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1064557.stm</p>

<p>Pakistan</p>  	<p>Country name – Islamic Republic of Pakistan Government type – federal republic Capital – Islamabad Administrative divisions – 4 provinces, 1 territory, and 1 capital territory Constitution – 12 April 1973; suspended 5 July 1977, restored 30 December 1985; suspended 15 October 1999, restored in stages in 2002; amended 31 December 2003; suspended 3 November 2007; restored on 15 December 2007; amended 19 April 2010 Legal system – based on English common law with provisions to accommodate Pakistan's status as an Islamic state, Islamic Law applicable for inheritance issues, Tribal Law in FATA; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/ http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/pakistan</p>
<p>Qatar</p>  	<p>Country name – State of Qatar Government type – emirate Capital – Doha Administrative divisions – 10 municipalities Constitution – ratified by public referendum on 29 April 2003, endorsed by the Amir on 8 June 2004, effective on 9 June 2005 Legal system – based on Islamic and civil law codes; discretionary system of law controlled by the Amir, although civil codes are being implemented; Islamic law dominates family and personal matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction More Information: https://www.cia.gov/library/ http://www.qatareembassy.net/ http://www.hejleh.com/countries/qatar.html http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/791921.stm http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107901.html http://english.mofa.gov.qa/ http://lweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/qatoc.html http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1003.html http://www.qatarmission.org/</p>



Creative Work–Team Project Work–Multimedia Presentation

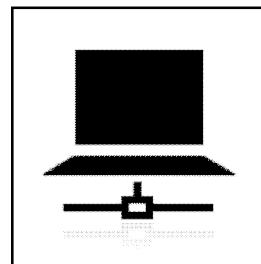
Common law and religious law countries

Strategy Tips: (1) Divide into groups of 2-4 students.

(2) Choose any of the countries (given above) to make your digital overview; (3) The overview should contain the following information: 1) Geographical position of the country; 2) Population and Human Well-Being; 3) Economics and Trade; 4) Institutions and Governance; 5)

Its place according to the International ranking data; 6) Its role to promote International Peace and security; 7) The latest hot topics related to the country in question.

**Note! You may add any extra rubrics and media tools you regard essential to cover your topic in full. Have fun with your team work!*



Additional Web – resources and support

№	Тема изучения	Web resources / Интернет ресурсы в помощь при изучении тем
5	Pluralistic systems or mixed legal systems countries	http://www.juriglobe.ca/eng/sys-juri/class-poli/sys-mixtes.php http://ausicl.com/ (The Australian Institute of Comparative Legal Systems) https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2100.html http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/international-foreignlaw/ http://www.servinghistory.com/topics/pluralistic_legal_system::sub::Pluralistic_Systems http://www.servinghistory.com/topics/pluralistic_legal_system::sub::Systems_By_Geography http://sydney.edu.au/law/slr/slr30_3/Tamanaha.pdf http://cniss.wustl.edu/publications/2008ricardo.pdf http://keur.eldoc.ub.rug.nl/FILES/wetenschappers/2/11886/11886.pdf http://www.mcgill.ca/maritimelaw/mixedjurisdictionsandlegalsystems/ http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb3262/is_4_27/ai_n28748934/ http://www.detaxcanada.org/cmlaw1.htm http://www.academia.edu/People/Law/Hybrid_And_Mixed_Legal_Systems



TIME FOR PUZZLE:
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD?

The Giant Crossword Designed Specially for You!

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
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Across: 1-a) the largest country in the Caucasus region with Baku as its capital; 1-m) before 1935 this country was known to the Western world as Persia; 1-r) the capital and largest city of Angola; 3-a) this country is the birthplace the Olympic Games; 3-h) this country is located south of the Equator with Kigali as its capital; 3-o) this Central American country's name means "the land of the trees" in the Maya-Toltec language; 5-c) the capital of Turkey; 6-t) in Japanese language this city is known as "Eastern Capital"; 8-a) this Kingdom is formerly known as Siam; 8-w) the capital city of the state of Qatar; 9-j) its largest city is Bratislava; 9-s) the *Bundesstadt* of Switzerland; 10-a) this country is the most populous in Africa; 12-a) this country maintains a Scandinavian welfare model; 12-s) this Central American republic was formerly known as Spanish ... to differentiate it from British ... now known as Belize; 14-a) this country is sometimes referred to

as the "Dead Heart of Africa"; 14-o) the capital and largest city of Peru; 14-t) the capital and largest city of Rwanda; 15-e) this nation's capital is Kathmandu; 16-a) this country's official name is the Togolese Republic; 16-m) the capital and largest city of Angola; 17-h) this country is previously known as British Guiana; 18-a) this country is sometimes referred to as the "Land of the Rising Sun"; 19-n) the capital and the most populous city and federal subject of Russia; 19-u) the capital of the Philippines; 21-a) this country comprises the boot-shaped Peninsula on the map; 21-h) the Giza pyramid complex was constructed by the ancient civilization of this country; 21-q) the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic; 23-w) in the Lao language, the country's name is "Muang Lao" which literally means "Lao Country"; 24-a) the name of this country is derived from the Latin word meaning "southern"; 24-k) the name of this country is a variation of "Nam Việt" that traces back to the Triệu Dynasty (2nd century BC); 25-t) the name of the country is derived from the Namib Desert.

Down: a-1) the name of this country means "Land of the Afghans"; a-16) the capital of this Central Asian republic is Dushanbe; c-1) in Armenian manuscripts this capital city was also mentioned as ...; c-8) in Antiquity this country was known as the Numidia kingdom and its people were called Numidians; c-18) one of the world's youngest and smallest sovereign states also spelled as Belau in accordance with the native pronunciation; f-7) the capital of this poorest African country is Bamako; f-12) in Arabic language this country's name sounds as Al Yaman and means "The South"; h-1) the locals proudly call this kingdom as Al-Mamlaka al-Urduniyya al-Hashemiyya; h-11) the capital of this Southern European country is Valletta; h-17) this country is called ...-Conakry to distinguish it from its neighbor ...-Bissau; k-3) this European country's name literally translates to English as "The Low Countries"; l-18) the capital of this Baltic republic is Tallinn; m-1) historically this country was known in Europe by the Greek toponym "Mesopotamia"; m-9) the capital of this South American country is Caracas; n-7) this North American county is commonly abbreviated as such; o-1) Luanda is its capital city; o-21) the name of this West African country means "Warrior King"; p-9) this country is the world's only Jewish-majority state; q-3) its capital is Tirana; r-16) its capital, Andorra la Vella, is the highest capital city in Europe; t-3) its capital and largest city is Podgorica; t-21) its capital and largest city is Libreville; u-14) the capital and the largest city of Ukraine; v-1) the capital and largest city of East Timor; w-11) the country is home of the largest lake in Central Europe Balaton; x-5) this is a disputed territory after the collapse of Yugoslavia with Pristina as its capital; x-19) the name of this country is derived from the Old Persian word "Hindu"; z-1) the name of this country derives from the names of the two states Tanganyika and Zanzibar that united in 1964; z-12) this South Asian island country is previously known as Ceylon.



Your Self-Assessment Test:

How much do you know about the Legal Systems of the World?

Your Task: Choose the most preferable term from your multiple choice options to answer these 22 essential questions given below:



1. What is a legal system?

- a) a system for protecting the rights of inventors
- b) a system for assessing and collecting taxes
- c) a system for interpreting and enforcing the laws
- d) a system for determining the facts in a law suit

2. What is a Civil Law (civil code) system?

- a) provides its citizens with precedents which judges must follow
- b) provides its citizens with unwritten laws which judges respect
- c) provides its citizens with written laws which judges may neglect
- d) provides its citizens with written laws which judges must follow

3. What is a Common Law?

- a) the traditional unwritten law of England based on custom and usage
- b) the law and the principles that lead courts to make the decisions they do
- c) law that deals with crimes and their punishments
- d) law that regulates everyday issues commonly known as routine matters

4. What is Customary Law?

- a) an intergovernmental body exclusively focused on Customs matters
- b) a body responsible for collecting duties and controlling the flow of goods
- c) a body of unwritten spontaneous norms sanctioned by the state as legal
- d) a software that adds some enhancement or feature to an application

5. What is mixed or pluralistic legal system?

- a) the existence of multiple social or philosophical doctrines
- b) the existence of multiple legal systems within one geographic area
- c) the existence of multiple party system within one geographic area
- d) the existence of multiple interests in the employment relationship

6. What is religious law?

- a) the distance in the relationship btw organized religion and the nation state
- b) the group of legal ideas and systems derived from the Code of Justinian
- c) the ordering principle governing all human affairs, as revealed by a God
- d) a new statute that embodies all the old statutes relating to the subject

7. What is European Union Law?

- a) a body of US Labor Law to be implemented by EU member states
- b) a body of UN regulations and directives to be implemented by each state

- c) a body of EU treaties and legislation to be implemented by member states
- d) a union of 27 member states which are located primarily in Europe

8. What is International Law?

- a) a body of rules that regulate the relations between dependent states
- b) a body of rules that regulate the relations within a corporation
- c) a body of laws established by a state or nation for its own regulation
- d) a body of laws governing relations between states and nations

9. What is a National anthem?

- a) a patriotic slogan adopted by a nation for use on public or state occasions
- b) a patriotic song adopted by a nation for use on public or state occasions
- c) a patriotic national allegiance or loyalty as symbolized by a flag
- d) a patriotic emblem adopted for use as the heraldic bearing of a nation

10. What branch of government is responsible for making the laws?

- a) Legislative Branch
- b) Executive Branch
- c) Judicial Branch
- d) Military Branch

11. Which branch of government interprets the law?

- a) Legislative Branch
- b) Executive Branch
- c) Judicial Branch
- d) Military Branch

12. Which branch is the administrative arm of government?

- a) Legislative Branch
- b) Executive Branch
- c) Judicial Branch
- d) Military Branch

13. What is adversarial justice?

- a) where courts serve as instruments for giving advices to the parties
- b) where courts serve as instruments for hearing severe crimes only
- c) where courts serve as impartial referee btw the prosecution and defense
- d) where courts serve as impartial referee btw the bailiff and the public

14. What is inquisitorial justice?

- a) where the court is actively involved in pronouncing strange decisions
- b) where the court is actively involved in investigating the facts of the case
- c) where the court is actively involved in hearing the facts
- d) where the court is actively involved in questioning witnesses

15. What is Case law?

- a) law or generalization based on a particular case, fact or event

- b) law established by a state or nation for its own regulation
- c) law based on judicial decision and precedent rather than on statutes
- d) law based on statutes rather than on judicial decision and precedent

16. What is a judicial precedent?

- a) a judicial decision significantly different from all earlier cases
- b) a judicial decision that serves as an authority for deciding a later case
- c) a lower court decision which the higher court can't overrule or reverse
- d) a lower court decision which shows incorrect interpreting of the law

17. What is the primary source of Civil law?

- a) decisions of appellate courts
- b) statutes, legislation, the legal code
- c) the ordering principle as revealed by a God
- d) executive branch action

18. What is the primary source of Common law?

- a) administrative proceedings
- b) the UN treaties and legislature
- c) any extraordinary circumstances
- d) a precedent or authority

19. What is the primary source of Canon law?

- a) the philosophy of a Japanese multinational corporation Canon Inc.
- b) people striving to do good
- c) the institutions collaborating with the bishop and the pope
- d) the ancient church writings and rulings issued by the pope

20. What is the primary source of Islamic law?

- a) sources of Islamic law include the Koran and moral laws of the Bible
- b) sources of Islamic law include the Koran and traditional Aboriginal law
- c) sources of Islamic law include the Koran, Sunnah, and Ijma
- d) sources of Islamic law include the Koran and the Pure Theory of Law

21. What is the Rule of Law?

- a) the prevailing of order ruled in the streets
- b) the prevailing of arbitrary power rather than regular power
- c) a set of laws that people in a society must obey
- d) a set of laws that people in a society may ignore

22. What is Government?

- a) the institutions that make authoritative decisions for a society
- b) the institutions that implement policies enacted in the private sector
- c) the institutions concerned with national problems
- d) the institutions that are headed by elected, not appointed, officials
- e) the institutions that bring problems to the attention of public officials



