

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES 101

BY LAURA DAWN LEWIS

Poll Americans and it is surprising how many believe that the United States of America is a Democracy and how many do not know what the constitution says or what our true rights are. Most people we polled for this article didn't realize the *Bill of Rights* is the first 10 amendments to the constitution.

Most people didn't realize the Constitution merely lays out government responsibility and power division, much like an organizational chart for a major corporation. The Amendments later added, specifically the first ten known, our Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers detail our principles and values.

WHAT IS A DEMOCRACY?

Why is it Important that American's Understand Our Structure & Constitution? Ignorance can cost and in an era when our Constitution is consistently in the news, it's important that every American and each of our allies understand exactly what it is we stand for and what we represent. Not understanding what we are leaves us open to manipulation and gives others the power to interpret our intentions, values and objectives. Not understanding provides us the excuse to support the objectives and agenda of others without realizing what we are supporting.

If the United States is not a democracy, what is it? The USA was founded as a Citizenship Republic "*And to the Republic for which it stands...*" Over the years, beginning with the Lincoln Administration of the 1860's ideas of socialism, democracy and increasingly during the 20th Century, fascism are thrown in. In reality, the United States has not been a pure Republic, that is if you happened to be a white male American, since Lincoln. (*Because of slavery, our ethnic cleansing of the American Indians and the absence of Women's rights, we've never been a true republic. These policies fall under fascism*). The blocking of the cessation of the Southern States, a constitutional and declaration right, ended the pure republic and is the first time a President swept the Constitution aside in favor of an agenda.

Most Americans think the Civil War was fought to free the slaves. In reality this was an after thought, which sounded better than keeping control of the rich agricultural lands and natural resources of the Southern United States. It was fought to prevent the Southern States from ceding the Union, which is why you'll find in the South the Civil War is often referred to as "*The War of Northern Aggression*," a correct description. However, history is always written by the winners and freeing the slaves, a noble and righteous outcome of this war, plays much better than preventing the formation of two countries. It also makes us feel better about the bloodiest war in US history. History as we are taught, and reality

often contradict each other. This is true for every war, including World War II, Viet Nam and our current endeavors.

This article was originally written in mid 2002 and at that time we were researching political structures based on the actions of a specific US ally claiming to be a democracy. A strong inconsistency became clear between public statements and actions. Actions and Statements contradicted each other daily. We wondered how they could be a "Democracy" or even a "Republic" yet never bother to draft and approve a Constitution in fifty-eight years of existence. This confusion led us to research all government structures to cut through the propaganda being thrown at us. Perhaps we missed something in Civics or Political Science 101? Digging deeper, based upon their laws, actions and policies this ally in fact is not a democracy by any means. Its true government structures is a fascist-military-theocracy for the majority and a theocratic-military-republic for the preferred class fortified with healthy dose of US funded socialism shared by the preferred class of citizens only.

At that time, the United States fulfilled 6 of the 14 points of Fascism and we were a bit concerned but never thought the United States would ever be in danger of heading down the same path. After all, we do have a Constitution and it is pretty clear what we can and cannot do in this country, at least it used to be. January 16th, 2004 with the announcement of [CAPPS II and the Trusted Traveler](#) programs, we revisited the definitions, this time looking specifically at the United States and the documentation we've collected since 2001 on policies, laws, and information from sources in the military, government, media and abroad. The picture was not the picture we wanted to see. In 2004 with the Patriot Act and several actions by the Bush Administration in the past 3 years, the United States now fulfills all [14 Points of Fascism](#). Our staff sat in that room, shocked, stunned and downright furious this was happening right under our noses! We tried to rationalize, we tried to argue but in the end the nauseating truth could not be spun. This article suddenly became very important and the fact that this series on Democracy, Republics and Fascism continues to be the top article on Couples Company since our launch July 1, 2002, telling us a lot of people are beginning to question in the US and Internationally. One third of the readers of this article come from Europe and the Middle East. People are thinking, they're questioning and they are researching. This is the first step to change and returning to the image we see ourselves as, whether our favorite ally or the US itself. Knowing will allow us to change what we are becoming back into what we once were.

