

Government/Civics Understandings

Chapter 24

READ: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SS6CG4 *The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.*

For detailed information and activities for this standard, see pages 37-40.

SS6CG5 *The student will explain the structure of modern European governments.*

a. Compare the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), the federal system of the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany), and the federation of the Russian Federation (Russia), distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

b. Describe the purpose of the European Union and the relationship between member nations.

Let's Look at Governments

copy!

There are many different forms of government. The two most common democratic governments are **parliamentary systems** (legislature holds power) and **presidential systems** (power divided between branches). Governments also distribute power and determine how citizens participate differently:

Distribution of power:

- **Unitary:** central government has all power
- **Confederation:** loose alliance; political units control their own laws; central government makes decisions only on issues that affect the entire group
- **Federal:** power divided between central government and smaller political units

Citizen participation:

- **Autocracy:** one leader controls power; citizens do not participate
- **Oligarchy:** small group controls power; they are the only citizens who participate
- **Democracy:** people have full and equal rights to participate



Big Ben and Parliament Buildings, London, England

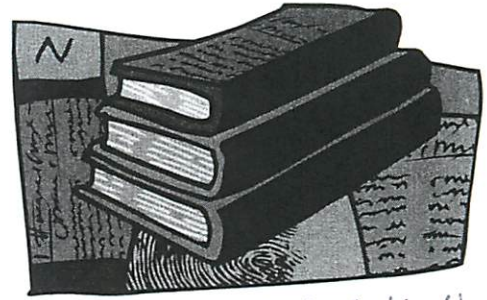


U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.



Quick Quiz

Write T for True and F for False.



- ___ 1. The legislature holds the power in a presidential system.
- ___ 2. Citizens participate fully in a democracy.
- ___ 3. Citizens participate fully in an autocracy.
- ___ 4. The central government controls all power in a unitary system.
- ___ 5. Federal systems divide power between a central government and smaller units.

1st para

look at citizen participation.

look at distribution of power section.

You do not have to copy this information - put it on the chart - Next page.