It is interesting to know: Interesting facts about the world:
Top 10: Harsh Legal Systems:

http://www.askmen.com/top_10/travel/top-10-harsh-legal-systems_1.html

No. 10 Malaysia

Common criminal act: Possessing one marijuana seed

Punishment in Malaysia: Up to five years in jail

No. 9 Indonesia

Common criminal act: Trafficking marijuana

Punishment in Indonesia: Death sentence

No. 8 Singapore

Common criminal act: Possession of pornography

Punishment in Singapore: Three months plus potential fines

No. 7 China Common criminal act: Owning a porn website

Punishment in China: Life imprisonment if site has over 250,000 hits

No. 6 Sudan Common criminal act: Insulting a religion

Punishment in Sudan: Six months plus 40 lashes

No. 5 Nigeria Common criminal act: Adultery

Punishment in Nigeria: Death by stoning

No. 4 Iran Common criminal act: Drinking alcohol

Punishment in Iran: Fines and 80 lashes for first-time offenders; repeat offenders are put to death

No. 3 Afghanistan

Common criminal act: Converting to a religion other than Islam

Punishment in Afghanistan: Death sentence

No. 2 Saudi Arabia Common criminal act: Practicing witchcraft

Punishment in Saudi Arabia: Death sentence

No. 1 Yemen Common criminal act: Homosexuality

Punishment in Yemen: Death penalty



Answers to The Giant Crossword: *How much do you know about the world?*

Across: 1-a) Azerbaijan; 1-m) Iran; 1-r) Luanda; 3-a) Greece; 3-h) Rwanda; 3-o) Guatemala; 5-c) Ankara; 6-t) Tokyo; 8-a) Thailand; 8-w) Doha; 9-j) Slovakia; 9-s) Bern; 10-a) Nigeria; 12-a) Norway; 12-s) Honduras; 14-a) Chad; 14-o) Lima; 14-t) Kigali; 15-e) Nepal; 16-a) Togo; 16-m) Luanda; 17-h) Guyana; 18-a) Japan; 19-n) Moscow; 19-u) Manila; 21-a) Italy; 21-h) Egypt; 21-q); Prague; 23-w) Laos; 24-a) Australia; 24-k) Vietnam; 25-t) Namibia.

Down: a-1) Afghanistan; a-16) Tajikistan; c-1) Erevan; c-8) Algeria; c-18) Palau; f-7) Mali; f-12) Yemen; h-1) Jordan; h-11) Malta; h-17) Guinea; k-3) Netherlands; l-18) Estonia; m-1) Iraq; m-9) Venezuela; n-7) USA; o-1) Angola; o-21) Ghana; p-9) Israel; q-3) Albania; r-16) Andorra; t-3) Montenegro; t-21) Gabon; u-14) Kiev; v-1) Dili; w-11) Hungary; x-5) Kosovo; x-19) India; z-1) Tanzania; z-12) Sri Lanka.

Answers to The Self-Assessment Test: *How much do you know about the Legal Systems of the World?* 1-c;2-d;3-a;4-c; 5-b; 6-c; 7-c; 8-d; 9-b; 10-a; 11-c; 12-b; 13-c; 14-b; 15-c; 16-b; 17-b; 18-d; 19-d; 20-c; 21-c; 22-a.



The Glossary

Your quick access to the World of Legal Terminology

№	Term	English definition
A		
1	A priori	Derived by logic, without observed facts
2	Absentee ballot	Ballot cast while absent (mailed in advance)
3	Abuse of Process	Use of legal process for unlawful purposes
4	Accession	Acceptance by a state of a treaty already concluded btw other nations
5	Accession criteria (Copenhagen criteria)	Conditions/ requirements for countries seeking EU membership
6	Accord	A written agreement btw two states/ sovereigns
7	Accountability	Liable to being called to account// answerable
8	Act of Parliament	An example of primary legislation
9	Ad Hoc Committee	Created for a specific purpose for a limited period of time
10	Ad Referendum	Subject to agreement by others to finalize details
11	Administration	Activity of a government/ state in the exercise of its powers and duties
12	Adversarial	When two/ more competing sides present and argue their case before a judge, who makes a decision based on the evidence presented
13	Affirmative action	A policy that seeks to redress past discrimination through measures to ensure equal opportunities
14	Afghanistan	A landlocked country in central Asia; has mixed legal system of civil, customary, and Islamic law
15	African customary law	Traditional laws of African tribes and cultures
16	Agenda-setting theory	Ability of the mass media to transfer issues of importance from their agendas to public agendas
17	Akrotiri and Dhekelia	An Overseas Territory on the island of Cyprus administered as the UK Sovereign Base Areas
18	Albania	A country in Southeast Europe, in the Balkans region; has civil law system except in the northern areas where customary law prevails
19	Algeria	An Arab country in the Maghreb; has mixed legal system of French civil law and Islamic law
20	Amendment	A change/ addition to the Constitution
21	American Samoa	An unincorporated territory of the US, located in the South Pacific Ocean; has mixed legal system of US common law and customary law
22	Amicus curiae	A "friend of the court", not a party to a case

23	Amicus curiae brief	A testimony not solicited by any of the parties
24	Anarchic order	A society with no/ very weak government
25	Anarchism	A political philosophy which considers the state undesirable, unnecessary, harmful, and instead promotes a stateless society// anarchy
26	Andorra	A small landlocked country in southwestern Europe; has mixed legal system of civil and customary laws with canon law influences
27	Angola	A country in south-central Africa; has civil legal system based on Portuguese civil law
28	Annual report	Gives all interested people information about the activities and financial performance of government/ company for the preceding year
29	Anguilla	A British overseas territory in the Caribbean; has common law system based on the English model
30	Antarctica	Earth's southernmost continent, encapsulating the South Pole, has no permanent residents; regulated by The Antarctic Treaty (1959)
31	Antigua and Barbuda	A twin-island nation lying btw the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean; has common law system based on the English model
32	Apartheid	A system of racial segregation in South Africa from 1948 to 1994
33	Appeal	Requesting a formal change to an official decision
34	Appointed	Officially chosen for a job or responsibility
35	Anomic group	Spontaneously formed interest group
36	Arbitration	A process of solving a dispute/ argument
37	Argentina	A country in South America; has civil law system based on West European legal systems
38	Aristocracy	A class of people who hold high social rank
39	Armenia	A landlocked mountainous country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia; has civil law system
40	Articles of Confederation	The agreement made by the original 13 states in 1777 establishing a confederacy to be known as the USA; replaced by the Constitution of 1788
41	Aruba (together with the Netherlands, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten)	One of the 4 constituent countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands; has civil law system based on the Dutch civil code
42	Ashmore and Cartier Islands	The Territory in the Indian Ocean; apply the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia and of the Northern Territory of Australia if applicable

43	Associational group	Formally organized long-term interest group
44	Asymmetrical federalism	A constitutional structure under which some of the constituent units (states/ provinces) within a federal system have more extensive powers than other units relative to the central government
45	Auction politics	A danger in politics in which state power may be "sold" to the highest bidding groups
46	Audit	An official examination of the accounts
47	Australia	A country in the Southern Hemisphere comprising the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania and numerous islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans; has common law system based on the English model
48	Austria	A landlocked country in Central Europe; has civil law system
49	Authoritarianism	A form of social organization characterized by submission to authority; political power is concentrated in a leader, unelected by the people, with exclusive, unaccountable, arbitrary power
50	Authority	1) The moral/ legal right/ ability to control; 2) who exercises administrative control over others
51	Authorities, the	The group of people with official legal power to act/ enforce the rules in a particular area, such as the police/ a local government department, etc.
52	Autrefois Acquit	Previously acquitted. The general rule in criminal trials that a person cannot be tried more than once for the same crime (double jeopardy)
53	Autrefois Convict	Previously convicted. The general rule in criminal trials that a person cannot be tried more than once for the same crime (double jeopardy)
54	Azerbaijan	The largest country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia; has civil law system
B		
55	Bahamas, The	The Commonwealth of The Bahamas located in the Atlantic Ocean; has common law system based on the English model
56	Bahrain, the Kingdom	A small island state near the western shores of the Persian Gulf; has mixed legal system of Islamic law and English common law
57	Balance of power	An equilibrium of power btw nations
58	Ballot paper	A paper used for voting in a ballot, has the names of the candidates printed on it

59	Bangladesh	A country of southern Asia on the Bay of Bengal; has mixed legal system of mostly English common law and Islamic law
60	Barbados	A country on the easternmost island of the West Indies; has English common law system
61	Barrister	A British/ Canadian lawyer who is qualified to plead in the higher courts
62	Basic services	Essential services that government is expected to provide, e.g., water, sanitation and electricity
63	Belarus	A country of East Europe; has civil law system
64	Belgium	A country of northwest Europe on the North Sea; has civil law system based on the French Civil Code and influenced by EU legislative norms
65	Belize	A country of Central America on the Caribbean Sea; has English common law system
66	Bermuda	A UK Overseas Territory; English common law
67	Bhutan	A landlocked principality in the Himalayas; has civil law based on Buddhist religious law
68	Bicameral	Composed of two legislative chambers/ branches
69	Bicameralism	Advocacy of bicameral structure
70	Bilateral	Affecting/ undertaken by two parties
71	Bill	A statute in draft before it becomes law
72	Binational state	Two nations co-existing within one state
73	Binding Precedent/ Bound By	One which must be followed by all lower courts under common law legal systems
74	Bipartisanship	Any action of a political body in which both of the major political parties are in agreement
75	Black Muslims	Radical African-American religious group advocating some racial separation and threatening violence to white society
76	Black Panther party	Militant African-American organization willing to use violence to increase "black power"
77	Bolivia	A landlocked country in central South America; has civil law system with influences from Roman, Spanish, canon, French, indigenous law
78	Bosnia and Herzegovina	A country in South-Eastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula; has civil law system
79	Botswana	A country in Southern Africa; has mixed legal system of civil law influenced by the Roman-Dutch model, customary and common laws
80	Bouvet Island	A dependent territory (Norwegian); has the laws of Norway, where applicable

81	Brazil	The largest country in South America; has civil law; a new civil law code was enacted in 2002
82	British constitution	The set of laws and principles under which the United Kingdom is governed
83	British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)	also, Chagos Islands, an Overseas territory of the UK in the Indian Ocean; apply the UK laws
84	British Virgin Islands	BVI is a British Overseas territory, located in the Caribbean; has English common law system
85	Brunei	A state on the north coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia; has mixed legal system based on English common and Islamic law
86	Bulgaria	A country in Southern Europe; civil law system
87	Bureaucracy	An organization characterized by hierarchy, fixed rules, impersonal relationships, adherence to procedures, and specialized division of labor
88	Bureaucrat	Who works for bureaucracy/ government
89	Burkina Faso	A country in west Africa; has civil law system based on the French model and customary law
90	Burma	A country in Southeast Asia; has mixed legal system of English common law (codifications for colonial India) and customary law
91	Burundi	A landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of Eastern Africa; has mixed legal system of Belgian civil law and customary law
92	By-elections	An election held to fill a political office that has become vacant btw regularly scheduled elections
93	By-laws	1) A law of local/ limited application, passed under the authority of a higher law; 2) the internal rules of a company or organization
C		
94	Cabinet	A small group of important people elected to government, who make the main decisions
95	Cabinet departments	A part of a Cabinet with a specific responsibility
96	Cabinet Minister	A politician who heads a ministry/ government department
97	Cabinet solidarity	A convention that all ministers publicly support any decisions the cabinet has taken, regardless of their personal views
98	Cambodia	A country in Southeast Asia; has civil law system (influenced by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia) customary law, Communist legal theory, and common law

99	Cameroon	A country of central and western Africa; has mixed legal system of English common law, French civil law, and customary law
100	Canada	A North American country; has common law system except in Quebec where civil law based on the French civil code prevails
101	Caste system	Divisions in society based on differences of wealth, inherited rank, privilege, profession, occupation, etc.
102	Casting vote	A vote given to the presiding officer of a council/ legislative body to resolve a deadlock and which can be exercised only when such a deadlock exists
103	Cape Verde	An island country in the central Atlantic Ocean; has civil law system of Portugal law model
104	Capital gains tax (CGT)	A tax charged on capital gains, the profit realized on the sale of a non-inventory asset that was purchased at a lower price
105	Capitalism	An economic, political, social system based on private ownership of property, business and industry, directed towards making the greatest profits for successful organizations and people
106	Caucus	A meeting of legislators of any one party to discuss parliamentary strategy, party policy and select candidates for office.
107	Casuistry	Application of general ethical principles to particular cases of conscience or conduct.
108	Casus Belli	1) The immediate cause of a quarrel; 2) an event/ act used to justify a war
109	Cayman Islands	A British Overseas Territory in the western Caribbean Sea; has English common law system and local statutes
110	Censorship	Suppressing books, newspapers, etc. because they are considered morally/ politically objectionable
111	Censure motion	A strong official disapproval/ harsh criticism
112	Central African Republic	A country of central Africa; has civil law system based on the French model
113	Chambers	A loose association of barristers
114	Chancellor	The chief minister of state as in Germany
115	Chancery	A court of public record; an office of archives
116	Charismatic authority	Based on the admiration of personal qualities

