Political Parties:

Constitutional Systems and Parliamentary Government

Gregory Mahler

Earlham College

Richmond, Indiana

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Constitutions as Political Structures

- The State

- Constitutions as "Power Maps"

Aristotle and Types of Government

Number of Rulers	Rule in General Interest ("Right" Type)	Rule in Selfish Interest ("Wrong" Type)
One	Kingship	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

Based upon The Politics of Aristotle, ed. and trans. by Ernest Barker (1970), pp. 113-115.

Written and Unwritten Constitutions and Constitutional and Unconstitutional Regimes

	Government With a Written Constitution	Government Without a Written Constitution
Constitutional Government (i.e. limited powers)	United States	United Kingdom
Not Constitutional Government (i.e. unlimited powers)	Russia ?	Zimbabwe?

What Do Constitutions Do?

– An Expression of Ideology or Philosophy

– Most Basic Laws of the Regime

– Organizational Framework for Government

– Describe Levels of Government

– Provide Rules for Amendment

Separation of Powers

- The Idea that Too Much Power is Dangerous

- Montesquieu (France); Locke (England)

- Power must balance power

    - "Checks and Balances" in U.S.

- Locke's "three branches" of government

Locke's Second Treatise on Government (1690)

* (Section 124) First, there wants an established, settled, known law...   (the legislature)

* (Section 125) Secondly, In the state of nature there wants a known and indifferent judge, with authority to determine all differences according to the established law...   (the judiciary and courts)

* (Section 126) Thirdly, In the state of nature there often wants power to back and support the sentence when right...   (the executive)

Executive Roles

l.   Chief of State
2.   Chief Executive
3.   Commander-in-Chief
4.   Chief Diplomat
5.   Chief Legislator
6.   Chief of Party
7.   Voice of the People
8.   Protector of Peace
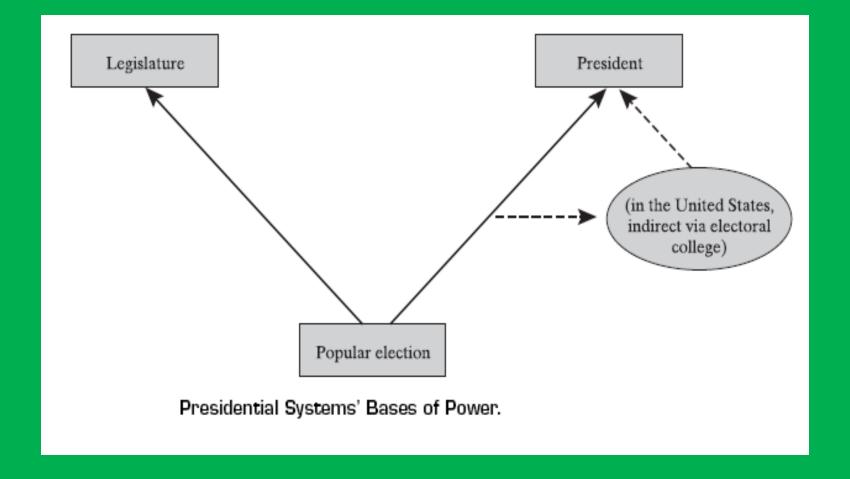9.   Manager of Prosperity
10. World Leader

a. Symbolic role

b. Political role

Clinton Rossiter, The American Presidency (New York: Mentor, 1960), pp. l4-40 passim.

Types of Executive Roles

- Presidential Model

- Parliamentary/Cabinet Model

- French Parliamentary/Cabinet Model

- Collective Executive Model

Presidential Executive

- Symbolic and Political Roles in One Person
- Independent from Legislature

Presidential Systems' Bases of Power.

Parliamentary Executive

- Multiple Executive
- Head of State function and Chief Executive function separate
- Different titles for both Head of State and Chief Executives

Executive Titles

Executive Titles

Nation	Model of Government	Head of State	Chief Executive
Australia	Parliamentary	Governor-general[a]	Prime minister
Canada	Parliamentary	Governor-general[a]	Prime minister
India	Parliamentary	President	Prime minister
Israel	Parliamentary	President	Prime minister
Italy	Parliamentary	President	Prime minister
Japan	Parliamentary	Emperor	Prime minister
Mexico	Presidential	President	President
United Kingdom	Parliamentary	Queen	Prime minister
United States	Presidential	President	President
Germany	Parliamentary	President	Chancellor

[a] Serving on behalf of the monarch in his or her absence.