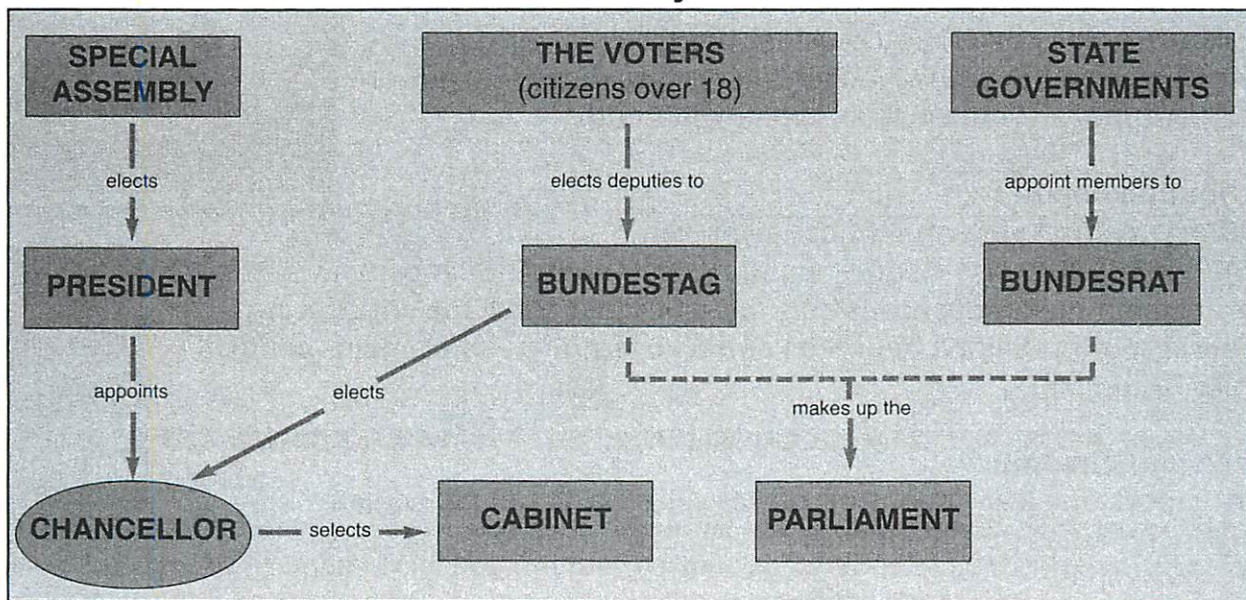
Modern European Governments

You do not have to copy. Complete chart on next page.

There are several types of government in Europe. The governments of the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia are described below.

- **The Federal Republic of Germany (Germany)** has a federal system of government, which means that power is shared between a central government and 16 state governments. Germany's leadership includes a president and a chancellor. The president is the head of state but has little political power. The chancellor is the powerful head of government. He is elected by one of the houses of Germany's Parliament. The two houses of the legislature are the *Bundestag* and the *Bundesrat*. Germany's constitution guarantees basic rights and personal freedoms like the right to vote, equal rights, and freedom of speech, religion, and press.

Structure of Germany's Government



• The **Russian Federation** (Russia) is a federation established in 1991 where power is divided between a central government and 89 smaller political units. The Russian government was established in 1991 when the Soviet Union dissolved. Its leader is a **president** elected by the people. The president then appoints a prime minister, who is second-place in leadership. Russia's legislature, the **Federal Assembly**, has two houses called the Federation Council and the State Duma.



The Kremlin, Moscow, Russia

Russia ratified a new constitution in 1993. It guarantees basic rights and **personal freedoms** like the right to vote, equal rights, and freedom of religion, speech, and the press. Other important rights granted, which were often denied during Communist rule, include the right to private telephone calls and mail correspondence, and freedom of movement, which allows citizens to leave Russia and come back freely.

The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** (United Kingdom) has a **parliamentary system** of government. The leadership of the United Kingdom includes a monarch (king or queen) as the ceremonial head of state. The monarch, who today is Queen Elizabeth II, has very little power. The **prime minister** is the head of government. The power in the UK's government lies with **Parliament** (the legislature), which makes the country's laws and elects the prime minister. Parliament has two houses—the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Citizens are granted basic rights and **personal freedoms** like the right to vote and freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly.



Think About It

Complete the table below comparing the governments of the UK, Germany, and Russia.

You need to draw this table to complete it.

	Govt. System ¹	Leadership ²	Legislature ³	Freedoms ⁴
United Kingdom				
Germany				
Russia				

Go back and look!



Quick Review

Circle the correct answer to each question.

Write "yes" or "no" on your paper.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. The monarch has the most power in the government of the United Kingdom. | Yes | No |
| 2. The United Kingdom has a parliamentary system of government. | Yes | No |
| 3. The German chancellor is more powerful than the president. | Yes | No |
| 4. Germany has a federal system of government. | Yes | No |
| 5. In Russia, power is divided between a central government and many political units. | Yes | No |
| 6. Russia's leader is elected by the people. | Yes | No |

Federation-look



Background Check

Although Russia's constitution calls for freedom of the press, that freedom is not always guaranteed in the former Communist country. Reporters Without Borders, an organization that monitors freedom of the press, ranks Russia very low on its list of press freedom among countries around the world.

The European Union

Copy!

The European Union (EU) is an organization of more than 25 European countries originally founded to encourage trade within Europe. Today, it has grown into a very strong multinational union and the world's leading trade power. The EU even has its own flag! The EU's purpose is:



- To create a peaceful, stable environment between European countries
- To promote free trade among members leading to one common market
- To help ensure the safety and security of member nations
- To cooperate and assist each other in social issues such as preserving the environment and protecting human rights

The EU has built a strong relationship between its member nations. Dropping all tariffs has led to greatly improved trade and higher standards of living among members. Wealthier countries are sharing their wealth with poorer countries. Countries are helping improve their environment by setting up strict environmental standards. Workers are allowed to cross borders easily to work in other EU countries. A Court of Human Rights has been established to protect citizens' rights in member countries.