117	Checks and Balances	A competition and mutual restraint among the various branches of government
118	Chief clerk model	Approach to the presidency where the executive is an administrative arm of legislative branch
119	Chad	A landlocked country in Central Africa; has mixed legal system of civil and customary laws
120	Chauvinism	1) Prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own group; 2) aggressive/ fanatical patriotism
121	Chile	A country in South America; has civil law system influenced by several West European civil legal systems
122	China	A country of eastern Asia; has civil law system influenced by Soviet and continental European civil law systems
123	Christmas Island	An Australian-administered island in the eastern Indian Ocean south of Java; has legal system under the authority of the governor general of Australia and Australian law
124	CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)	The U.S. federal agency which coordinates governmental intelligence activities
125	Circuit	1) A particular area containing different courts which a judge visits; 2) the boundary line encompassing an area
126	Circuit court	The court of general jurisdiction in some states
127	Citizen	A person owing loyalty to and entitled by birth/ naturalization to the protection of a state/ nation
128	Citizenship	The status of a citizen with its attendant duties, rights, and privileges
129	Civil disobedience	Refusal to obey laws in an effort to change governmental policy/ legislation by the use of passive resistance/ other nonviolent means
130	Civil law	Body of laws of a state/ nation dealing with the rights of private citizens and other civilian affairs
131	Civil law system	A legal system inspired by Roman law; the primary feature is that laws are written into a collection, codified, not determined by judges
132	Civil liberties	Freedoms that protect the individual and limit the government so that it cannot abuse its power and interfere with the lives of its citizens
133	Civil rights	The rights that each person has in a society, whatever their race, sex, religion are: freedom, equality in law/ employment, the right to vote

134	Civil rights laws	Laws purported to guarantee the civil rights of all citizens/ residents of a country/ community
135	Civil rights movement	Continuing efforts to enforce the rights guaranteed to all citizens by the Constitution
136	Civil service	Government employment for which a person qualifies on the basis of merit rather than political patronage or personal favor
137	Civil war	When two/ more opposing parties within a country resort to arms to settle a conflict/ when the population takes up arms against the legitimate government of a country
138	Class	Persons in the same category, level of rights, etc.
139	Class system	Social class system; people having the same social, economic, educational status, etc.
140	Classical liberalism	An ideology entailing a minimal role for government to maximize individual freedom
141	Clipperton Island	An uninhabited coral atoll in the eastern Pacific Ocean; has the laws of France, where applicable
142	Closed primary	A type of direct primary election limited to registered party members who have declared their party affiliation so as to vote in the election
143	Coattails effect	The consequence of one popular candidate in an election drawing votes for other members of the same political party
144	Coalition	An alliance btw two/ more political units in response to opposing forces to form a government
145	Coalition government	A cabinet of a parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate
146	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	A territory of Australia; has common law based on the Australian model
147	Code of law	A systematic collection of laws designed to deal with the core areas of private law
148	Coercion	The practice of forcing another party to behave in involuntary manner through fear/ intimidation
149	Collective (public) goods	Goods and services enjoyed in common and not divisible among individuals
150	Collective defense	An alliance among states against external threats
151	Collective security	An arrangement, regional/ global, in which each state accepts that the security of one is the concern of all, and joins in a collective response to threats to, and breaches of, the peace

152	Collectivism	Any philosophic, political, economic or social outlook that emphasizes the interdependence of every human in some collective group and the priority of group goals over individual goals
153	Colombia	A constitutional republic in northwestern South America; has civil law system influenced by the Spanish and French civil codes
154	Commerce	Trade/ exchange of goods/ services from production to consumption to satisfy human needs
155	Common or public good	Benefit/ interest of a politically organized society
156	Common law	Also known as case law/ precedent, law developed by judges through decisions of courts and similar tribunals rather than through legislative statutes or executive branch action
157	Common law system (legal system)	Gives precedential weight to common law on the principle that it is unfair to treat similar facts differently on different occasions
158	Communications	An exchange of information by different methods
159	Communiqué	An official piece of news or an announcement, especially to the public or newspapers
160	Communism	A society without different social classes in which the methods of production are owned and controlled by all its members; everyone works as much as they can and receives what they need
161	Community-Based Corrections	Varied types of corrections programs beyond incarceration, e.g., house arrest and treatment, community services, electronic monitoring, etc.
162	Community-Oriented Policing	Increasingly popular theories of how police can supervise communities more effectively by working closely with community members to reduce crime and increase safety
163	Comoros	An archipelago island in the Indian Ocean; has mixed legal system of Islamic religious law, the French civil code of 1975, and customary law
164	Compact	Binding agreement btw parties; a covenant
165	Comparative Correctional Systems	Theories governing the supervision and treatment of prison population in different countries of the world
166	Comparative politics	An area of political study on relative similarities

		and differences of varied political systems
167	Compromise	An agreement in an argument in which the people involved reduce their demands/ change their opinion in order to agree
168	Computer Forensics	A branch of digital forensic science pertaining to legal evidence found in computers and digital storage media so that law enforcement officials can analyze it
169	Conciliation	An alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process whereby the parties to a dispute agree to utilize the services of a conciliator, who then meets with the parties to resolve their differences
170	Concordat	A treaty to which the Pope is a party
171	Concurrent powers	Shared by the federal and the state governments
172	Confederation	A permanent union of sovereign states for common action in relation to other states
173	Confidence	The quality of being certain of one's abilities/ of having trust in people, plans/ the future
174	Conflict of interest	A conflict btw a person's private interests and public obligations (duties)
175	Conflict of laws	Branch of jurisprudence which deals with individual litigation claimed to be subject to the conflicting laws of two/ more states/ nations (synonymous with Private international law)
176	Congo, Democratic Republic of the	A country of central Africa astride the equator; has civil legal system based on Belgian version of French civil law
177	Congo, Republic of the	A republic in central Africa; has mixed legal system of French civil law and customary law
178	Congress	The national legislative body of the U.S.; consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives
179	Consent of the governed	People's acceptance of the form of government under which they live
180	Conservatism	The inclination, esp. in politics, to maintain the existing/ traditional order
181	Conservative	1) Favoring traditional views and values so as to oppose change (adj.); 2) a person reluctant to accept changes and new ideas (noun); 3) supporting/ relating to a Conservative Party
182	Consociation	A political arrangement in which various groups, such as ethnic/ racial populations within a

		country/ region, share power according to an agreed formula/ mechanism
183	Constituency	An electoral district with a body of electors who vote for a representative in an elected assembly
184	Constituent	A member of a constituency; a citizen who is represented in a government by officials for whom he/ she votes
185	Constitution	1) The fundamental political principles on which a state is governed; 2) a "how-to" document for a government/ organization
186	Constitutional Court	Deals primarily with constitutional law. Its main authority is to rule on whether or not laws that are challenged are unconstitutional, i.e. whether or not they conflict with constitutionally established rights and freedoms
187	Constitutionalism	A complex of ideas, attitudes, and patterns of behavior elaborating the principle that the authority of government derives from and is limited by a body of fundamental law
188	Constructive vote of confidence	A system where the majority in the lower house can bring down the government, but not until the majority approves another government
189	Contracting out	Hiring private organizations to provide public services
190	Convention	1) Practice/ custom followed in government though not explicitly written in the constitution/ legislation; 2) an agreement btw two/ more states, concerning matters of common interest
191	Cook Islands	A self-governing parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand; has common law similar to New Zealand common law
192	Cooperative federalism	Federal system of different levels of government sharing responsibility for public policy areas
193	Coral Sea Islands	A group of small uninhabited tropical islands in the Coral Sea, northeast of Queensland, Australia; has the legal system of Australia, where applicable
194	Corporatism	Also corporativism, a system of economic, political, social organization of a community as a body based upon organic social solidarity and functional distinction of roles among individuals
195	Corrections	Correctional system; a network of governmental

		agencies that administer a jurisdiction of prisons and parole system; serves to punish criminals
196	Costa Rica	A country in Central America; has civil law system based on Spanish civil code
197	Cost-benefit analysis	1) Helping to appraise, assess, the case for a project, program or policy proposal; 2) an approach to making any economic decisions
198	Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA)	An economic analysis that compares the relative costs and outcomes/ effects of two/ more courses of action
199	Cote d'Ivoire	A country in West Africa; has civil law system based on the French civil code
200	Council of Europe	One of the oldest international organizations working towards European integration, founded in 1949. The primary role is to have oversight of the European Convention on Human Rights
201	Councilor/ Councillor	A member of a local/ city government council
202	Coup d'état	A coup, putsch, and overthrow – is the sudden, illegal deposition of a government
203	Court	A form of tribunal, a governmental institution, with the authority to adjudicate legal disputes btw parties and carry out the administration of justice in civil, criminal, administrative matters in accordance with the rule of law
204	Credit	1) A method of paying for goods/ services at a later time by paying interest and the original money; 2) praise/ approval/ honor; 3) a unit to represent a finished part of an educational course
205	Crime Prevention	The attempt to reduce victimization and to deter crime and criminals. It is applied specifically to efforts made by governments to reduce crime, enforce the law, and maintain criminal justice
206	Crime Scene	A location where an illegal act took place; the area from which most of the physical evidence is retrieved by trained law enforcement personnel, crime scene investigators or forensic scientists
207	Criminal law	The part of the legal system which relates to punishing people who break the law
208	Croatia	A country in Central Europe; has civil law system based on Yugoslav civil codes; now changing the former Yugoslav legal model
209	Crown corporation	In the Commonwealth realms, a state-controlled

		company or enterprise
210	Cuba	An island country in the Caribbean; has civil law system based on Spanish civil code
211	Curacao	A constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands located in the southern Caribbean Sea and based on Dutch civil law system with some English common law influence
212	Current accounts surplus	A state selling more to the world than it is buying
213	Custom	A set of agreed, stipulated or generally accepted rules, norms, standards or criteria
214	Customary law	A body of unwritten norms, called customs (rules of conduct), that have arisen spontaneously and have been sanctioned by the state as legal norms
215	Cybercrime	Illegal activity that is done using the Internet
216	Cyber terrorism	Information warfare creating havoc by disrupting the computers managing stock exchanges, power grids, air traffic control, telecommunications, defense systems, etc.; the first offensive move before the start of a physical attack
217	Cyprus	An island republic in the E Mediterranean Sea; has mixed legal system of English common law and civil law with Greek Orthodox religious law influence
218	Czech Republic	A country in central Europe; has civil law system based on former Austro-Hungarian civil codes and socialist theory
D		
219	Debit	A monetary amount that is subtracted from an account balance. A debit from one account is a credit to another.
220	Declaration of Independence	The full and formal declaration adopted July 4, 1776, by representatives of the Thirteen Colonies in North America announcing the separation of those colonies from Great Britain and making them into the United States.
221	Decriminalization	Legislation that makes smth. legal that was formerly illegal
222	Deficit	The total amount by which money spent is more than money received
223	Delegate	1) A person appointed or elected to represent

		others (noun); 2) to give or commit (duties, powers, etc.) to another as agent or representative; depute (verb)
224	Delegated powers	System in which a constitution lists what a limited government is allowed to do; powers granted to the national government under the Constitution
225	Delegation	Deputation; the assignment of authority and responsibility to another person (from a manager to a subordinate) to carry out specific activities
226	Democracy	A political form of government in which governing power is derived from the people, by consensus (consensus democracy), by direct referendum (direct democracy), or by means of elected representatives of the people (representative democracy)
227	Democrat	1) A proponent of democracy, rule of the people or by many; 2) a member of a Democratic Party
228	Democratic centralism	The concentration of power in the leadership of the communist party, which, in theory, acts in the interests of the people.
229	Democratic republic	A nation that favors states' rights rather than a strong national government; often created as a result of a revolution or war of independence
230	Denmark	A Scandinavian country in Northern Europe; has civil law system
231	Deregulation	A process by which governments remove, reduce, simplify restrictions on business and individuals to encourage the efficient operation of markets
232	Desegregation	The process of ending the separation of two groups usually referring to races/ ethnic groups
233	Despotism	A form of government in which a single entity, called the 'despot', rules with absolute power
234	Devolution	A system of government in which the sovereign central government devolves/ delegates power to regional, local, or state governments
235	Dhekelia	The Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia are two British-administered areas on the island of Cyprus that comprise the Sovereign Base Areas military bases of the UK; laws applicable to the Cypriot population are, as far as

