

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT:

A BASIC BREAKDOWN OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...MORE TO COME!

1. POWER DISTRIBUTION:
 - a. **Unitary**-Strong Central Government-**DO NOT CONFUSE WITH AUTOCRACY**
 - b. **Confederation**-Weak central government
 - c. **Federal**-States share power with the central government
*Think of Goldie Locks and the Three Bears

2. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:
 - a. **Autocracy**- ONE ruler; got it through blood line or by force. Think dictator...NO VOTING
 - b. **Oligarchy**- Ruled by a few; usually the wealthy people of the country... No VOTING outside of the group
 - c. **Democracy**- Citizens have the right to vote; with certain restrictions...U.S.A.

3. TWO PREDOMINANT FORMS OF DEMOCRACY:
 - a. Parliamentary-Prime Minister (not president) heads parliament (legislative branch); common in Europe; Parliament selects the PM; may have a queen (monarch); PM can dissolve Parliament and MPs can vote to elect a new PM...this cannot happen in a Presidential Democracy.
 - b. Presidential Democracy-Legislature makes the law...not the president. President is NOT part of legislature; president is elected by the citizens; president and legislature served fixed amount of time; President is the head of state and chief executive.