

GOOGLE EARTH TOUR COUNTRY BIOGRAPHIES

Read the following biographies of different countries' government structures closely. Some of the countries' governments have remained the same, and some have changed over time. Decide whether each country has a limited government or an unlimited government.

Country	Biography	Limited or Unlimited Govt.
France	In 1799, after a ten year long revolutionary war to overthrow the king, Napoleon Bonaparte and two other men seized power in a coup d'etat, Napoleon worked to be declared emperor and was successful in 1804. He created the Napoleonic Code, which became the system of laws in France and allowed religious freedom but held most of the power as the leader of France until 1814.	
Athens	Around 500 B.C.E. in Greece, the idea of democracy was developed. Demos means people and kratos means rule in Greek. In Athens, all adult citizens were required to participate in government or face fines and sometimes even getting marked with red paint. Only free men were able to be classified as citizens in Athens. Every year 500 people were picked to make laws for one year. Once the 500 people proposed laws, all citizens could vote on the proposal.	
North Korea	In 1948, North Korea formed their government by creating a constitution and naming the country the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea's constitution has been amended almost two thousand times and names Kim Jong-Un as the Supreme Leader of North Korea. The government does not allow freedom of speech, religion, or independent media. Forced labor is used to maintain the economy and people cannot choose their own jobs.	
China	The People's Republic of China was formed in 1949 after a civil war. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the party in control of China's government and economy. The CCP has a committee of seven people that make laws and Xi Jinping is the General Secretary of this committee. He is also the President of China, and the head of China's military. Although China has a written constitution, people in China do not have freedom of religion or speech. Social media is banned in China and the media is controlled by the CCP.	
United States of America	The United States was formed as a representative democracy in 1789 after the creation of the U.S. Constitution. The constitution is the guiding document that says what the government can and cannot do and lays out the rights and freedoms of citizens. U.S. citizens vote for representatives to create and enact laws. Citizens are free to criticize the government openly. The media play an important role by informing citizens of the actions the government takes from day to day.	
Russia	Russia became a republic in 1991, when a constitution was written. The constitution included a parliament, which is a group of people voted in by citizens that creates laws. Vladimir Putin is Russia's president and was voted into power in 2000. Recently the constitution was amended by parliament to allow the president to run for election until 2036. Russia also has a Prime Minister who is appointed by the president. Governors of smaller regions of Russia are appointed by Putin. Under the constitution, citizens have freedom of speech. However, citizens are frequently charged with crimes such as "insulting the state" and "spreading fake news". Journalists are also charged with crimes as well and the major media companies are controlled and owned by the Russian government. In 2017 the religion Jehovah's Witness was banned as an extremist organization.	

Country	Biography	Limited or Unlimited Govt.
Great Britain	In 1689, Great Britain experienced a “Glorious Revolution” in which the king lost much of his power to Parliament. Parliament is made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The people in both houses represent citizens and make laws for the country. Although Great Britain continued to have a king, he was not able to enact laws or change the country without Parliament's help. Great Britain also has a Prime Minister who is the head of Parliament and leads the government by setting the major goals the government should focus on. Great Britain has a queen, Queen Elizabeth II, who does not have power in the government but does sign all laws that have been passed by parliament. British citizens enjoy freedom of speech and have media that are independent from the government.	
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia's leader, the crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, took over in 2017. There is no written constitution, but a Basic Law of Government document sets out guidelines for the government and rights and responsibilities of citizens. All laws are based on the Islamic religion, known as Shari'ah law. The king is in charge of all legislative, executive, and judicial functions of the government. There are elections at the local level only, and political parties are illegal. Newspapers are privately owned, but criticizing the government is considered inappropriate. Radio and television stations are owned by the government. The only religion allowed is Islam, but foreign workers can privately practice their own religion. All women in Saudi Arabia are legally required to have a male guardian who makes decisions for them. The guardian is typically an unmarried woman's father or a married woman's husband.	
Canada	Canada is a constitutional monarchy that recognizes the Queen of Great Britain, Elizabeth II as the head of state and also has a Prime Minister that is the head of the government. This stems from the fact that Great Britain colonized the area that became Canada so the two countries have close ties. Canada has a parliament, which creates the laws, and the Prime Minister is the head of parliament. Canada has a written constitution and also has the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which lists all of the rights citizens have. These include the freedom of speech, religion, and a free media. Citizens in Canada vote for members of parliament to represent them and create the laws. This system of government is very similar to Great Britain.	
Japan	From 1603 to 1867 Japan's government was known as the Tokugawa period. Japan had an emperor with limited power and appointed the shogunate who was the leader of the government. A shogunate is a military dictator. The shogunate ruled with the help of local lords called daimyo to keep people from rebelling. Japan had four classes; warriors, farmers, artisans, and merchants. The shogun made it illegal for people to move out of the social class they were born into. The shogun didn't want people leaving the country so made it illegal for people to travel outside of Japan. Christianity was banned because it was viewed as a threat to the government. The people practiced Confucianism, which is a philosophy system that discouraged criticizing the government.	
Denmark	Denmark became a constitutional monarchy in 1849. The Constitutional Act of Denmark lists the powers of the government and the rights of citizens. In this document, citizens are given freedoms such as freedom of speech and religion. Male citizens are required to join the military for a period of four to twelve months; women can join but are not required to by law. All citizens can vote in elections for representatives who make laws in parliament. The queen of Denmark, Queen Margrethe II, has no power and does not give her opinion on anything related to the government but does sign laws that have been passed by parliament.	

References

- Albert, E. (2012, November 8). *The Chinese communist party*. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/background/chinese-communist-party>
- Amnesty International. (n.d.). *Everything you need to know about human rights in China*. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/china/report-china/>
- Amnesty International. (n.d.). *Everything you need to know about human rights in Russia*. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/europe-and-central-asia/russian-federation/report-russian-federation/>
- Encyclopedia Britannica. (n.d.). *Tokugawa period*. Definition & Facts. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Tokugawa-period>
- Human Rights Watch. (2019, January 17). *North Korea 2018*. World Report 2019. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/north-korea>
- Khurshudyan, I. (2020, January 15). *Russia's government overhauled as Putin looks to cement influence after presidency*. The Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/putin-proposes-strengthening-parliament-even-while-keeping-his-own-powers-intact/2020/01/15/695eac6a-36e5-11ea-a1ff-c48c1d59a4a1_story.html
- Library of Parliament. (n.d.). *Parliament of Canada*. Our Country, Our Parliament. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Education/OurCountryOurParliament/home-e.aspx>
- National Geographic Organization. (n.d.). *Democracy (Ancient Greece)*. National Geographic. Retrieved December 1, 2020, from <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/democracy-ancient-greece/>
- St. John Bridger Philby, H. (2020, November 28). *Saudi Arabia*. Geography, History, & Maps. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Saudi-Arabia>
- The Danish Parliament. (n.d.). *The Constitutional Act of Denmark*. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://www.thedanishparliament.dk/en/democracy/the-constitutional-act-of-denmark>
- University of Wisconsin-Madison Legal Studies Program. (n.d.). *British History, 8: Government in the 18th C*. Social Science Computing Cooperative. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/%7Erkeyser/?page_id=760
- World History Project. (n.d.). *READ: Tokugawa Shogunate*. Khan Academy. Retrieved December 3, 2020, from <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/whp-1750/xcabef9ed3fc7da7b:unit-1-the-world-in-1750/xcabef9ed3fc7da7b:1-3-expanding-to-a-global-scale/a/read-tokugawa-shogunate-beta>