		possible, the same as the laws of the Republic of Cyprus
236	Dictator	A ruler (e.g. absolutist/ autocratic) who assumes sole and absolute power (often with military control) but without hereditary ascension
237	Dictatorship of the proletariat	A revolutionary seizure of power by the "vanguard" of society, the communist party, which rules in the name of the working class
238	Diplomacy	The art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of groups or states
239	Direct democracy	A form of pure democracy, a theory of civics in which sovereignty is lodged in the assembly of all citizens who choose to participate by meeting in an assembly or voting by ballot
240	Discretion	Freedom to act or judge on one's own
241	Dissenting opinion	An opinion that disagrees with the court's disposition and reasoning of the case
242	Divided government	When different political parties control different branches of government
243	Divine right	Theory of government that a monarch receives the right to rule directly from God, not from people
244	Djibouti	A country in northeastern Africa on the Somali peninsula; has mixed legal system based primarily on the French civil code and Islamic religious law (family law and successions), and customary law
245	Domestic tranquility	Internal untroubled state; free from disturbances within a country
246	Dominica	An island country of the eastern Caribbean; common law based on the English model
247	Dominican Republic	A country of the West Indies on the eastern part of the island of Hispaniola; has civil law system based on the French civil code
248	Domino theory	One event will set off a train of similar events
249	Double Jeopardy	The act of putting a person through a second trial for an offense for which he/ she has already been prosecuted/ convicted
250	Dow Jones Industrial Average	A weighted average of 30 stocks chosen as representative of the size/ financial performance of the premier corporations in America
251	Downsizing	Reduction of the size and scope of government

252	Doxa (Greek word)	Common belief or popular opinion; a tool for the formation of argument by using common opinions
253	Due process of law	The principle that the government must respect all legal rights that a person has according to the law
E		
254	Ecoterrorist	Political terrorist who uses sabotage, arson and violence to achieve environmentalist aims
255	Ecuador	A representative democratic republic in South America; has civil law based on the Chilean civil code with modifications
256	Egypt	A country mainly in North Africa; has mixed legal system based on Napoleonic civil law and Islamic religious law
257	El Salvador	A country in Central America; has civil law system with minor common law influence
258	Electoral College	The group of people who directly elect the President and Vice-President of the United States
259	Elite	A small group of people with a disproportionate amount of public decision-making powers
260	Empirical	Factual and observable (data) in contrast to thoughts and ideas
261	English Bill of Rights	An act passed by English Parliament in 1689 which limited the power of the monarch and established Parliament as the powerful branch
262	Entitlements	Benefits promised by law to individuals or families meeting certain requirements
263	Entrapment	Where the police or other law enforcement officer causes a person to commit a crime that he/ she would not otherwise have committed
264	Enumerated powers	System where the constitution enumerates and grants powers the government is allowed to do
265	Episteme (Greek word)	Knowledge demonstrated by logical argument
266	Equal protection clause	Provision that prohibits state authorities from denying equal protection of the laws to all people
267	Equal protection of the law	Idea that no individual/ group may receive special privileges nor be unjustly discriminated by law
268	Equal Representation	System under which all political entities (states)

		receive equal representation in the legislature
269	Equality	When all people, regardless of individual abilities/ characteristics and without any special privileges/ advantages have the same opportunities
270	Equality of opportunity	The equalization of life chances for all individuals in society, regardless of their economic position
271	Equality of outcome	When law is concerned with minimizing differences between groups or people
272	Equality of result	The equalization of outcomes of social and economic processes
273	Equality of right	Application of law in the same way to everyone
274	Equality rights	A principle that prohibits governments from discriminating against certain categories of people
275	Equatorial Guinea	A country located in Middle Africa; mixed system of civil and customary law
276	Eritrea	A country in the Horn of Africa; mixed legal system of civil, customary, and Islamic religious law
277	Established church	Official, state-sponsored religion
278	Estonia	A state in the Baltic region of Northern Europe; has civil law system
279	Ethiopia	A landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa; has civil law system
280	Ethnic cleansing	The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group; also – genocide
281	Ethnic group	A group whose common identity is based on racial, national, or religious association
282	Ethnicity	Group of people that can be identified within a larger culture or society on the basis of such factors as religion, ancestry, language, etc.
283	European Community	An economic and political association of European states that originated as the European Economic Community (EEC). It was created by the Treaty of Rome in 1957. In February 1992 the member states signed the Treaty on EU.
284	European Convention on Human Rights	The convention operated by the Council of Europe; written in 1950/ came into force in 1954.

285	European Council	A body of the heads of government of the member states of the EU. It is not a formal organ, but meets 3 times a year to consider major issues of policy. It inspired the European Monetary System.
286	European Court of Human Rights	This court adjudicates upon the European Convention on Human Rights. It is based in Strasbourg and consists of one judge from each of the signatory states.
287	European Court of Justice	An institution of the EU that has 3 primary judicial responsibilities: 1) interprets the EU treaties; decides upon the validity and the meaning of EU legislation; determines whether any act or omission by the European Commission, the Council of the EU, or any member state constitutes a breach of Community law. The Court sits at Luxembourg; consists of 25 judges appointed by the member states by mutual agreement and assisted by 8 Advocates-General.
288	European Parliament	An institution of the EU; members of the EP (MEPs) are drawn from member states of the EU but group themselves politically rather than nationally. There are 732 seats of which the UK has 78. The European Parliament holds its sessions in Strasbourg, but its Secretariat-General is in Luxembourg and its committees meet in Brussels. The elected Parliament serves a term of five years, after which elections are held.
289	European Union (EU)	A unique supranational law system. The EU came into being on 1 November 1993 according to the terms of the Maastricht Treaty. It comprises the three European Communities, extended by the adoption of a common foreign and security policy (CFSP), which requires cooperation btw member states in foreign policy and security, cooperation in justice and home affairs
290	European Union Law	A sub-discipline of international law known as "supranational law" in which the rights of sovereign nations are limited in relation to one

		another. Also referred to as the Law of the European Union or Community Law, it is the unique and complex legal system that operates in tandem with the laws of the 27 member states of the European Union (EU).
291	Evolution	A theory that the various types of animals and plants have their origin in other preexisting types and that the distinguishable differences are due to modifications in successive generations
292	Exclusionary rule	Judicial doctrine based on the principle of protection against illegal searches and seizures, which provide that evidence obtained illegally, may not be used in a trial
293	Executive	A small group of elected officials who direct the policy process, and oversee the vast array of departments and agencies of the government
294	Executive agreements	Presidential promises to other nations that do not require Senate approval; not binding on future administrations
295	Executive Branch	The branch of government in charge of enforcing and executing the laws
296	Executive federalism	A federal process directed by extensive federal-provincial interaction at the level of first ministers, departmental ministers, and deputy ministers
297	Exit polls	Polls taken during an election as voters leave the polling place; used to determine likely election results quickly
298	Extractive laws	Laws designed to collect taxes from citizens to pay for governing society
299	Extraterritoriality	The exercise by one nation, as a result of formally concluded agreements, of certain sovereign functions within the territory of another state
F		
300	Faction	An association of individuals organized for the purpose of influencing government actions favorable to their interests, also – interest groups
301	Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	An archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean; English common law and local statutes
302	Faroe Islands	A constituent country of the Kingdom of Denmark; applies the laws of Denmark, where

		applicable
303	Fascism	A system of government marked by centralization of authority under a dictator, socioeconomic controls, suppression of the opposition through terror and censorship, and typically a policy of belligerent nationalism and racism
304	Federal system	Form of political organization in which governmental power is divided btw central government and territorial subdivisions
305	Federalism	A system of a national government under which sovereignty and certain powers of legislation are divided btw central and several provincial (regional) governments
306	Feminism	The belief that society is disadvantageous to women, systematically depriving them of individual choice, political power, economic opportunity and intellectual recognition
307	Feudalism	Political and economic system in which a king or queen shared power with the nobility who required services from the common people in return for allowing them to use the noble's land
308	Fiji	An island nation in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean; has common law system based on the English model
309	Finland	A Nordic country situated in the Fennoscandian region of Northern Europe; has civil law system based on the Swedish model
310	First-instance	This is a court that hears the matter for the first time, i.e. the trial itself
311	First International	A loose association of socialist parties and labor unions in Western Europe, organized in 1864
312	Foreign policy	A policy governing international relations
313	Formal–legal institutions	Institutions which are explicitly created by a constitution
314	France	A country of western Europe on the Atlantic Ocean and the English Channel; has civil law
315	Franchise	1) Right to vote in an election; 2) a right to sell a company's products in a particular area using the company's name
316	Free enterprise	An idea that a capitalist economy regulates itself in a freely competitive market through supply

		and demand without governmental interference
317	Free vote	A legislative vote in which members are not required to toe the party line
318	Freedom of assembly	Freedom of people to gather together in public
319	Freedom of conscience	Freedom of belief
320	Freedom of expression	Refers to the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, and petition
321	Freedom of petition	Freedom to present requests to the government without reprisal
322	Freedom of the press	Freedom to print or publish without government interference
323	Freedom of religion	Freedom to worship as one pleases
324	Freedom of speech	Freedom to express oneself, either verbally or non-verbally, i.e., symbolically
325	Freedom of thought	The right to hold unpopular ideas
326	French Law (Law of France)	A civil legal system divided into 2 main areas: private/ judicial law (civil law, criminal law) and public law (administrative law, constitutional law)
327	French Polynesia	An overseas collectivity or constituent country of France; applies the applicable laws of France
328	French Southern and Antarctic Lands	A group of volcanic islands in the southern Indian Ocean; applies the applicable laws of France
329	Fundamental right	A right that has its origin in a country's constitution or that is necessarily implied from the terms of that constitution. Usually encompass those rights considered natural human rights
G		
330	Gabon	A state in west central Africa; has mixed legal system of French civil law and customary law
331	Gambia, The	A country in Western Africa; has mixed legal system of English common law, Islamic law, and customary law
332	GDP (Gross Domestic Product)	Measures the value of all goods and services produced within a given nation's borders no matter what the producer's nationality
333	GNP (Gross National Product)	Former measure of the US economy; the total market value of goods and services produced by all citizens and capital during a given period