Therefore, we've put together this guide to help you understand the differences between government structures and to assist in your understanding of global affairs, the [US Constitution](#) and other issues impacting each of us. Once you understand all of this, you'll gain the upper hand in debates. Most people think they know what they are talking about in relationship to our government structure, rules, laws and values. In reality, most people have no clue. Fortunately you are no longer one of them.

CITIZENSHIP DEMOCRACY:

Is defined as government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any other form of "direct" expression. Results in mobocracy or a government where the lower classes of a nation control public affairs without respect to law, precedents, or vested rights. Attitude toward property is communistic, meaning property rights are negated and ownership is by the people or state. In a true democracy the lower classes of a nation control public affairs without respect to law, precedents or vested rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate based upon deliberation, passion, prejudice or impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences of the action. A true democracy has been shown to results in demagoguism, (a country run by the passions and prejudices of the majority) license, agitation, discontent and anarchy.

Democracy is about the people and their power. The power or authority exercised in a democracy is derived directly or indirectly from the represented people in one of two forms:

- **DIRECT DEMOCRACY:**
This is where everyone is given the opportunity to participate in making all policy decisions. In countries and large organizations, direct democracy is rarely utilized because it would be cumbersome and inefficient. No decisions would ever be reached.
- **REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY:**
This approach entails people voting to elect representatives in a free and fair electoral system to make policy for them under a wide range of checks and balances to help ensure leadership accountability. The United States is a Republic that follows the ideals of a Representative Democracy. Our Electoral College is an example of voting via a Representative Democracy.

CRITERIA FOR A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION:

All the members must have equal and effective opportunities for making their views known and an equal influence on what the policy should be.

VOTING EQUALITY:

Every member must have an equal and effective opportunity to vote and all votes must be counted as equal.

ENLIGHTENED UNDERSTANDING:

Each person must have equal and effective opportunities for learning about the relevant policies and their likely consequences.

CONTROL OF THE AGENDA:

All members must have the exclusive opportunity to decide how and if each matter is to be placed on the agenda.

INCLUSION:

All members retain the full rights that are implied by the four criteria listed above.

**COMMON MISCONCEPTION:
THEOCRACY & DEMOCRACY**

A democracy cannot be a theocracy. By its very nature a theocracy excludes a segment of society or relegates that segment to subservient status because its faith differs from that declared by the state.

A democracy and theocracy are incompatible, just as fascism and democracy, monarchy and democracy, dictatorship and democracy are also incompatible. A theocracy may use some facets of democracy, but the primary requirement of equal inclusion for all without prejudice can never be attained under a state religious rule.

CITIZENSHIP REPUBLIC:

Is defined by a government where authority is derived through election by the people of public officials best fitted to represent them. Attitude toward law is the administration of justice in accord with fixed principles and established evidence, with a strict regard to consequences.

A greater number of citizens and extent of territory may be brought within its compass. Avoids the dangerous extreme of either tyranny or mobocracy (a government where the lower classes of a nation control public affairs without respect to law, precedents, or vested rights). Results in statesmanship, liberty, reason, justice, contentment and progress in all areas of arts, science, thought and civil liberties. Republics are the preferred structured base for government throughout Europe and the Americas.

A republic is a form of government under a constitution, which provides for the election of:

- 1) An Executive Officer (Article II of the US Constitution)
- (2) A legislative body: (Article I of the US Constitution) with the power of appointment and through the power of legislation can raise revenue and appropriate expenditures in addition to drafting public policy.
- (3) A judiciary (Article III of the US Constitution) to pass upon the justice and legality of their government acts and to recognize and enforce individual and sovereign rights.

