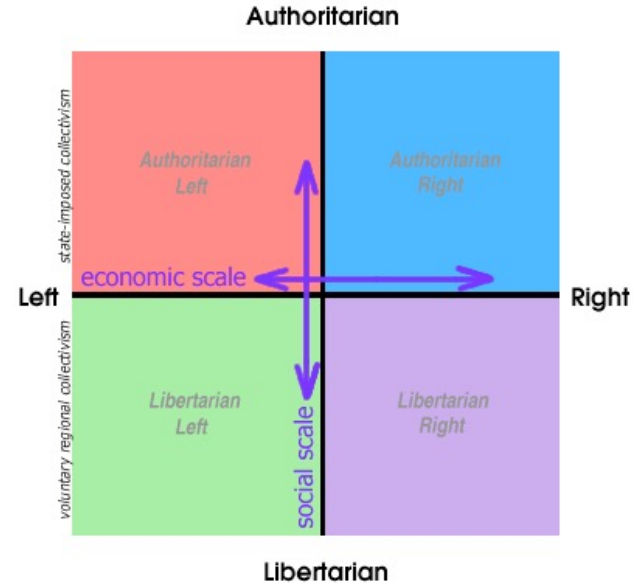


Part 3: Democratic Government

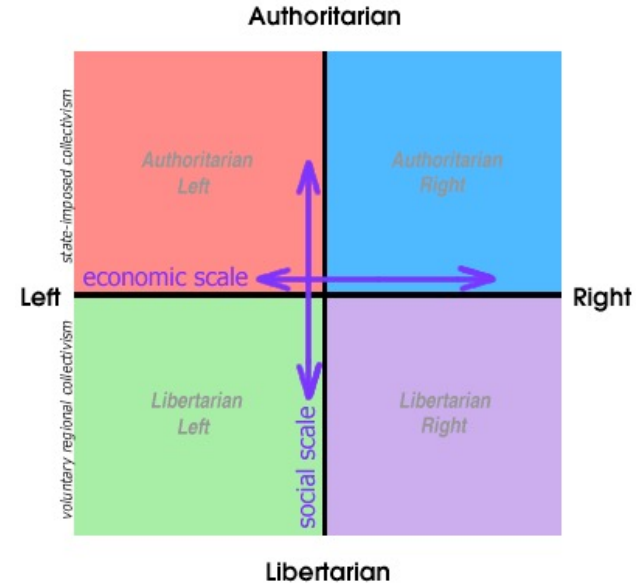
Political Ideologies and Systems

- Take test at www.politicalcompass.org
- Write down results
(e.g. Economic Left/Right: 0.00
Social Libertarian/Authoritarian: -4.36)



Political Ideologies and Systems

- Consider these questions:
 - Is it desirable for everyone in a political community to share identical views/beliefs?
 - What are the implications of a political community having sharply divided political views/beliefs?
 - How do the political beliefs of a community influence its system/form of government?



Comparing Political Systems

Aristotle's Classical Typology

- **Who rules?**

- Power distributed to everyone or is it concentrated in a few/one person?

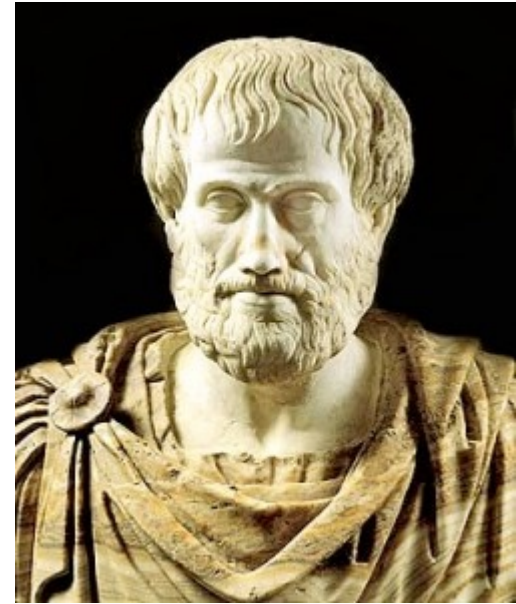
- **Whose interests?**

- Does government serve the interests of the people or the rulers?

Aristotle's Typology of Governments

Tyranny	Oligarchy	Democracy
Monarchy	Aristocracy	Polity

(Pg. 27 of *Govts., Systems & Regimes*)



Comparing Political Systems

Cold War Typology

- **Capitalist or communist?**
 - Free market or command economy?
- **Democratic or authoritarian?**
 - Widespread or limited political participation?



Nikita Khrushchev (USSR) and John F. Kennedy (USA) in 1961

Cold War Typology



Comparing Political Systems

Modern World Typology

- **Who rules?**
- How is **compliance** achieved?
- Is power **centralised or fragmented**?
- How is power **acquired and transferred**?
- What is the balance between **state & individual**?
- How much **wealth, and how is it distributed**?
- How is **economic life** organised?
- How **stable** is the regime?