334	General welfare	Good of society as a whole; common/ public good
335	Georgia	A country in the Caucasus on the Black Sea; has civil law system
336	Germany	A country of north-central Europe; has civil law system
337	Ghana	A country of western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea; has mixed system of English common law and customary law
338	Gibraltar	A British overseas territory located on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula; applies the laws of the UK, where applicable
339	Global Warming	An increase in the earth's atmospheric and oceanic temperatures predicted to occur due to an increase in the greenhouse effect resulting from pollution
340	Globalization	The process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of political ideas communication, transportation, and trade
341	Golden Rule	A particularly important rule in a given context
342	Government	1) A particular group of people, the bureaucracy, who control a state at a given time, and the manner in which their governing organizations are structured; 2) the means (institutions and procedures) through which state power is employed
343	Greece	A country of southeast Europe on the southern Balkan Peninsula; has civil legal system based on Roman law
344	Greenland	An island of Denmark in the northern Atlantic Ocean off northeast Canada; applies the laws of Denmark, where applicable
345	Grenada	A country in the Windward Islands of the West Indies; has common law based on English model
346	Guam	An unincorporated territory of the USA in the western Pacific Ocean; has common law modeled on US system; applies US federal laws
347	Guatemala	A country of northern Central America; has civil law system
348	Guernsey	An island of southern Great Britain, one of the Channel Islands in the English Channel; has

		customary legal system based on Norman customary law, and includes elements of the French Civil Code and English common law
349	Guinea	A country of western Africa on the Atlantic Ocean; has civil law system based on the French model
350	Guinea-Bissau	A country of western Africa on the Atlantic Ocean; has mixed legal system of civil law (influenced by the French Civil Code) and customary law
351	Guyana	A country of northeast South America on the Atlantic Ocean; has common law system, based on the English model, with some Roman-Dutch civil law influence
H		
352	Habeas corpus	A writ ordering a person to be brought before a court or judge, so that the court may ascertain whether his detention is lawful or not
353	Haiti	A country of the West Indies comprising western Hispaniola and two offshore islands; has civil law system strongly influenced by Napoleonic Code
354	"Hate" speech	Speech that is intentionally deeply offensive to a racial, ethnic, religious, or other group, seeking to dehumanize members of such a group
355	Head of government	The chief officer of the executive branch of a government, often presiding over a cabinet. In a <i>parliamentary system</i> , the head of government is often styled Prime Minister, President of the Government, Premier, etc. In <i>presidential republics</i> or <i>absolute monarchies</i> , the head of government may be the same person as the head of state, who is often called respectively a president or a monarch
356	Head of state	The common word used to refer to the individual or collective office that serves as the chief public representative of a monarchy, republic, federation, commonwealth or other kind of state. His/ her role generally includes personifying the continuity and legitimacy of the state and exercising the political powers, functions and duties granted to the head of state in the

		country's constitution and laws. In nation states the head of state is often thought of as the official "leader" of the nation.
357	Heard Island and McDonald Islands	An Australian external territory; applies the laws of Australia, where applicable
358	Higher law	The superiority of one set of laws over another. For example, the Constitution is a higher law than any federal or state law. In natural rights philosophy, it means that natural law and divine law are superior to laws made by human beings.
359	Holy See (Vatican City)	The Episcopal jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in Rome, in which its Bishop is commonly known as the Pope; has religious legal system based on canon (religious) law
360	Honduras	A country of northern Central America; has civil law system
361	Hong Kong	An administrative region of southeast China; has mixed legal system of common law based on the English model and Chinese customary law (in matters of family and land tenure)
362	House of Commons	The lower house of Parliament in the UK and Canada having legislative powers
363	House of Lords	The upper house of Parliament in the UK, of members of the nobility and high-ranking clergy
364	Human rights	The basic rights and freedoms, to which all humans are entitled, include the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law.
365	Hungary	A country of central Europe; has civil legal system influenced by the German model
I		
366	Iceland	An island country in the North Atlantic near the Arctic Circle; has civil law system influenced by the Danish model
367	Ideological party	Characterizes the thinking of a group or nation
368	Ideology	A body of ideas, beliefs and interests of a nation, political system, which underlies political action
369	Impeachment	A formal statement that a public official is guilty of a serious offence in connection with their job
370	Independent	Not influenced or controlled in any way by other people, events or things
371	India	A country of southern Asia; has common law

		system based on the English model; separate personal law codes apply to Muslims, Christians, and Hindus
372	Indictment	A formal document written for a prosecuting attorney charging a person with some offense
373	Individual rights	Rights possessed by individuals as opposed to those rights claimed by groups
374	Indonesia	A country of southeast Asia in the Malay Archipelago; has civil law system based on the Roman-Dutch model and influenced by customary law
375	Influence	Power to sway or affect based on prestige, wealth, ability, position, etc.
376	Inherent jurisdiction	A doctrine of the English common law that a superior court has the jurisdiction to hear any matter that comes before it, unless a statute or rule limits that authority or grants exclusive jurisdiction to some other court or tribunal
377	Initiative	Readiness to embark on bold new ventures
378	Inquisitorial Procedure (Inquisitorial system)	Where the court is actively involved in investigating the facts of the case
379	Institution (political)	Any structure or mechanism of social order and cooperation governing the behavior of a set of individuals within a given human community
380	Institutional group	Groups which are closely associated with the government and act to influence public decisions
381	Interest (pressure) group	Members act together to influence public policy in order to promote their common interests
382	Interest party	A political party with a single interest or purpose, such as the Green Party, etc.
383	International law	Laws, customs, treaties, agreements, and rules that govern the conduct of independent nations in their relationships with one another
384	International Monetary Fund	The intergovernmental organization that oversees the global financial system by following the macroeconomic policies of its member countries, in particular those with an impact on exchange rate and the balance of payments
385	International order	The combination of major rules, mechanisms and understandings to manage the co-existence and interdependence of different states of the

		world
386	International regimes	The pattern of regular cooperation governed by implicit/explicit expectations btw two/ more states
387	International relations	The study of relationships btw countries, including the roles of states, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multinational corporations (MNCs)
388	Iran	A country of southwest Asia; has religious legal system based on Sharia law
389	Iraq	A country of southwest Asia; has mixed legal system of civil and Islamic law
390	Ireland	A country occupying most of the island of Ireland; has common law system based on the English model but substantially modified by customary law
391	Islamic Law	The code of law derived from the Koran and from the teachings and examples of Mohammed; Sharia is only applicable to Muslims; under Islamic law there is no separation of church and state
392	Isle of Man	One of the British Isles in the Irish Sea; applies the laws of the UK where applicable and include Manx statutes
393	Israel	A country of southwest Asia on the Mediterranean Sea; has mixed legal system of English common law, British Mandate regulations, and Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious laws
394	Italy	A country of southern Europe; has civil law system
395	Item veto	(in the US) the power of a state governor to veto items in bills without vetoing the entire measure
J		
396	Jamaica	An island country in the Caribbean Sea south of Cuba; has common law system based on the English model
397	Jan Mayen	An island in the Arctic Ocean, between Greenland and Norway; applies the laws of Norway, where applicable

398	Japan	An island country in East Asia located in the Pacific Ocean; has civil law system based on German model; system also reflects Anglo-American influence and Japanese traditions
399	Jersey (The Bailiwick of Jersey)	A British Crown Dependency off the coast of Normandy, France; applies the laws of the UK, where applicable and local statutes
400	Jordan (the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)	A kingdom on the East Bank of the River Jordan in Western Asia; has mixed legal system of civil law and Islamic religious law
401	Judicial activism	Judicial ruling based on personal or political considerations rather than on existing law
402	Judicial Branch/ Judiciary	The system of courts that interprets and applies the law in the name of the state
403	Judicial Independence	The doctrine that decisions of the judiciary should be impartial and not subject to influence from the other branches of government or from private or political interests
404	Judicial Notice	A rule in the law of evidence to allow a fact to be introduced into evidence if the truth of that fact is so notorious/ well known that it cannot be refuted
405	Judicial power	Power to manage the conflicts and interpretation and application of the law
406	Judicial Review	The doctrine under which legislative and executive actions are subject to review, and possible invalidation, by the judiciary
407	Judiciary	The collective name for those who hold a judicial office: a district judge, circuit judge or member of the senior judiciary.
408	Judgment	1) An official legal decision; 2) the ability to form valuable opinions and make good decisions
409	Junta	A government, esp. a military one, that has taken power in a country by force and not by election
410	Jurisprudence	The study of law and principles on which it is based
411	Jury	A body of 6-12 lay citizens randomly selected to give a true verdict according to the evidence presented in a court of law
412	Justice	Fairness in the way people are dealt with
413	Justice of the Peace	A person who is not a lawyer but who acts as a judge in local law courts

K		
414	Kazakhstan	A transcontinental country mostly located in Central Asia, with a relatively small portion in Eastern Europe; has civil law system influenced by Roman-Germanic law and by the theory and practice of the Russian Federation
415	Kenya	A country in East Africa; has mixed legal system of English common, Islamic and customary laws
416	Kiribati	An island country of the west-central Pacific Ocean near the equator; has English common law supplemented by customary law
417	Korea, North	A country of northeast Asia on the Korean Peninsula; has civil law system based on the Prussian model and system influenced by Japanese traditions and Communist legal theory
418	Korea, South	A country of eastern Asia at the southern end of the Korean peninsula; has mixed legal system combining European civil law, Anglo-American law, and Chinese classical thought
419	Kosovo	A republic of the western Balkan Peninsula evolving legal system as a mixture of applicable Kosovo law, UNMIK laws and regulations, and applicable laws of the Former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia
420	Kuwait	A country of the northeast Arabian Peninsula at the head of the Persian Gulf; has mixed legal system consisting of English common law, French civil law, and Islamic religious law
421	Kyoto Protocol, (Japan, 1997)	A protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC), aimed at fighting global warming. Includes 191 states.
422	Kyrgyzstan	A country of west-central Asia; has civil law system which includes features of French civil law and Russian Federation laws
L		
423	Laos	A country of southeast Asia; has civil law system similar in form to the French system
424	Latvia	A country of north-central Europe on the Baltic Sea; has civil law system with traces of socialist legal traditions and practices
425	Law	1) A rule of conduct/ procedure established by custom/ agreement/ authority; 2) a body of rules

		of conduct of binding legal force and effect, prescribed, recognized, enforced by controlling authority
426	Law of nature (jus naturale or natural law)	The unwritten body of universal moral principles that underlie the ethical and legal norms by which human conduct is sometimes evaluated and governed; contrasted with positive law
427	Law Officer	An officer of the law; peace officer, i.e. a law enforcement officer, such as a sheriff, who is responsible for maintaining civil peace
428	Law Society	Also the Law Society for England and Wales. This is the governing body for solicitors.
429	Lawyer	A professional person authorized to practice law: conduct lawsuits or give legal advices
430	Lebanon	A country of southwest Asia on the Mediterranean Sea; has mixed legal system of civil law based on the French civil code and religious laws covering personal status, marriage, divorce, and other family relations of the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities
431	Legal Aid	Legal assistance provided, as by a specially established organization, for those unable to afford an attorney
432	Legal Executive	The trained legal professionals in England & Wales (members of ILEX), Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong who often specialize in a particular area of law. There is no direct equivalent in Scotland. In Ontario, Canada there are Law Clerks, and in the USA the term Paralegal is used for a similar role
433	Legal positivism	A school of thought in philosophy of law and jurisprudence. The principal claims of modern legal positivism are that: 1) There is no inherent or necessary connection btw the validity conditions of law and ethics or morality; 2) Laws are rules made, whether deliberately or unintentionally, by human beings
434	Legal systems	The three major legal systems in the world are common law, civil law, religious law. However, each country often develops variations or incorporates many other features into the system.

435	Legislation	A law or set of laws suggested by a government and made official by a parliament
436	Legislative Branch	The branch of government in charge of making the laws, enacting and overseeing their enforcement. Also legislatures usually have exclusive authority to raise taxes and adopt the budget and other money bills. The law created by a legislature is called legislation or statutory law; the most common names for legislatures are parliament and congress.
437	Legislative power	Power to make: pass, amend and repeal laws
438	Legislature	A kind of deliberative representative assembly with the power to pass, amend, and repeal laws
439	Legitimacy	The quality of being legal or acceptable
440	Lesotho	A landlocked country and enclave – entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa; has mixed legal system of English common law and Roman-Dutch law
441	Liberal democracy	Bourgeois or constitutional democracy is a common form of representative democracy characterized by universal adult suffrage, political equality, majority rule and constitutionalism.
442	Liberal feminism	The equality of rights of men and women through political and legal reform
443	Liberalism	The belief in the importance of individual liberty and equal rights
444	Liberia	A country on the west coast of Africa; has mixed legal system of common law (based on Anglo-American law) and customary law
445	Libya	A country located in North Africa mixed system of civil and Islamic law
446	Liechtenstein	A doubly landlocked alpine country in Western Europe civil law system influenced by Swiss, Austrian, and German law
447	Limited government	A state restricted in its exercise of power by the constitution and the rule of law (limited state)
448	List system	A form of proportional representation in which the elector votes not for individuals but for parties who have lists of candidates running for office
449	Literal Rule	The Plain meaning rule, a type of statutory

		construction, which dictates that statutes are to be interpreted using the ordinary meaning of the language of the statute unless a statute explicitly defines some of its terms otherwise
450	Lithuania	A country in Northern Europe, the southernmost of the three Baltic states; has civil law system
451	Lobbying (lobby)	The intention of influencing decisions made by legislators and officials in the government by individuals, other legislators, constituents, or advocacy groups
452	Lobbyist	A person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest or a member of a lobby
453	Logrolling (quid pro quo)	The trading of favors, such as vote trading by legislative members to obtain passage of actions of interest to each legislative member
454	Lurking Doubt	A reasoned and substantial unease about the finding of guilt. If such doubt exists then a person should be entitled to an acquittal.
455	Luxembourg	A country of northwest Europe; has civil law system
M		
456	Macau	Special administrative region on the South China Sea coast; has civil law system based on the Portuguese model
457	Macedonia	A landlocked republic on the Balkan Peninsula; has civil law system
458	Madagascar	An island country in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa; has civil law system based on the old French civil code and customary law in matters of marriage, family, and obligation
459	Magistracy	The office, position or function of a magistrate
460	Magna Carta (Great Charter)	The royal charter of political rights given to rebellious English barons by King John in 1215
461	Majority	The greater number more than half of the total
462	Majority government	A government in which the party in power has over 50 percent of the seats in the legislature
463	Majority rule	Rule by more than half of those participating in taking the decision
464	Malawi	A country of southeast Africa; has mixed legal system of English common and customary laws