(4) Expressed and enforced inherent individual rights, (The US Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10; additional Amendments 11-27).

Remove one of the four checks and balances of a Republic and a country begins becoming an Autocracy.

Add another element with personal involvement and individual say and the country slides toward democracy.

In response to popular demand, we've replaced the Library of Congress' BIG WORDS with easier to understand words. Where the LOC uses Proletariat, we use lower working class. Where the LOC uses Bourgeois, we use middle or upper middle class.

WHAT IS FASCISM?

This may surprise most educated people. One of the more common government strategies today, especially in developing regions is fascism. Fascism is commonly confused with Nazism. Nazism is a political party platform that embraces a combination of a military dictatorship, socialism and fascism. It is not a government structure. Fascism is a government structure. The most notable characteristic of a fascist country is the separation and persecution or denial of equality to a specific segment of the population based upon superficial qualities or belief systems.

Simply stated, a fascist government always has one class of citizens that is considered superior (good) to another (bad) based upon race, creed or origin. It is possible to be both a republic and a fascist state. The preferred class lives in a republic while the oppressed class lives in a fascist state. Until the Civil Rights act of 1964, many parts of the US were Republic for whites and could be considered fascist for non-Caucasian residents. Fascism promotes legal segregation in housing, national resource allocation and employment. It provides legal justification for persecuting a specific segment of the population and operates behind a two-tiered legal system. These two tiers can be overt as it was within Nazi Germany where Jews, Homosexuals, Catholics, Communists, Clergy and the handicap were held to one set of rules and courts, while the rest of Germany enjoyed different laws.

Or it can be implied and held up by consensual conspiracy, (people know it is wrong but do nothing to stop it or change it. Through lack of action, they give consent), as it was in the Deep South for African Americans and others of color. In Fascism, one segment of society is always considered less desirable, sub-human or second-class.

(Note: no single government is pure anything. Most have elements of several structures with one dominant structure). Below is the political definition and general characteristics of a fascist country.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A FASCIST COUNTRY:

1. Fascism is commonly defined as an open terror-based dictatorship, which *is*:

- *Reactionary*: makes policy based upon current circumstances rather than creating policies to prevent problems; piles lies and misnomers on top of more lies until the truth becomes indistinguishable, revised or forgotten.
- *Chauvinistic*: Two or more tiered legal systems, varying rights based upon superficial characteristics such as race, creed and origin.
- *Imperialist* elements of finance capital: Extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political domination of one state over its allies.

Though a dictatorship is the most common association with fascism, a democracy or republic can also be fascist when it strays away from its tenants of sovereignty. In the 20th Century, many Fascist countries started out as republics. Through the use of fear, societies gave up their rights under the guise of security. Ultimately these republics morphed into Fascist states.

2. Fascism is an extreme measure taken by the middle classes to forestall lower-working class revolution; it thrives on the weakness of the middle classes. It accomplishes this by embracing the middle-class' love of the status quo, its complacency and its fears of: TOP

- a. Generating a united struggle within the working class
- b. Revolution
- c. Losing its own power and position within society

In a more simplistic term the people currently in control fear that if they allow equal rights and equal consideration to those being oppressed, they will become oppressed and lose everything. Generally those in power are of a smaller segment of society, but they hold the wealth and control of key systems like manufacturing, law, finance and government position, (i.e. the slave owners in the south prior to the civil war) and the oppressed vastly outnumber them, (the slaves during the same period).

In reality it is the oppressors' fear of retribution by the oppressed that perpetuates fascism; for justification they dehumanize, demonize, strip them of rights, add new laws, restrict movement and attempt to control them by whatever means possible to prevent an uprising. It is very common in a fascist system to have the oppressed referred to as sub-human, animals, terrorists, savages, barbarians, vermin or any other term designed to create justification for the acts of terror and fascism perpetrated on the oppressed. Via dehumanization society can then accept that the oppressed are incapable of thinking or acting in a peaceful manner or taking care of itself; thus society is exonerated from culpability within their minds. Propaganda, not persuasion, logic or law, is the tool of fascism, though at times very difficult to spot. It specifically rides the fact that negative behavior is innate, (born with) rather than a logical behavior in response to oppression.

