

GOVERNMENT & STATE STRUCTURES

COMPARISON BY HISTORICAL PERIOD AND HISTORICAL REGION

REGIONS	Ancient To 1200 BCE	Classical To 600 CE	Post-Classical 600 – 1450 CE	Early Modern 1450 – 1750 CE	Modern 1750 – 1914 CE	Contemporary 1914 - Present
SOUTHWEST ASIA & NORTH AFRICA	City-states, regional tribute states; priests ruled first, later kings; hereditary aristocracy; theocracy in Egypt, priests, aristocrats rule	Divine right monarchs, military aristocracy; tribute state, Assyrian, Persian, Hellenistic Empires; smaller trading city-states	Theocratic caliphates, Arab empire, Sunni-Shia schism; wazirs, bureaucracy, sultans aristocracy; mameluk armies; Seljuk, Buyid Fatimid states: no separation faith, state	Multi-ethnic empires, divine right monarchs, harem politics; millet system; Safavids, Ottomans, Mameluks, independent Muslim states in North Africa	Nationalism, reform, westernization divide states; European colonies in North Africa: Muhammad Ali's Egypt; Sudan's Madhist state	Collapse of empires, secular nation-states; authoritarian states common, Arab-Israeli conflicts, ethnic strife; Iranian Revolution, terrorism, extremism, Islamic Brotherhood.
	Royal absolutism, influence of state religions		Role of Islam, Islamic structures is a strong continuity; vies with localism, regionalism and later nationalism			
EAST ASIA: CHINA & JAPAN	Government by elders, men; feudal rulers, Xia, Shang dynasties; local aristocratic rule; Japan clans, tribal government	Feudal Zhou Dynasty, aristocracy; Qin, Han, centralized empire, shi bureaucracy, mandate of heaven, Dynastic cycle, Confucianism	China: centralized, Sui, Tang, Song rule, scholar-gentry, local provincial lords strong Japan Yamato dynasty to Chinese style state, shogun = military rule	Japan: centralized feudalism, shogun with military aristocracy; China: Ming, Qing Dynasty, traditional Confucian government state enforced isolation	Modernization vies with westernization; Meiji restoration in Japan, empire; China: extraterritoriality, spheres of influence; Chinese Revolution	Republic: KMT, local warlords vie; civil war; 1949 totalitarian state; Japan military dictatorship to 1945, democratic monarchy; Korea partitioned
	Patriarchy, hierarchy, filial piety as role in state structures		Confucian bureaucracy, rule by educated elites, traditional elites, rivalry between central state, provinces			
CENTRAL ASIA	Tribal government; village councils for settled areas; nomads: royal lineages, warrior aristocracy	Chariot Age nomads, Persians, Greeks set up tribute states in area; nomads disrupt settled rule: Kushan, Bactrians	Islam converts area, rule by caliphs; rise of sultans in distant lands; nomadic states create tribute empires: Turks, Mongols	Independent Muslim states in river valleys, nomadic tribute states on steppes; Timurid state briefly unites area	Russian Empire controls area under decentralized, indirect rule; Mongolia, Tibet, Sinkiang tributary to China	Russian, Chinese Revolutions lead to independence; ended by Soviet conquest, Chinese resurgence under Mao; post-1989 states authoritarian
	Two separate systems: settled, nomadic government		Introduction of Islam as a model for government, tribal governments; Russification, Sinification strong			
SOUTH ASIA	City-states, perhaps regional monarchies	Caste government; regional aristocracy republics, Magadha; Indus under SW Asia; Mauryan, Gupta Empire; nomadic tribal states, invasion	Arab Empire rules Indus; Delhi Sultanate under Turks; South India under Hindu rajas	Mughal Empire unites Subcontinent: strife between Muslims, Hindus; European enclaves give way to rule by British East India Company	BEIC struggles with princely states; Sepoy Rebellion; -India ruled by UK as colony; some local self-rule, Indian National Congress, Muslim League	India National Act in 1935; Partition in 1947; India = federal parliamentary democracy; Pakistan = military dictatorship
	Caste system dominates once introduced		Sectarian systems competing for state government; strong sense of national, ethnic identities vs European westernization			
WESTERN EUROPE	Tribal governments; Minoan, Mycenaean city-states = royalty, aristocracy	Greek city-states: oligarchy aristocracy, monarchy, democracy; Hellenistic empires; Roman state: republic, tribute empire, idea of citizenship, feudalism develops; loyalty to state, to king, or to church	Feudal states, royalty, aristocracy common; Oligarchy = church states, Italian, German republics, imperial cities; Holy Roman Empire; new kings, bureaucracy; State vs Church, central vs local	Merantilist overseas empires; divine right absolutism, nation states; centralization, rise of parliaments; social contracts, idea of popular sovereignty, constitutions	Increasing democracy, parliamentary rule; limits on royal power; nationalism; increased suffrage, first political parties, prime minister independent judiciary; socialism, Marxism	Totalitarian, Fascist states; rise of socialist, labor parties; WW II begins decolonization of empires; welfare states; supranational state in EU, trans-national institutions
	Greco-Roman model of government, constitution; notion of syncretism, local adaptations			Rise of modern state, nationalism, checks and balances; state replaces religion in life		
EASTERN EUROPE	Tribal government; village councils for settled areas; nomads: royal lineages, warrior aristocracy	Tribal government; village councils for settled areas; nomads: royal lineages, warrior aristocracy; Byzantine in Balkans	Decentralized royal states, aristocracy; Byzantine Empire = centralized state with bureaucracy, Caesaropapism; state formation period with rulers searching for model to follow	Russia, Austria = centralized empires, local nobility rule; Poland decentralized aristocratic republic with elected monarch; Ottomans in Balkans;	Germany, Austria, Russia rule most of Eastern Europe; nationalism leads to rise of ethnic states in Balkans; Ottomans drive from Balkans	Nationalism, socialism, struggle for control; fascism in many states; Russian Revolution, Marxist-Leninist state, Soviet satellites; post-1989 sees democracy, ethnic tension
	Local interests, patterns; weak states often with kings struggling against nobles			Centralization vs localism, ethnic nationalism vie with westernization, Communism, Fascism		