465	Malaysia	A country of southeast Asia consisting of the southern Malay Peninsula and the northern part of the island of Borneo; has mixed legal system of English common, Islamic and customary laws
466	Maldives	An island country in the Indian Ocean southwest of Sri Lanka; has Islamic religious legal system with English common law influences, primarily in commercial matters
467	Mali	A landlocked republic in northwestern Africa; has civil law system based on the French civil law model and influenced by customary law
468	Malta	A republic on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean; has mixed legal system of English common law and civil law, based on the Roman and Napoleonic civil codes
469	Marshall Islands	A republic under the US protection on the Marshall Islands; has mixed legal system of the US and English common law, customary law, and local statutes
470	Marshall Plan	U.S. foreign policy, named after Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, which gave substantial aid to Western European countries after World War II (1948-52) to rehabilitate their economies, ensuring the survival of democratic institutions
471	Mauritania	A country of northwest Africa bordering on the Atlantic Ocean; has mixed legal system of Islamic and French civil law
472	Mauritius	An island country in the southwest Indian Ocean comprising the island of Mauritius and several small dependencies in the Mascarene Islands; has civil legal system based on French civil law with some elements of English common law
473	Merit recruitment	A system of hiring public servants on the basis of their qualifications rather than on party preference or other considerations
474	Mexico	A country of south-central North America; has civil law system with US constitutional law theory influence
475	Microcosm	The idea that a governing body should be a miniature replica of the society it represents
476	Micronesia, Federated	A country scattered over Micronesia with a

	States of	constitutional government in free association with the USA; achieved independence in 1986; has mixed legal system of common and customary law
477	Ministerial responsibility	A constitutional convention in governments using the Westminster System that a cabinet minister bears the ultimate individual responsibility for the actions of their ministry or department
478	Minority	1) The smaller in number of two groups forming a whole; less than half; 2) a group of people who differ racially/ politically from a larger group of which it is a part
479	Minority government	A minority cabinet of a parliamentary system formed when a political party/ coalition of parties does not have a majority of overall seats in the parliament but is sworn into government to break a Hung Parliament election result
480	Minority rights	1) Normal individual rights of members of racial, ethnic, class, religious, linguistic or sexual minorities; 2) collective rights accorded to minority groups; 3) individual rights of anyone who is not part of a majority decision
481	Mischief Rule	A rule that judges can apply in statutory interpretation to discover Parliament's intention to pass some piece of legislation in what was the "mischief" that the previous law did not cover?
482	Mission	A specific task/ duty assigned to a person/ group
483	Mix	To join; to mingle.
484	Mixed	A compound made of several simples
485	Mixed actions	Practice of partaking of a real and personal action by which real property is demanded, and damages for a wrong sustained
486	Mixed economy	An economy based on both private and public (government-controlled) enterprises
487	Mixed government	Composed of some of the powers of monarchical, aristocratical, and democratical government
488	Mixed jurisdiction	A country or a political subdivision of a country in which a mixed legal system (infra) prevails
489	Mixed Law	Pluralistic law, consists of elements of some or all of the main types of legal systems – civil,

		common, customary, and religious
490	Mixed legal system	Where the law in force is derived from more than one legal tradition or legal family
491	Mixed-member-proportional (MPP) vote	Electoral system in which voters cast two ballots: 1) for a candidate in a territorial constituency (first-past-the-post) and 2) for a list of candidates put forward by a political party (list system)
492	Mixed property	Neither altogether real nor personal, but a compound of both (e.g. heir-looms, tomb-stones, monuments in a church, title deeds to an estate)
493	Modernization	The gradual development, innovation, renewal
494	Modus Vivendi (plural <i>modi Vivendi</i>)	1) A manner of living; a way of life; 2) a temporary agreement btw contending parties pending a final settlement
495	Moldova	A country of eastern Europe; has civil law system with Germanic law influences
496	Monaco	A principality on the Mediterranean Sea, an enclave in southeast France; has civil law system influenced by French legal tradition
497	Monarchy	Government in which political power is exercised by a single ruler under divine or hereditary right
498	Mongolia	A landlocked country of north-central Asia; has civil law system influenced by Soviet and Romano-Germanic legal systems
499	Monism	Explaining anything in terms of one principle only
500	Montenegro	A country of the western Balkan Peninsula bordering on the Adriatic; has civil law system
501	Montserrat	An island in the Leeward Islands of the British West Indies; has English common law
502	Morocco	A country of northwest Africa on the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean; has mixed legal system of civil law based on French law and Islamic law
503	Movement party	One that emerges from a political movement
504	Mozambique	A country of southeast Africa; has mixed legal system of Portuguese civil law, Islamic law, and customary law
505	Multinational state	A sovereign state comprising two or more nations

506	Multiparty system	A system in which multiple political parties may gain government control separately/ in coalition
507	Multiplicity	Multiple set of actions involving several states
N		
508	Namibia	A country of southwest Africa on the Atlantic Ocean; has mixed legal system of uncodified civil law based on Roman-Dutch and customary laws
509	Napoleonic Civil Code	The Code Napoléon; the first modern organized body of law governing France; enacted by Napoléon I in 1804. The Code addressed personal status, property, and the acquisition of property; later included civil procedures, commercial law, criminal law and procedures, and a penal code.
510	Nation	A large group of people organized under a single, usually independent government; a country
511	National interests (French – raison d'État)	A country's goals and ambitions whether economic, military, or cultural
512	National security	The requirement to maintain the survival of the nation-state through the use of economic, military and political power and the exercise of diplomacy
513	Nationalism	A strong identification of a group of individuals with a political entity defined in national terms
514	Nation-state	A specific form of state, which provides a sovereign territory for a particular nation, and derives its legitimacy from that function
515	Natural authority	The authority a person exerts that is innate rather than being drawn from some external body; relies on factors such as charisma, negotiating skills, assertiveness and self confidence rather than law, political position, wealth or standing in an organization
516	Natural Justice	The principles and procedures that govern the adjudication of disputes btw persons or organizations, which should be unbiased and given in good faith, and each party should have equal access to the tribunal and should be aware of arguments and documents adduced by the other

517	Natural law	A rule/ body of rules of conduct inherent in human nature; essential to/ binding upon society
518	Natural rights	Inalienable and universal rights that are inherent in the nature of people and not contingent on human actions or beliefs
519	Nauru	An island country of the central Pacific Ocean; had mixed legal system of common law based on the English model and customary law
520	Navassa Island	An unorganized unincorporated territory of the United States; the laws of the US, where applicable, apply
521	Neo-conservatism	An approach to politics based on a return to a traditional point of view, preservation of the best in society and opposing radical changes
522	Nepal	A country of central Asia in the Himalaya Mountains; has English common law and Hindu legal concepts
523	Netherlands	A country of northwest Europe on the North Sea; has civil law system based on the French system
524	New Caledonia	A French overseas territory in the southwest Pacific Ocean; has civil law system based on French law
525	New international economic order	A set of proposals by some developing countries through the UN Conference on Trade and Development to improve the terms of trade, increase development assistance, tariff reductions, etc.; a revision of the international economic system in favor of Third World countries
526	New Zealand	An island country in the southern Pacific Ocean southeast of Australia; has common law system, based on English model, with special legislation and land courts for the Maori
527	Nicaragua	A country of Central America on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean; has civil law system
528	Niger	A country of west-central Africa; has mixed legal system of civil law (based on French civil law), Islamic law, and customary law
529	Nigeria	A country of western Africa; has mixed legal system of English common law, Islamic law (in 12 northern states), and traditional law
530	Niue	An island dependency of New Zealand in the

		south-central Pacific Ocean east of Tonga; has English common law
531	Nobility	The body of persons forming the noble class of a country/ state by high birth/ rank/ status
532	Non-associational (latent) group	A group which lacks formal organization but has the potential for mobilizing politically.
533	Norfolk Island	An island territory of Australia in the southern Pacific Ocean; has English common law and the laws of Australia
534	Normative	Implying, creating, prescribing a norm/ standard
535	Northern Mariana Islands	A self-governing US territory (except Guam); applies US system, except for customs, wages, immigration laws, and taxation
536	Norway	A country of northern Europe; has mixed legal system of civil, common, and customary laws
O		
537	Official opposition	A political opposition to a designated government in a Westminster-based parliamentary system
538	Oman	A sultanate of the southeast Arabian Peninsula on the Gulf of Oman; has mixed legal system of Anglo-Saxon law and Islamic law
539	One World Order (OWO)	Promoted by the UN a worldwide government in scope/ application to increase the interdependence of the world's markets and businesses
540	One-party-dominant system	Where political alternatives exist but a single political party dominates the political process as a result of the overwhelming electorate's support
541	Opposition	The condition of being in conflict; antagonism
542	Order-in-council	Decision by Cabinet which carries legal force.
P		
543	Pakistan	A country of southern Asia; has common law system with Islamic law influence
544	Palau	A republic in the western central Pacific Ocean in association with the USA; has mixed legal system of civil, common, and customary laws
545	Panama	A country of southeast Central America; has civil law system
546	Papua New Guinea	A country of the southwest Pacific Ocean; has mixed legal system of English common law and customary law

547	Paraguay	A landlocked country of South America; has civil law system with influences from Argentine, Spanish, Roman, and French law models
548	Paralegal	A person with specialized training to assist lawyers/ not qualified as a professional lawyer
549	Parliamentary sovereignty	The supreme authority of parliament over all other government institutions (including any executive or judicial bodies); also to make or repeal laws
550	Parliament	A legislative assembly in certain countries
551	Party discipline	The ability of a parliamentary group of a political party to get its members to support the policies of their party leadership (enforced by the party whip)
552	Passport	A document, issued by a national government, which certifies the identity (name, date of birth, sex, place of birth) and nationality of its holder. Nationality and citizenship often are congruent
553	Patriarchy	The domination of society by men
554	Peacebuilding	The processes and activities for resolving violent conflict and establishing a sustainable peace
555	Peacekeeping	A unique and dynamic UN instrument to help countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace
556	Peacemaking	Establishing equal power relationships to forestall future conflict and to agree on ethical decisions within a community that has had a conflict
557	Persona Non Grata	An individual who is unacceptable to or unwelcome by the host government
558	Personal freedom	The absence of coercion in various aspects of life
559	Personal party	A party run by a single influential political leader
560	Persuasive Authority	A precedent/ other legal writing related to the case at hand but is not binding on the court under common law legal systems
561	Peru	A country of western South America; has civil law system
562	Philippines	A country of eastern Asia; has mixed legal system of civil, common, Islamic, and customary laws

563	Pitcairn Islands	A UK Overseas Territory in the southern Pacific Ocean; has local island by-laws
564	Planning	Production and allocation of resources determined by a central authority
565	Plea	1) a request for help from someone in authority; 2) the answer made by an accused to the charge
566	Plebiscite	Another term for an advisory referendum
567	Pluralism	The condition of being multiple/ plural
568	Plurality	The state or fact of being plural
569	Plutocracy	The rule of the wealthy
570	Poland	A country of central Europe; has civil law system
571	Policy community	The network of individuals/ organizations deeply involved in a particular area of public policy
572	Political alienation	A sense of estrangement from political power
573	Political consultant	A professional advisor who puts his/her political expertise to work in the private/ public sectors
574	Political culture	Attitudes, values, beliefs, orientations individuals hold regarding their political system in a society
575	Political economy	The branch of social science that deals with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services and their management
576	Political efficacy	Citizens' faith and trust in government and his/her belief that he/she can influence political affairs
577	Political ideology	Organized, coherent set of attitudes about government and public policy
578	Political patronage	Government appointments made as a payoff for loyal partisan activity
579	Political party	A political organization that seeks to influence government policy by nominating their candidates and trying to seat them in political office
580	Political philosophy	The study of liberty, justice, property, rights, law, the enforcement of a legal code by authority so as what they are, why they are needed, etc.
581	Political police	A secret police agency which operates to protect the power/authority of a political regime/ state
582	Political process	The interaction of organized political structures in making/ administering decisions for a society
583	Political rights	Rights to participate in the political process