Propaganda also empowers the oppressors with elitism racially, socially, intellectually and/or spiritually.

THE 7 CONDITIONS (WARNING SIGNS) THAT FOSTER & FUEL FASCISM ARE:

1. **INSTABILITY** of capitalist relationships or markets
2. The existence of considerable **DECLASSED SOCIAL ELEMENTS**
3. The **STRIPPING OF RIGHTS AND WEALTH** focused upon a specific segment of the population, specifically the middle class and intellectuals within urban areas as this the group with the means, intelligence and ability to stop fascism if given the opportunity.
4. **DISCONTENT** among the rural lower middle class (clerks, secretaries, white collar labor). Consistent discontent among the general middle and lower middle classes against the oppressing upper classes (haves vs. have-nots).
5. **HATE:** Pronounced, perpetuated and accepted public disdain of a specific group defined by race, origin, theology or association.
6. **GREED:** The motivator of fascism, which is generally associated with land, space or scarce resources in the possession of those being oppressed.
7. **ORGANIZED PROPAGANDA:**

a) The creation of social mythology that venerates (creates saints of) one element of society while concurrently vilifying (dehumanizing) another element of the population through misinformation, misdirection and the obscuring of factual matter through removal, destruction or social humiliation, (name-calling, false accusations, belittling and threats).

b) The squelching of public debate not agreeing with the popular agenda via slander, libel, threats, theft, destruction, historical revisionism and social humiliation. Journalists in particular are terrorized if they attempt to publish stories contrary to the agenda.

3. Fascism **DOVETAILS BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT** sectors into a single economic unit, while concurrently increasing in-fighting and distrust between the units fostering advancement towards war.

4. a) Fascism **PROMOTES CHAUVINIST DEMAGOGY**, (appealing to the prejudices and emotions of the populace) by fostering selective persecution and accepted public vilification of the target group. It then promotes this a "patriotic", "supportive" or "the party line" and disagreement with such as "anti-government", "anti-faith" or "anti-nation".

b) Fascism **CREATES CONFUSION** through "facts". It relies on junk science, revisionism, the elimination of cultural records/treasures and obfuscations to create its case and gain acceptance. Fascism can also combine Marxist critiques of capitalism or faith based critics of the same to re-define middle class perceptions of democracy and to force its issues, confuse logic and create majority consensus between targeted groups. This is also referred to as creating a state of Cognitive Dissonance, the mental state most human beings are easily manipulated within.

5. Both middle and upper-middle-class dictated democracy and fascism are class dictatorships that use **ORGANIZED VIOLENCE (verbal or physical) to maintain the class rule of the oppressors over the oppressed.**

The difference between the two is demonstrated by the policies towards non-lower-working class classes. ***Fascism attains power through the substitution of one state's form of class domination with another form,*** generally a middle class based republic segues into an open terrorist dictatorship, run by a few elite.

THE 14 DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS OF FASCISM

by Dr. Lawrence Britt

Dr. Lawrence Britt has examined the fascist regimes of Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy), Franco (Spain), Suharto (Indonesia) and several Latin American regimes. Britt found 14-defining characteristics common to each:

1. POWERFUL AND CONTINUING NATIONALISM -

Fascist regimes tend to make constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs, and other paraphernalia. Flags are seen everywhere, as are flag symbols on clothing and in public displays.

2. DISDAIN FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS -

Because of fear of enemies and the need for security, the people in fascist regimes are persuaded that human rights can be ignored in certain cases because of "need." The people tend to look the other way or even approve of torture, summary executions, assassinations, long incarcerations of prisoners, etc.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF ENEMIES/SCAPEGOATS AS A UNIFYING CAUSE -

The people are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat or foe: racial, ethnic or religious minorities; liberals; communists; socialists, terrorists, etc.