Contemporary Classifications

Liberal democracies	Western polyarchies
Illiberal democracies	New democracies
	East Asian regimes
Authoritarian regimes	Islamic regimes
	Military regimes

(Hague & Harrop, 2007)

(Heywood, 2007)

Contemporary Classifications

Liberal democracies	USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany
Illiberal democracies	Russia, Venezuela. Egypt
Authoritarian regimes	China, Iran, North Korea, Chad

Liberal Democracies

- Constitutional limits to government power
- Regular, free and fair elections based on near-universal suffrage
- High tolerance of political opposition
- Individual rights protected by independent courts and clear boundaries between public and private spheres
- Free and independent news media

(Hague & Harrop, 2007)

Illiberal Democracies

- Few constitutional checks on government
- Elections genuine but heavily influenced by government
- Political opposition denied level playing field
- Weak individual rights and judiciary prone to interference by government
- Significant state control of news media

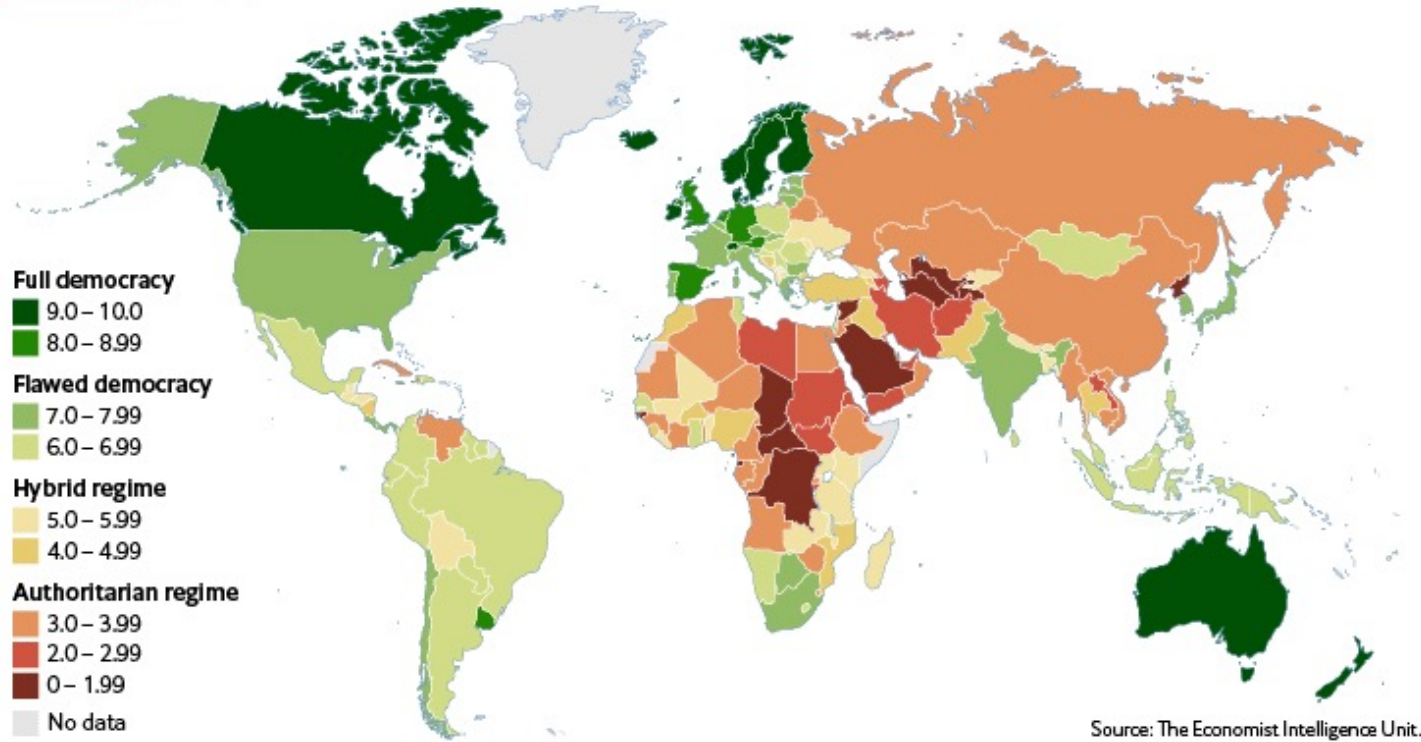
(Hague & Harrop, 2007)

Authoritarian Regimes

- Government not bound by law or accountability to the people
- Political participation limited or discouraged; elections either non-existent or fraudulent
- Political opposition either non-existent or incapable of challenging government rule
- Few individual rights and liberties
- News media owned or controlled by state

(Hague & Harrop, 2007)

Democracy Index 2017



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit.

Economist Intelligence Unit 's Democracy Index measures the state of democracy by rating electoral processes and pluralism, the state of civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture.

Democracy

- "**Rule** (krates) by the **people** (demos)"
- **Popular sovereignty**: final authority in the state belongs to the people – government is **only legitimate if based on the wishes or consent** of the people
- Full political rights typically restricted to adult citizens who meet certain conditions e.g. not mentally unsound or incarcerated

(Harris, 2001)

Types of Democracy

- **Direct vs. Representative**

(Democracy p. 5)

- **'Majority'/Westminster vs. 'Consensus'/consociational**

(Governments, systems & regimes p. 34)

- **Liberal vs. Illiberal/hybrid**

(Politics & government p. 7-8)

“The **will of the people** shall be the basis of the authority of government”

- Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