584	Political socialization	The study of the processes by which generations acquire political cognition, attitudes, behaviors
585	Politics	A process of people making collective decisions
586	Polity	Any civil authorities in a geographical area (e.g. province, prefecture, county, municipality, city, district) with a corresponding government
587	Polyarchy	Any pluralist form of liberal democracy with competition btw different interests (R. Dahl)
588	Popular sovereignty	Authority residing in the consent with the people
589	Populist	A supporter of the rights and power of the people
590	Portfolio	1) a set of pieces of creative work collected to be shown to potential customers or employers; 2) a list of the financial assets held by an individual or a bank or other financial institution; 3) the role of the head of a government department
591	Portugal	A country of South West Europe; has civil law system
592	Post-materialism	The shift in values from public order and material prosperity to self-fulfillment
593	Power	1) The ability/ capacity to perform/ act effectively; 2) (pl.) a specific ability/ capacity
594	Pragmatic party	A party concerned only with winning elections
595	Precedent	A judicial decision that serves as an authority for deciding a later similar case
596	Preferential (alternative) ballot	Electoral system in which voters rank the candidates
597	Prerogative	The exclusive right and power to command, decide, rule, or judge at one's own discretion
598	Primary election	A stage where delegates/ nominees are chosen
599	Primary Legislation	Made by the legislative branch of government
600	Prime Minister's Office	Support staff to carry out political functions
601	Priming	The act of making smth. ready or preparation for a particular situation
602	Primus inter pares	Latin phrase meaning "first among equals"
603	Principle	Basic rule that guides/ influences thought/ action
604	Private Act	An Act of Parliament that is limited in scope and does not apply to society as a whole but rather to a body/ company that requires powers beyond those that it has been given
605	Private (or personal) domain	Areas of an individual's life that are not subject to governmental control
606	Private law	The branch of law that deals with the legal rights

		and duties of private individuals and the relations btw them
607	Private property	Property belonging to a particular person or persons as opposed to the public or the government
608	Privatization	The sale of government-owned assets or activities to the private sector
609	Privy Council	A ceremonial body made up of all present and former cabinet ministers (UK)
610	Pro-Bono	Done without compensation for the public good
	Procedural	Of or concerning procedure, esp. of a court of law or parliamentary body
611	Proclamation	A formal public statement; giving public notice
612	Proletariat	A Marxist term referring to those who sell their labor to the bourgeoisie; the working class
613	Property franchise (suffrage)	The requirement that citizens own a stipulated amount of property to receive the right to vote
614	Proportional representation (PR)	Representation of all parties in a legislature in proportion to their popular vote
615	Protocol	1) Code of behavior; 2) agreement, contract, etc.
616	Provincial courts	Local trial "inferior" or "lower" courts of limited jurisdiction established in each of the provinces and territories of Canada
617	Public Act	An act/ statute affecting matters of public concern; of such – the courts take judicial notice
618	Public authority	A public benefit corporation chartered by a state designed to perform some public service, such as the maintenance of public infrastructure, etc.
619	Public/ government/ national debt	Money/ credit owed by any level of government (central, federal, municipal, local) to its creditors/ taxpayers
620	Public international law	The body of laws governing relations btw nations; also law of nations/ international law
621	Public law	The branch of law that deals with the state/ government and its relationships with individuals in society / other governments
622	Public service	1) that is performed for the benefit of the public/ its institutions; 2) government employment
623	Puerto Rico	A self-governing island commonwealth of the USA in the Caribbean Sea; has civil law system based on the Spanish civil code within the framework of the US federal system

624	Puritan ethic	Morals of someone who adheres to strict religious principles opposed to sensual pleasures; includes religious duty, work, conscience, and self-restraint in the life of the individual
Q		
625	Qatar	A country of eastern Arabia in the southwest Persian Gulf; has mixed legal system of civil law and Islamic law (in family and personal matters)
626	Qualified majority voting (QMV)	A voting system, used by the EU Council of Ministers, enabling certain resolutions to be passed without unanimity. A simple majority requires one more than half of the given votes. An absolute majority requires more than 50% of all members, irrespective of the number of those voting. A specified majority of votes requires as much as 60 percent to approve a motion or pass legislation.
627	Quota	1) A proportional share assigned to each participant; 2) a prescribed number/ limitation
R		
628	Race	Population distinguished as a distinct group by genetically transmitted physical characteristics such as hair type, color of eyes and skin, stature, etc. (e.g., Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Negroid races)
629	Racism	Discrimination/ prejudice based on race so as race accounts for differences in human character/ ability/ individual achievement, etc.
630	Ratification	Making something valid by formally ratifying/ confirming it/ an approval
631	Ratio Decidendi	Legal rule derived from, and consistent with, those parts of legal reasoning within a judgment on which the outcome of the case depends
632	Readings First, Second and Third	The mechanism by which a bill is introduced to a legislature through introduction and debate
633	Realism	The attribute of accepting the facts of life and favoring practicality and literal truth
634	Recall	1) The act of removing an official by petition; 2) a call to return; 3) the process of remembering
635	Recognition	1) Acceptance/ acknowledgment of a claim, duty, fact, truth, etc.; 2) formal acknowledgment of a government/ the independence of a country
636	Redistribution	An economic theory/ policy that advocates

		reducing inequalities in the distribution of wealth
637	Referendum	A legislative act is referred for final approval to a popular vote by the electorate
638	Reform liberalism	A liberal ideology which advocates a larger role for the state in providing equality of opportunity
639	Regina	Translates as <i>Queen</i> . On an indictment in the UK the Crown is sometimes referred to as Regina v defendant where the King is referred as <i>Rex</i>
640	Regnal Year	A year of the reign of a sovereign, from the Latin regnum meaning "kingdom" or "rule"
641	Regressive tax	When the tax rate decreases as the amount subject to taxation increases
642	Regulative laws	Laws that control individual/ popular/ social behavior
643	Regulatory agency	Government agencies established to administer regulative laws in certain fields, e.g. the Human Rights Commission, etc.
645	Religious Law	The ordering principle of reality, codes of ethics and morality; knowledge as revealed by a God defining and governing all human affairs (e.g., customary Halakha (Jewish law), Hindu law, Sharia (Islamic law) and Canon (Christian law))
646	Religious legal systems	Where religious doctrines or texts take a primary role in the crafting, interpretation and application of the jurisdiction's laws
647	Report stage	The stage preceding the third reading in the passage of a bill through Parliament, at which the bill, as amended in committee, is reported back to the chamber considering it
648	Representative democracy	A form of government founded on the principle of elected individuals representing the people, as opposed to autocracy and direct democracy
649	Republic	A political system in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who are entitled to vote and can elect people to represent them
650	Republican government	A form of government where representatives are chosen in elections by a plurality of those who are both eligible to cast votes and actually do so
651	Residual	Remaining after most of smth. has gone
652	Responsible government	A system of government that embodies the principle of parliamentary accountability on the grounds of the Westminster system, i.e. the

		executive branch is responsible to parliament rather than to the monarch/ imperial government
653	Revolt	Rebellion; a refusal of obedience or order
654	Revolution	A fundamental change/ modification in political power/ organizational structures of government/ the rules by which government is conducted in a relatively short period of time
655	Roman Law	The system of jurisprudence of ancient Rome, codified under Justinian and forming the basis of many modern civil law systems
656	Roman-Dutch Law	A type of civil law based on Roman law as applied in the Netherlands
657	Romania	A country of southeast Europe; civil law system
658	Royal assent (in Britain)	The formal signing of an Act of Parliament by the sovereign by which it becomes law
659	Rule of law	A state of order when events conform to the law
660	"Rule of man"	Ability of government officials to govern by their personal whim/ desire
661	Runoff system	A voting (electoral) system used to elect a single winner with additional rounds of balloting until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast
662	Russia	The largest country in the world, covering North Eurasia; has civil law system
663	Rwanda	A country of east-central Africa; has mixed legal system of civil law, based on German and Belgian models, and customary law
S		
664	Saint Barthélemy	A Caribbean island, an overseas collectivity of France; has French civil law
665	Saint Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha	The British dependency of St. Helena; a volcanic chain of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean; has English common law and local statutes
666	Saint Kitts and Nevis	An island country east-southeast of Puerto Rico; has English common law system
667	Saint Lucia	An island country of the West Indies south of Martinique; has English common law system
668	Saint Martin	An island in the western Leeward Islands; administered jointly by France and the Netherlands; has French civil law system
669	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	An overseas department of France in the Atlantic, the only remaining French possession in North America; has French civil law system

670	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	An island state in the Caribbean, a member of the Commonwealth; has English common law
671	Samoa	An island country of the southern Pacific Ocean; has mixed legal system of English common law and customary law
672	San Marino	The republic located in the Apennines; has civil law system with Italian civil law influences
673	Sao Tome and Principe	An island nation in the South Atlantic; has mixed legal system of civil law base on the Portuguese model and customary law
674	Saudi Arabia	An absolute monarchy occupying most of the Arabian Peninsula in southwest Asia; has Islamic (sharia) legal system with some elements of Egyptian, French, secular and customary law
675	Scientific socialism	The Marxist-Engels socialism based on ideology and analysis of class conflict
676	Secede	To withdraw formally from membership in an organization/ association/ alliance/political union
677	The Second International	The reunion of socialist and labor parties in Europe in the absence of anarchists in 1889
678	Senegal	A country of western Africa on the Atlantic Ocean; has civil law system based on French law
679	Separation of church and state	Concept that organized religion and the nation state/ government should be separated
680	Separation of powers	A model for the governance of a state under which, the state is divided into branches (an executive, a legislature, a judiciary), each with separate and independent powers and areas of responsibility so that no one branch has more power than the other branches
681	Serbia	A republic of southeast Europe; civil law system
682	Seychelles	An island country in the western Indian Ocean north of Madagascar; has mixed legal system of English common, French civil and customary laws
683	Shadow cabinet	A group of senior members of the political party that is out of power; these members would probably assume corresponding positions as ministers in the Cabinet if their party was elected
684	Sierra Leone	A country of western Africa on the Atlantic coast; has mixed legal system of English common law and customary law

685	Singapore	A country of southeast Asia; has English common law system
686	Single-member-plurality system (SMP)	An electoral system in which the candidate with the most (more than 51% of votes) votes wins
687	Single-party system	A type of party system in which a single political party forms the government and no other parties are permitted to run candidates for election
688	Single transferable vote (STV)	A proportional representation in which electors vote for individuals rather than party lists by ranking the candidates in their order of choice
689	Sint Maarten	One of the four constituent countries that form the Kingdom of the Netherlands; based on Dutch civil law system with some English common law influence
690	Slovakia	A landlocked country of central Europe; has civil law system based on Austro-Hungarian codes
691	Slovenia	A country of central Europe; civil law system
692	Social contract/ compact by Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau	Agreement among the members of a society to give up part of their freedom to a government in return for protection of their natural rights
693	Social democracy	A political theory advocating the use of democratic means to achieve a gradual transition from capitalism to socialism
694	Social equality	A state of affairs in which all people in a society/ group have the same status in a certain respect
695	Socialism	An economic and political theory advocating public/ common ownership and cooperative management of the means of production and allocation of resources
696	Social justice	The idea of creating an egalitarian society that is based on the principles of equality and solidarity, that understands and values human rights, and that recognizes the dignity of every human being
697	Society	A group of people related to each other through persistent relations such as social status, roles, social networks and common rules of conduct
698	Solomon Islands	An island group of the western Pacific Ocean east of New Guinea; has mixed legal system of English common law and customary law
699	Somalia	A country of extreme eastern Africa on the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean; has mixed legal system of civil, Islamic and customary laws