4. SUPREMACY OF THE MILITARY -

Even when there are widespread domestic problems, the military is given a disproportionate amount of government funding, and the domestic agenda is neglected. Soldiers and military service are glamorized.

5. RAMPANT SEXISM -

The governments of fascist nations tend to be almost exclusively male-dominated. Under fascist regimes, traditional gender roles are made more rigid. Divorce, abortion and homosexuality are suppressed and the state is represented as the ultimate guardian of the family institution.

6. CONTROLLED MASS MEDIA -

Sometimes media is directly controlled by the government, but in other cases, government regulation, or sympathetic media spokespeople and executives indirectly control the media. Censorship, especially in wartime, is very common.

7. OBSESSION WITH NATIONAL SECURITY -

Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.

8. RELIGION AND GOVERNMENT ARE INTERTWINED -

Governments in fascist nations tend to use the most common religion in the nation as a tool to manipulate public opinion. Religious rhetoric and terminology is common from government leaders, even when the major tenets of the religion are diametrically opposed to the government's policies or actions.

9. CORPORATE POWER IS PROTECTED -

The industrial and business aristocracy of a fascist nation often are the ones who put the government leaders into power, creating a mutually beneficial business/government relationship and power elite.

10. LABOR POWER IS SUPPRESSED -

Because the organizing power of labor is the only real threat to a fascist government, labor unions are either eliminated entirely, or are severely suppressed.

11. DISDAIN FOR INTELLECTUALS AND THE ARTS -

Fascist nations tend to promote and tolerate open hostility to higher education, and academia. It is not uncommon for professors and other academics to be censored or even arrested. Free expression in the arts and letters is openly attacked.

12. OBSESSION WITH CRIME AND PUNISHMENT -

Under fascist regimes, the police are given almost limitless power to enforce laws. The people are often willing to overlook police abuses and even forego civil liberties in the name of patriotism. There is often a national police force with virtually unlimited power in fascist nations.

13. RAMPANT CRONYISM AND CORRUPTION -

Fascist regimes are almost always governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each other to government positions and use governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability. It is not uncommon in fascist regimes for national resources and even treasures to be appropriated or even outright stolen by government leaders.

14. FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS -

Sometimes elections in fascist nations are a complete sham. Other times elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates, use of legislation to control voting numbers or political district boundaries,

and manipulation of the media. Fascist nations also typically use their judiciaries to manipulate or control elections.

AN INTERESTING NOTE TO END THIS ARTICLE: As of January 2004, the United States fulfills all fourteen points of fascism and all seven warning signs are present. But we're not alone. Israel also fulfills all fourteen points and all seven warning signs as well. Welcome to the new republic, redefined, revised and spun. It is not too late to reverse this in either country, but it will be soon. The first step is realizing it. The second step is getting involved. As the propaganda slogan disguising our current war goes, "Freedom isn't free." But our war for freedom isn't abroad; it's here at home.

Additional Reading....

1) **THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE FREE**, *By Milton Mayer*

"*They Thought They Were Free: The Germans 1933-1945*", University of Chicago Press. Reissued in paperback, April, 1981. As Harpers Magazine noted when the book was published in 1955 (U. of Chicago), Milton Mayer's extraordinarily far-sighted book on the Germans is timelier today than ever.