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MESOAMERICA & CARIBBEAN	Hunting bands, tribal government; Olmec royal absolutism with aristocracy, priests	Mayan city-states with royal absolutism, nobles, priests; tribute empire in Teotihuacan Hunting bands, tribal government elsewhere	Some empire building in Mayan area; Toltec tribute state; Aztec Empire with royal absolutism, nobles, priests, clan/castes	Spanish model: mercantilist empire, vicerealty run by Iberian elites, local creoles have local, limited influence; church assists state; limited French, English influence	French, American revolution leads to independence; ideas of centralism, federalism, liberalism struggle; military rule, caudillos	Mexican Revolution, Cuban Revolution; Socialism, Marxism, democracy struggle against military rule; rise of democracy
	Tribal states coexist with more centralized royal states; kings powers limited by elites, priests			Decentralized imperial state, issues: centralization, decentralization, reform; minority rights		
SUB-AHARAN AFRICA	Stateless societies, tribal government, royal lineages continue throughout history even when complex government arose	Kush Empire modeled on Egypt's pharaoh; Axum, Ghana: tribute empire; Bantu tribes migrate, tribal structure	Mali, Songhay tribute empires; Muslim models in West, East; Swahili city-states; Kongo kingdom centralized government	Kanem Bornu, Hausa, Zimbabwe = tribute empire; Forest area: gunpowder slaving empires, absolutism, bureaucracy; colonial enclaves on coast	European colonial empires rule Africa: direct, indirect rule; Europeans rule thru local elites; apartheid in South Africa;	Decolonization: 1956-89; most states ruled by tribal, traditional elites, most military or personal dictatorships; nation building, identities thwarted by constant ethnic strife
	Weak state structures; power within clans, tribes, chiefs		Tribute empires, local interests and systems, Islamic states		Empires, colonies, resistance, adaptation of western models	
SOUTH AMERICA	Hunting bands, tribal government	City-states with royal absolutism, priestly class, tribute empire	Royal absolutism, split inheritance; priests, aristocrats assist kings; city states, small tribute empires = Chan Chan, Moche	Strong continuity by Incan Empire; rise of small tribute, tribal states in rest of area often with kings; Spanish, Portuguese colonial empires	French, American revolution leads to independence; ideas of centralism, federalism, liberalism struggle; military rule, caudillos	Socialism, Marxism, democracy struggle against military rule; rise of democracy; Peron's Argentina, Vargas Brazil = state corporatism
	Tribal states coexist with more centralized royal states; kings powers limited by elites, priests			Decentralized imperial state, issues: centralization, decentralization, reform; minority rights		
SOUTHEAST ASIA, OCEANIA	Tribal governments;	Rise of royal chiefs, lineages; Vietnam = Chinese province; Funan first tribute empire; Indians bring raja, Indian models but not castes	Tribute empires, trading states with merchant aristocracy; Vietnam empire on Chinese model; Khmer Empire on Indian model	Arrival of Islam brings Muslim models; some tribute states in Siam, Burma; European states est. colonies; Sp = Philippines; Dutch = Indonesia	European empires spread control; direct, indirect rule; only Siam = independent protectorate of UK, Fr.; US in Philippines	Decolonization, strong nationalism; states = military, authoritarian Vietnamese revolution, communist state; new Malaysia, Philippines democratic republics; Islamic extremism
	Decentralization, weaker states; outside models from India, China but rarely social classes			Strong influence of Islam, European models; local control by elites, adapting outside models		
USA & CANADA	Hunting bands, tribal government	Hunting bands, tribal government	City-states, tribute states based on Meso-American models: Moundbuilders, Anasazi, Iroquois Confederation	British, French, Dutch settler colonies under royal, charter, and proprietary rule; elite is mercantilist, planter aristocracy; charters, self-government, private property critical	Colonies give way to federal, con-federal democracies; checks, balances, judicial oversight, 3 branches of government, civil rights	Increased suffrage, strong civil rights, strongly anti-central, pro-secular, party democracies; ethnic diversity protected
	Tribal structures, a few loose states, confederations; moving towards chiefdoms			Decentralized imperial state		Centralization, local interests; checks, balances, rights