The Changing Role of the Monarchy

- Constitutional Monarchy
- Power of Cabinet
- *De facto* and *De jure* power
- Selection of the Chief Executive

The Selection of the Parliamentary Chief Executive

Step I

The People

↓

Vote

↓

Elect The Legislature

Step 2

Head of State Observes Election Results and Names Chief Executive

Step 3

Legislature Confirms Head of State's Choice Through Vote of Confidence

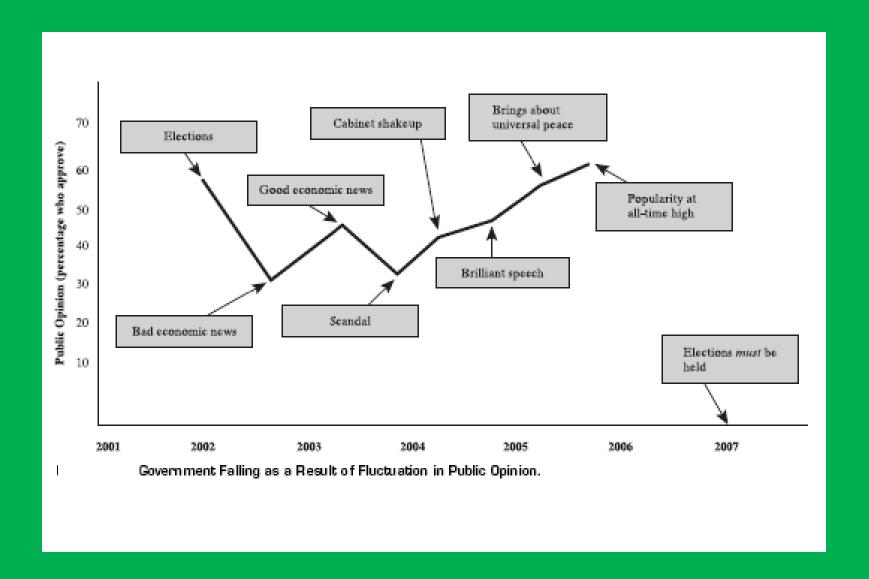## Step 4

Chief Executive Takes Office

The Parliamentary Chief Executive

- Vote of Confidence Shows Legislative Supremacy
- Vote of Non-Confidence
- Government "Falling"
- Minority Government
- Party Discipline
- Power of Dissolution of the Chief Executive/HOS

A Government Falling

Government Falling as a Result of Fluctuation in Public Opinion.

Coalitions

A Hypothetical Legislative Composition

Party A	33 Seats
Party B	20 Seats
Party C	18 Seats
Party D	16 Seats
Party E	13 Seats
Total	100 Seats

Presidential and Parliamentary Comparisons

- Responsible Government
- Party Discipline
- Legislative Supremacy <u>and</u> Executive Supremacy
- Speed of Making Policy
- Security of the Chief Executive in Office

Single-Member District Voting

- Usually Plurality (SMD-P), not Majority (SMD-M)

- What happens to minorities?

Single-Member District Plurality Voting

District	Party A	Party B	Total
District 1	51	49	100
District 2	51	49	100
District 3	51	49	100
District 4	51	49	100
Total Votes	204	196	400
Total Seats	4	0	4

Single-Member District Plurality Voting

A Three-Party, Single-Member District Election

District	Party A	Party B	Party C	Total
District 1	34	33	33	100
District 2	34	33	33	100
District 3	34	33	33	100
District 4	34	33	33	100
Total Votes	136	132	132	400
Total Seats	4	0	0	4

Single-Member District Plurality Voting

Another Three-Party, Single-Member District Election

District	Party A	Party B	Party C	Total
District 1	34	33	33	100
District 2	34	33	33	100
District 3	33	34	33	100
District 4	33	34	33	100
Total Votes	134	134	132	400
Total Seats	2	2	0	4

Proportional Representation Voting

- Vote for Parties, Not People
- % vote = % seats
- Advantage: Accuracy of Reflecting Voting
- Disadvantage: Accuracy of Reflecting Voting

Other Electoral Models

- Single-member district, majority voting
- Multiple member district
- Single transferable vote

Which Structures Are "Best"?

- Goals
  - Stability
  - Quality of Life
    - Human Rights
    - Economic Status
    - Peace

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