2) This is not an endorsement of Socialism or Communism, which are fundamentally at odds with the US Constitution. However, reading some of the works on Fascism during the 1920's & 1930's in Europe by members of the Communist and Socialist parties will provide you with additional insights. You may want to start with: **FASCISM: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO FIGHT IT** by Leon Trotsky

3) **HOW HITLER CAME TO POWER:**

Whenever U.S. officials wish to demonize someone, they inevitably compare him to Adolf Hitler. The message immediately resonates with people because everyone knows that Hitler was a brutal dictator. In the presidential election held on March 13, 1932, there were four candidates: the incumbent, Field Marshall Paul von Hindenburg, Hitler, and two minor candidates, Ernst Thaelmann and Theodore Duesterberg. The results were:

1. Hindenburg 49.6 percent
2. Hitler 30.1 percent
3. Thaelmann 13.2 percent
4. Duesterberg 6.8 percent

Read *Jacob Hornberger's* Full Article on [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#)

ADDITIONAL SOURCES BESIDE THE US GOVERNMENT'S LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:

1. George Dimitrov, *Against Fascism and War*, New York: International Publishers, 1986.
2. R Palme Dutt, *Fascism and Social Revolution*, New York: International Publishers, 1934.

DEFINITIONS

Proletariat (aka lower-working class (adj)):

1 the lowest class of citizens of ancient Rome who had no property

2: belonging to or characteristic of the proletariat (n): a member of the working class (not necessarily employed); "workers of the world--unite!"

Bourgeois (aka middle classes (n)): the social class between the lower and upper classes: Middle Class

Imperialism (n): The policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political domination of one state over its allies and over other nations. 2: The system, policies, or practices of such a government.

Demagogy (n): Impassioned appeals to the prejudices and emotions of the populace.

Obscurantism, Obfuscation (n):

1. The principles or practice of delivering vague truths and hiding key facts.
2. A policy of withholding information from the public.
3. The act of lying through selective omission

Tyranny (n):

1. A form of government in which the ruler is an absolute dictator and is not restricted by a constitution, laws or opposition etc.
2. Dominance over a populous through threat of punishment, terrorism, oppression and violence.

Autocracy (n):

1. Government by a single person having unlimited power; tyranny, dictator.
2. A country or state that is governed by a single person with unlimited power.

THEOCRACY:

A government that claims to be immediately directed by God, and divinely blessed. The country tends to be intolerant either passively or overtly to faiths other than that recognized by the state. The country identifies itself and its laws within religion and religious doctrine. There is no legal separation between church and state, and citizens of other faiths are often excluded or hampered from participation or expelled. Because a theocracy is exclusionary, it can never be a democracy, which requires inclusion without exception of all equally. It cannot be a republic because a republic requires the separation of church and state and equal rights to all. Examples of theocratic countries include Israel and Iran

MONARCHY:

A government that has a single person who is generally considered the ruler by the title and birthright. Titles include: Czar, King, Queen, Emperor, Caesar, etc... Power is absolute and is either taken through conquest or passed down to family members without regard for ability or appropriateness. Society is formed around feudal groups or tribes in which the ruling family delegates power and authority based upon the desires of a single

individual. Power struggles are common. A monarchy is based upon a class system where those of a certain birthright are perceived to be of superior intellect and strength to those not of the same family line. The resources and wealth of a country is generally preserved solely for the hedonistic and self-fulfilling desires of the reigning monarch with little regard for the general population or its welfare. The inhabitants of a country under a monarch are alive to serve the monarch. In contrast the inhabitants of a republic are served by their leaders. Examples of Monarchy include Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Monaco.

DICTATORSHIP:

Generic term used to describe any government controlled by a single individual and giving the people little or no individual freedom. Typically a person who rules by threat of force. People who are loyal to a dictatorship swear allegiance to the person first and the country second. Fascism, Theocracies, Monarchies and Communism can all be dictatorships. Republics and Democracies cannot be dictatorships. Examples of dictatorship include North Korea and Cuba.

MARXISM:

The theory of government based on the ideals of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the book The Communist Manifesto written in the 1800's. Marxism advocates the "workers" (Proletariats and **petite-bourgeoisie**) rise up and overthrow businesses and government and take control themselves. Marxism advocates a classless society in which everything is shared and owned by all. In its true form it follows the mandates of a Direct Democracy in which the mob or general population rules and allocates resources based upon the will of the majority with equal consideration given to all without exclusions or privileges to any. Examples include the former Soviet Union.

SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY:

Limited government interference in business activity, (as opposed to the above) but more than in capitalism. Certain areas of an individual's life are controlled and representations tend to be parliamentary in nature. In other words, people vote for a particular party and the party elects the leaders of the country. The notable difference here is that there is MORE THAN one party. Examples include most Western European Countries.

SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM:

Severe government interference in economics, but not absolute. Centralized planning by the government, ONE PARTY rule, and stresses that there should be only one class of people. This differs from Socialism/Democracy, which allows for individual differences. Examples include the former Soviet Union. China is currently heading in this direction, through the softening of its Marxist/Dictatorship past.

GOAT POLITICS

A Satirical Look at Government Structures

by Laura Dawn Lewis

Has it been a while since you took political science or world history? A little rusty on your government structures? Couples Company has put together a little Goat Politics to help you understand the differences between core government structures by using goat ownership as illustration. Here they are:



SOCIALISM: You have two goats. You keep one and give the other to your neighbor and the government keeps any kids, (no one goat herder can be richer than the next).

COMMUNISM: You have two goats. The Government takes your goats and shares the milk with you and your neighbor but rations the wool at exorbitant prices and then forces you to cut any clothing made in half to share with the rest of the population.

DICTATORSHIP: You have two goats and your neighbor has two cows. The ruler decides since the goats aren't producing enough milk or wool and "Baa" each time he passes, there is a goat conspiracy. He orders all goats killed and creates new anti-goat laws. Since you tend goats, you are also considered an enemy of the state. One night you and your goats' carcasses disappear never to be seen again. The next day the dictator changes the law. A bull charges him. Cows are now conspirators. That night your neighbor disappears and his cows are shot. Since the dictator has killed all of the milk sources he develops osteoporosis and blames the doctors. Doctors are now outlawed and considered conspirators...[TOP](#)

MONARCHY: The king owns a herd of goats. By decree you are responsible for two goats. The king keeps all the milk, wool and any kids your goats have and sells the proceeds back to you at a steep mark-up. You then pay the king a tax for the privilege of caring for his goats on his lands and if you do a good job and don't cause trouble, he lets you stay. If you cause trouble, fail to pay his taxes or he is unsatisfied with your work, he takes his goats, locks you in prison and throws your family off his land.

FASCISM: You have two goats. You give the milk to the government. The government turns around and sells it back to you at a 400% mark-up, but only if you are the "right" kind of human being. If you're the wrong kind, not only will you have to buy the milk back at a 400% mark-up, you'll need to survive a walk through a minefield, numerous checkpoints and escape the refugee/concentration/internment camp to claim it.

CAPITALISM: You have two goats. You sell one, leverage the other and use the proceeds to invest in bulls.

PURE DEMOCRACY: You have two goats. Your neighbors decide who gets the milk, which gets the wool, whether each becomes community property. As you all have just one vote, they can vote to reallocate your goats to another person without justification or reason simply because your neighbors don't like your new hairstyle.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY: You have two goats. Together with your neighbors you elect one person to represent the interests of the group. This representative proposes and passes legislation that determines who gets the milk, which gets the wool and how much you owe the government for the privilege of owning goats. If you're lucky the person you all elected will think the same as you and let you keep your goats without taxing them to the point you can no longer afford to keep them.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: The government promises to give you two goats if you vote a certain way. After the election the president is impeached for speculating in goat futures. The press dubs the scandal "Goatgate" and you are taxed for capital goat-gains on each hypothetical goat you were promised but never received. Since you can't pay on paper goat gains, the IRS seizes your property and places a lean on all future goats, thus recycling you through the state welfare system where you finally receive your goat.

ANARCHY: You have two goats. Your neighbors conspire to set you up. You are arrested by the secret police and never seen again. Meanwhile your neighbors steal your goats.

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