

Basic Regime Types (According to Western Comparative Politics & Julian's understanding)

NOTE that since the post-Cold War "Third Wave of Democratization," democracy is nearly universally recognized as "a good thing" and "the best" or even the only legitimate regime type, so virtually all modern regimes consider themselves (and declare themselves to be) democratic (consulting, responding to, and being accountable to citizens, with good governance "by and for the people"). Republics, voting, signing petitions, the title of "President," as well as other ostensibly democratic traits and practices are nearly universal in the 21st century. Western political scientists nonetheless set standards and judge the extent to which (or whether) popular political participation actually influences leadership and public policy decisions and how liberal or illiberal political institutions are. The sub-sub-field of political development generally assumes a teleological march of progress towards (liberal) democracy, though the 21st century has cast doubt on its universal applicability. Your questions and objections are more than welcome!

"Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" Where does it fit, if anywhere? This handout withholds judgment and acknowledges the discomfort (at best) and wholesale rejection and condemnation of this typology as Euro-centric, inaccurate, and perpetuating the myth of the separability of politics and economics, the universality of Western labels and/or capitalism (at worst).

	<---Non-Democracies	Democracies ---->
Regime Type	Totalitarian	Illiberal Democracy Liberal (Western) Democracy
Leadership	(Likely charismatic) Dictator with (near) absolute power, cult of personality & multiple exalted titles (may continue after death)	President or Prime Minister with limited powers, term limits, elected under conditions of Dahl's polyarchy. Executive Branch co-equal w/ Legislative & Judicial
Role of Ideology	Very Strong (can't be opposed) official, Utopian, revolutionary	(Strong) Capitalism &/or "Socialist Democracy"
Political Participation (of citizens)	Mandatory/coerced. "mass movements" & campaigns require enthusiastic, active popular participation. EVERYTHING in life is political because it is politicized (related to the ideology).	Voting is necessary for the system to function. Voting is necessary for the system to function but should be optional. Peaceful protests are expressions of freedom and allowed or encouraged.
Other	Rare in the 21st century, considered unstable and unsustainable. Often used as a pejorative for any non-democratic regime ruled by a dictator.	Criticized by Marxists & socialists as "bourgeois democracy". All countries in "The West" are included & the reason why Japan, S.Korea, etc. are "Western countries". Assumed to have high legitimacy even if the economy is weak or current leadership is unpopular. Divided further into liberal and populist ideal types. Requires the provision of 2nd-order, "civil & political" human rights and freedoms.

On this side of the pink line regimes are considered non-democratic. Elections are a sham, a show, rigged, or otherwise illegitimate.

On this side, regimes are considered democratic, their elections "free & fair"