700	South Africa	A country of southern Africa on the Atlantic and Indian oceans; has mixed legal system of Roman-Dutch civil, English common and customary laws
701	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	A British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean; applies the laws of the UK where applicable
702	Sovereign	A king/ queen / the person with the highest power/ supreme political authority in a country
703	Sovereignty	Ultimate, supreme power of a country to control its own government
704	Spain	A country of southwest Europe; has civil law system with regional variations
705	Spanish Law	A type of civil law, the legal system of Spain
706	Special (ad hoc) committee	Legislative committees for special, temporary purposes to investigate a problem before the government prepares legislation on the subject
707	Spoils system	The system of employing and promoting civil servants who are supporters of the bureaucracy
708	Spontaneous order	The emergence of various kinds of social order from any self-interested individuals who are not trying to create order through planning
709	Sri Lanka	An island country in the Indian Ocean off southeast India; has mixed legal system of Roman-Dutch civil law, English common law, and Jaffna Tamil customary law
710	Standing committee	Legislative permanent committee appointed to deal with a specified subject set up parallel with the government functions
711	Stare decisis	A legal principle by which judges are obliged to respect the precedents established by prior decisions; the basis of the common law system
712	State	The present state of a system/entity/ combination of people, territory, and sovereign government
713	Stateless society	A society without a sovereign government
714	Statism	1) The role of the state in analyzing political change; 2) political movements which support the use of the state to achieve goals
715	Statute	A formal written enactment of a legislative authority that governs a state, city, or county
716	Statutory Instrument	A form of delegated/ secondary legislation, i.e. made by an executive authority under powers

		given by primary legislation to implement and administer its requirements
717	Statutory Interpretation	The process of interpreting/ applying legislation
718	Structuralism	A theory of international relations stressing the impact of world economic structures on the political, social, cultural, economic life of the countries of the world
719	Subject	1) An area of knowledge which is studied at the University; 2) a person who has the right to live in a particular country/ society
720	Substantive	Important/ serious/ related to real facts
721	Suffrage	A right to vote
722	Suffragism	An advocate of the extension of political voting rights, especially to women
723	Subpoena	A writ/ court order requiring appearance in court to give testimony/ surrender documents
724	Sudan	A republic in northeastern Africa on the Red Sea; has mixed legal system of Islamic law and English common law in the north, and primarily customary law in the south
725	Summary Trial	In criminal law, it takes place in the magistrates' court without discussion or legal arrangements
726	Suriname	A country of northeast South America on the Atlantic Ocean; has civil law system influenced by Dutch civil law
727	Svalbard	A Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean; applies the laws of Norway where applicable
728	Swaziland	A landlocked monarchy in southeastern Africa; has mixed legal system of civil, common, and customary laws
729	Sweden	A Scandinavian kingdom; has civil law system influenced by Roman-Germanic and customary laws
730	Switzerland	A landlocked federal republic in central Europe; has civil law system
731	Symbolic laws	Laws designed to create special meaning for society, e.g., the adoption of a national anthem
732	Syndicalism	A radical political movement that advocates bringing industry and government under the control of labor unions by the use of direct action, such as general strikes and sabotage
733	Syria	A republic in the Middle East at the east end of

		the Mediterranean; has mixed legal system of civil law and Islamic law (for family courts)
T		
734	Taiwan	An island southeast of China, the seat of the Republic of China; has civil law system
735	Tajikistan	A landlocked mountainous republic in southeast central Asia; has civil law system
736	Tanzania	A republic in Africa; has English common law
737	Terrorism	The unlawful use/ threat of use of force/ violence by a person/ organized group against people/ property with the intention of intimidating/ coercing societies/ governments for ideological/ political reasons
738	Thailand	A country of southeastern Asia; has civil law system with common law influences
739	Third International	The political organization with the official Marxist-Leninism ideology/ communism (1921)
740	Timor-Leste	A country of the western Pacific Ocean; has civil law system based on the Indonesian model
741	Togo	A country of western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea; has customary law system
742	Tokelau	An island group in the South Pacific Ocean; has common law system of New Zealand
743	Tonga	A monarchy on a Polynesian archipelago in the South Pacific ocean; has English common law
744	Totalitarianism	1) The principle of complete and unrestricted power in government; 2) a form of government in which the ruler is an absolute dictator (not restricted by a constitution/ laws/ opposition etc.)
745	Traditional authority	A form of leadership in which the authority of an organization/ ruling regime is largely tied to tradition or custom
746	Treasury Board	A cabinet committee/ government department whose primary responsibility is to oversee government spending
747	Treaty	An express agreement under international law btw the actors in international law, namely sovereign states and international organizations to create or restrict rights and responsibilities
748	Tribe	A social group/ community of people existing before the development of, or outside of, states tied together by a myth of common ancestry

749	Tribunal	1) Any person/ institution with the authority to judge; 2) a committee/ board appointed to adjudicate; 3) a seat of a court of justice
750	Trinidad and Tobago	A country of the southeast West Indies in the Atlantic Ocean; has English common law
751	Trustee	1) A country responsible for supervising a trust territory; 2) a person/ institution to whom legal title to property is entrusted for another's benefit
752	Tunisia	A republic in northwestern Africa on the Mediterranean coast; has mixed legal system of civil law, based on the French civil code, and Islamic law
753	Turkey	A country of northern Africa bordering on the Mediterranean Sea; has civil law system based on various European legal systems notably the Swiss civil code
754	Turkmenistan	A republic in Asia to the east of the Caspian Sea; has civil law system with Islamic law influences
755	Turks and Caicos Islands	A UK Overseas Territory in the Caribbean, southeast of the Bahamas; has mixed legal system of English common law and civil law
756	Tuvalu	An island country of the western Pacific Ocean north of Fiji; has mixed legal system of English common law and local customary law
757	Two-party system	A condition/ party system in which two major parties/ contenders for power of approximately equal strength dominate a political unit
758	Two-party-plus system	A condition/ party system in which two major parties/ contenders for power of approximately equal strength dominate a political unit plus there is one/ more minor parties able to win seats but not to control the government
759	Typology	The study/ systematic classification of types that have characteristics/ traits in common
760	Tyranny	A form of government in which one person/ ruler is an absolute dictator (not restricted by a constitution or laws or opposition etc.)
U		
761	Uganda	A republic in eastern Africa; has mixed legal system of English common and customary laws
762	Ukraine	A republic in southeastern Europe; has civil law system

763	Ultimatum	1) A final statement of terms made by one party to another; 2) a final peremptory demand
764	Ultra vires (Latin)	Beyond the legal power/ authority of a person, corporation, agent, etc.
765	Unilateralism	The doctrine that nations should conduct their foreign affairs individualistically without the advice/ involvement of other nations
766	Unitary state	A sovereign state governed as one single unit in which the central government is supreme and any administrative divisions exercise powers that the central government chooses to delegate
767	Unitary system	A system of government in which a single sovereign government rules the country
768	"Unalienable" (inalienable) rights	A theoretical set of individual human rights that by their nature cannot be taken away/ violate/ transferred from one person to another
769	Unenumerated rights	Legal rights inferred from other legal rights that are officiated (listed in the Constitution) which have been recognized and protected by the courts
770	Unitary (unitary) government	A system in which all authority is vested in a central government from which regional and local governments derive their powers
771	United Arab Emirates	A federation of seven Arab emirates on the eastern Arabian peninsula; has mixed legal system of Islamic law and civil law
772	United Kingdom	A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles; divided into England and Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland; has common law system
773	United Nations (UN)	An organization of independent states formed in 1945 to promote international peace and security
774	United States	The North American republic containing 50 states (48 states plus Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands); has common law system based on English common law except Louisiana, which is based on Napoleonic civil code
775	United States Law	A type of common law, the basis of the legal system of the USA; consists of many levels of codified and uncodified forms of law; the most important is the US Constitution, which sets out the boundaries of federal law (constitutional acts of Congress, treaties ratified by Congress,

		regulations promulgated by the executive, case law originating from the federal judiciary, etc.)
776	United States Pacific Island Wildlife Refuges	A group of unorganized, unincorporated US Pacific Island territories; applies the US laws
777	Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	An international declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948
778	Unwritten constitution	A non-codified constitution established through traditional practice or conventions
779	Uruguay	A republic in South America; has civil law system based on the Spanish civil code
780	Utopian socialism	Early 19 th c. socialism achieved by voluntary sacrifice/ based on the universal appeal to reason
781	Uzbekistan	A republic in west central Asia; has civil law
V		
782	Vanuatu	A volcanic island republic in Melanesia of the southern Pacific Ocean; has mixed legal system of English common, French and customary laws
783	Venezuela	A country of northern South America; has civil law system based on the Spanish civil code
784	Verdict	The decision by a jury after it hears the evidence and arguments in a court case
785	Veto	The power to prevent legislation or action proposed by others; prohibition; rejection
786	Vietnam	A country of southeast Asia in eastern Indochina on the South China Sea; has civil law system
787	Violence	1) The exercise/ an instance of physical force, effecting/ intended to effect injuries, destruction, etc.; 2) abusive/ unjust exercise of power
788	Virgin Islands, the British	An internal self-governing UK Overseas Territory in the Caribbean, consisting of 36 islands; has English common law system
789	Virgin Islands, of the United States	An organized, unincorporated territory of the US with policy relations under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of the Interior; has US common law system
790	Visa	An official authorization permitting entry into and travel within a particular country/ region
791	Vote of censure	A motion of non-confidence requiring the prime minister and his/ her cabinet to resign
W		
792	Wake Island	An island in the western Pacific btw Guam and Hawaii; based on US common law system

793	Wallis and Futuna	A French overseas territory in the southwest Pacific Ocean; based on French civil law system
794	Weapons of mass destruction	Often referred to as "WMD", they would include Chemical, Biological and Nuclear weapons
795	Welfare state	A system where the state assumes responsibility for the welfare of its citizens in matters of health care, education, employment, and social security
796	Westminster system	A democratic parliamentary system modeled after the politics of the UK based on a series of procedures for operating a legislature which have originated from the conventions, practices and precedents of the Parliament of the UK, as a part of the UK Constitution
797	Whip	A political party official in a legislature with the duty of encouraging party members to vote with their parties on key pieces of legislation
798	White House Staff	Special advisors to the US President (Executive)
799	World Court (International Court of Justice)	Court in The Hague, the Netherlands, set up by the UN Treaty to which nations (the UN members) may submit disputes (since 1946)
800	World Trade Organization (WTO)	An international organization providing ground rules for international trade and commerce
801	Writ of habeas corpus	Documented legal justification for holding any prisoner incarcerated (in prison)
802	Writ of mandamus	A judicial order directing a government official to perform a duty of his/ her office
Y		
803	Yield/ Yielding	If a member of the House has been recognized to speak, no other member may speak unless he obtains permission from the member recognized; such a permission is called yielding
804	Yemen	The Middle East country; has mixed legal system of Islamic, English common, and customary laws
Z		
805	Zero population growth	The level of reproduction, migration and death that maintains population at a steady state
806	Zimbabwe	A landlocked country in the southern part of Africa; has mixed legal system of English common, Roman-Dutch civil, customary laws
807	Zoroaster	Persian prophet who founded Zoroastrianism, the struggle btw light (good) and dark (evil)

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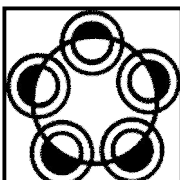

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**Short overview of what you should know
due to this educational resource:**

№	Rubric for your study	What you should know
1	Law 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is Law?2. How does Law correlate with the State?3. What are the main branches/ subjects/ disciplines of Law? Give examples.4. What are the fields of its practical application? Give examples.5. Significance for World Order.
2	Society 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is society?2. What is evolution of society?3. What are the forms of society?4. How do the modern societies operate?5. Significance for World Order.
3	Religion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is religion?2. What are the most recognized religions?3. What are the main distinctive features of different religious approaches?4. What are the most/ least religious countries in the world?5. Significance for World Order.
4	Legal Systems of the World General Knowledge 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is a legal system?2. What are the main categories of legal systems in the world?3. Which of the systems prevails worldwide?4. What are the differences btw them?5. What are their common features?6. What are the advantages of each?7. What are the drawbacks of each?
5	Legal Systems of the World Civil Law Countries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is known as such a legal system?2. What countries are within a legal system?3. How does the system of government/ law making/ judiciary operate within it?4. What are the distinctive features?5. How effective is its functioning?6. How democratic is the way it operates?7. How popular is it among the nations?
6	Legal Systems of the World Common Law Countries	Same questions as in graph 5.
7	Legal Systems of the World Religious Law Countries	Same questions as in graph 5.
8	Legal Systems of the World Mixed law Countries	Same questions as in graph 5.

