

1. CLASIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT

For
B.A. (Pol.Sc.(Hons.)
Degree Part-3, Optional

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Terms

- **Government** is the machinery or agency through which the will of the state is formulated, expressed or realized. In broadest sense refers to any mechanism through which ordered rule is maintained. The core functions of government are : to make law (legislature); implement law (executive); and interpret law (adjudication).
- Form of government is the product of large no. of factors.
- **Classification** to be meaningful emphasizes on similarities and differences between two or more objects. It serves two purposes:

Aims/purpose

- **First**, it aids understanding by making comparison possible, and helping to highlight similarities and differences between otherwise shapeless collection of facts; and
- **Second**, it helps us to evaluate the effectiveness or success of a different political systems.

Traditional Classification

- Aristotle classifies the different forms of governments on a two fold basis:
 - no. of persons who hold or share the sovereign power; and
 - The ends/purpose the government have in view.

This enables us to distinguish between the pure and corrupt form of government. This is because The true end of the state is the perfection of its members and the degree of devotion to this end

Aristotle's Six Forms of Government

Monarchy	Aristocracy	Polity
Tyranny	Oligarchy	Democracy

Aristotle's classification

- **Monarchy**-with supreme virtue its guiding principle;
- **Aristocracy**-representing a mixture of virtue and wealth;
- **Polity**-representing martial and medium virtues;
- **Tyranny**-representing force, deceit and selfishness;
- **Oligarchy**-representing the greed of wealth
- **Democracy**-representing the principle of equality with power in the hands of the poor
- Aristotle observes that these 4 elements always struggle for power : **Birth;Virtue;Worth;Liberty**

Modern Classification

- **Jean Bodin**-Type of govt. dependent on geographical, economic as well as political factors-He concluded as Monarchy, Aristocracy and Democracy .He further subdivided Monarchy into Royal, Despotic and Tyrannical.
- **Montesquieu**-Republic, Monarchy and Despotism.

Modern Classification

- Leacock-Dictatorship and Democracy
- Robert Dahl-**Polyarchy** whose main features being relatively high toleration of opposition; open and responsive.

Three World Typology

- A capitalist 'first world'
- A communist 'second world'
- A developing 'third world'
- A product of cold war era antagonism having economic, ideological, political and strategic dimensions. After 1970 lost its sheen and echo.

The Fall of the 'Three' Worlds Typology

- The 1970s and the emergence of the 'fourth' world
- Democratisation in Latin America
- Fukuyama – 'the end of history' (1989) and the triumph of western liberal democracy

Contemporary Regime Classification

- *constitutional-institutional approach* – distinction between presidential / parliamentary, federal / unitary
- *structural-functional approach* – developed out of systems theory which was prominent in the 1950s and 1960s
- *economic-ideological approach* – again a system approach which focuses upon the level of material development in a country and also its broader ideological orientation

Contemporary Regime Classification

It is by virtue of the systems approaches that five regime types can finally be delineated, regime types which are fit for contemporary world we live in:

- Western Polyarchies
- New Democracies
- East Asia Regimes
- Islamic Regimes
- Military Regimes

Western Polyarchies

The term polyarchy was first coined by Robert Dahl and Charles Lindblom in their 1953 book *Politics, Economics and Welfare*

Polyarchical regimes have two essential features:

- relatively high tolerance of opposition – seen as a means to check the power of government
- it ensures that participation in politics should be open and responsive to the public

Consensus Democracies

Consensual (Pluralistic, Consociational) Systems are often marked by:

- Coalition governments
- A separation of powers between executive and assembly
- A multiparty system
- Proportional representation voting system
- Federalism / devolution
- Constitution and bill of rights

East Asian Regimes

In the second half of the 20th century the world's economic focus has shifted from the West to the East.

Eastern Polyarchies:

- These systems are focussed more around economic than political goals
- This is broad support for 'strong' government and state
- Support and heavy identification with the leader
 - Confucian stress on loyalty

Islamic Regimes

Two ways of coming into being:

1. those states where the existing political order has been overtly challenged – Iranian revolution of 1979. Similar stories in Sudan and Pakistan
2. cases where regimes have been deliberately constructed along Islamic lines – e.g. Saudi Arabia which has been Islamic since its inception in 1932.

Military Regimes

This last regime classification is one in which the system is dependent upon the use of military power and coercion.

Two different categories that we can place these in:

- **Classical form is the military junta**
- **Military-backed personalised dictatorship**