One of the most important accomplishments of the European Union is the establishment of a single currency called the euro. Now, countries that use the euro do not have to worry about exchanging currency or about constantly changing exchange rates. The euro makes trade easier, more efficient, and less costly!



Essential Skills

Write the ones that are benefits.

Put a check mark next to the benefits of the European Union. There are 5 -

Free school funding

Free trade

Increased number of television stations

Higher standards of living

Protection of the environment

Single currency

Workers can work in many other countries

Lower income taxes

Read carefully!

STOP - look at directions to see if you continue.



Look-It-Up!

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to find out how many members the European Union has today. Write the number here. _____ What was the last country (or countries) to join? _____

Economic Understandings

Chapter 25



READ: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SS6E5a and b are covered on pages 45-46.

SS6E5a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.

SS6E5b. Explain how most countries have a mixed economy located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.



SS6E5 The student will analyze different economic systems

c. Compare the basic types of economic systems found in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

Economics Makes the World Go Round!

Copy!

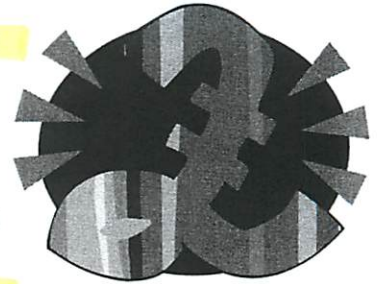
Para 1

There are three basic types of economic systems. Traditional systems are found in agricultural societies where people make what they need to survive. In a command system, the government controls all production and distribution. In a market system, supply and demand determines what is produced and sold. Most countries have mixed economies that fall somewhere in between pure market and pure command economies. Every economic system has to answer three basic questions: *What to produce? How to produce? For whom to produce?*

Economies in Europe

You'll find several types of basic economic systems during your study of Europe:

- The United Kingdom has a mixed market economy that ranks as the second-largest economy in the European Union. Service industries like banking, insurance, and business services account for most of the UK's gross domestic product (GDP). Since 1979, the British government has turned over many state-owned companies like British Steel, British Coal, and British Airways over to private ownership (business), setting up free market competition instead of government control.



- Germany has a mixed economy known as a social market economy. It combines three things: a market system (free enterprise and competition), some state control, and social welfare where help is given to the poor. In 1990, when West Germany and East Germany were united, West Germany absorbed huge costs bringing East Germany's command economy into its market system. Despite that setback, the new Germany has emerged as the strongest economy in Europe!



- Russia has a mixed market economy. The Russian economy has struggled as it transitions from a command economy under the Soviet Union government to a market economy today. Many government-owned companies are being sold to the private sector (business), but Russia still faces financial problems and huge costs to upgrade its old manufacturing plants and industries to modern, more efficient standards.



Essential Skills

In your own words, define a market economy.



Essential Skills

Complete the chart below comparing the economies of the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia.

Copy chart!

Country	Type of Economy	Growing or Struggling	What the Government Controls
United Kingdom			
Germany			
Russia			



Quick Quiz

Answer the questions below.

Answers only.

1. List the three basic questions economic systems have to answer. para 1

2. Next to each question below, write T for traditional system, C for command system, and M for market system.

___ a. The government controls what is produced and how it is produced.

___ b. Supply and demand determines what is sold and how much it costs.

___ c. People make what they need to survive.

3. The most common economic system today is: *(para 1)*

a. command

b. market

c. mixed



Think About It

History shows that command economies typically have not been successful, growing economies. Why do you think that is the case?