DEFINITIONS

- I. **Paleolithic Government**
 - A. **Stateless societies**
 - B. **Tribal governments by strongest, best hunter, best provider, elder**
 - C. **Women often could sit in councils, offer advice, lead**

- II. **Neolithic Government and Nomadic Councils**
 - A. **Tribal councils dominate by males, largest land owner, owner of most animals in herding societies**
 - B. **City-State: One city controls the agricultural land around it**
 - C. **Nomadic societies often had two classes: aristocratic, commoners with rulers from a royal clan**

- III. **Ancient and Classical Government**
 - A. **General Types of Government**
 - 1. **Monarchy: Rule by King, either elected or inherited**
 - 2. **Aristocracy: Rule by nobles born to position**
 - 3. **Oligarchy: Rule by a few, often the wealthy, sometimes merchants**
 - 4. **Democracy: Direct rule by popular vote; if rule by elected representatives is called a republic**
 - 5. **Theocracy: Rule by a god-king of some type such as the pharaoh; Theocratic rule is usually through a priestly class**
 - 6. **Gerontocracy: Rule by the elderly, common to East Asia**

 - B. **Empires**
 - 1. **Tribute Empire: A large conquest state which allows local rule, autonomy if taxes, tribute paid**
 - 2. **Dynastic Rule: A form of monarchy where the ruler is chosen from a common family**
 - 3. **Centralized rule: the head of state makes all decisions and rules through bureaucracy, aristocracy**

 - C. **Caste Government**
 - 1. **Birth castes determine social leadership**
 - 2. **Most associated with South Asia but also common in Andean Americas, Mayan city-states**

 - D. **Bureaucracy**
 - 1. **Rule by specialists trained, educated to rule**
 - 2. **Bureaucrats can also be military aristocracy, priestly caste**

- IV. **Post-Classical Government**
 - A. **Feudalism**
 - 1. **Decentralized rule based on warrior aristocracy, local justice, local control of land**
 - 2. **Centralized Feudalism was practiced in Japan by Shoguns, military dictators**

 - B. **Divine Right Monarchy, Divine Right Absolutism**
 - 1. **Caliphates, Papal States, Christian Kingdoms of East, West Europe: God-inspired, ordained government**
 - 2. **Privy Councils, curia, wazirs, sultans often exercised real power in name**

 - C. **Warrior States**
 - 1. **Power exercised through a warrior elite**
 - 2. **Tends towards feudalism**

- V. Early Modern Government**
 - A. New Style Monarchs**
 1. Often depend on non-traditional class for support, ie middle class in Europe
 2. Exercise control through military, bureaucracy; struggle with traditional elites
 3. Gunpowder States – empires established, ruled through firearms, military technology
 4. Royal absolutism, divine right monarchies are a type
 - B. Nation-State, nationalism**
 1. Developed in France; a state where one ethnic group dominates the state structure
 2. Ideology of loyalty to a state, ethnic group rather than loyalty to a ruler, religion
 3. Comes to include all classes irrespective of birth
 - C. Multi-national state**
 1. A state with many ethnic groups, religious groups; nationalism a strong threat to these states
 2. Millet government system in Turkey allowed local religious self-rule
 - D. Modern Empires**
 1. Settler – mother country attempts to recreate mother culture abroad by sending settlers
 2. Colonialism – control of other states for purposes of economic exploitation
 3. Direct Rule: Distant colonies ruled directly from mother country, capital; often mercantilistic
 4. Indirect Rule: Colony controlled by another power, which permits limited local rule through traditional elites
 - E. Constitutional Monarchy**
 1. Parliaments or Elective legislative bodies limit royal power
 2. Constitutions limit royal power
 - F. Party Politics**
 1. Established political parties represent particular interests, groups
 2. Compete for power in political arena
 - G. Federalism, Con-federalism**
 1. Local territorial units exist with protected rights
 2. Decentralized rule as a check on national power
- VI. Modern and Contemporary Government**
 - A. Modern Democratic State**
 1. Full suffrage: all male, female citizens vote for representatives
 2. Socialist, welfare state: government is responsible for social well-being of all citizens; public utilities
 3. Checks and Balances: idea that legislative, executive, judicial branches are independent, check each other
 - B. Authoritarian State**
 1. Military rule
 2. One man or one party dictatorial rule
 - C. Totalitarian State: Elite, secretive mass parties rule through terror, use of modern technology, glorification of leader cult**
 1. Fascist, Nazi: State with absolute control of all aspects of society, based on ethnicity, glorification of nation
 2. Communist: State with absolute control of all aspects of society, based on concerns of workers, peasants