

The British Government

(İngiliz yönetim şekli)

Parliament

(Parlamento)

The British Parliament is made up of the **House of Commons** and the **House of Lords**. The House of Commons has 650 **Members of Parliament (MPs)**, who are elected directly by the people. The House of Lords has over 800 members. There are three different types of members: **life peers** (around 600), 26 **bishops** and **archbishops**, and **elected hereditary peers** (92 since 1999). Hereditary Peers are members of the nobility, but since 1999 they have not been able to pass their seat in the House of Lords on to members of their family. Members of the House of Lords are not elected directly by the people. The majority are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister or of a special commission.

The Government

(hükümet)

The **Prime Minister** chooses about 20 **ministers** to form a special advisory group called the **Cabinet**. Most cabinet ministers



are heads of government departments. The **Chancellor of the Exchequer** is head of the finance department (the **Treasury**), and the **Foreign Secretary** is the minister in charge of foreign affairs.

Elections

(seçimler)

About every five years there is a **general election**, when people in each area (**constituency**) vote for an MP to represent them in Parliament. There are also local elections, when people vote for **councillors** to represent them in their city, borough or district. Everyone over the age of 18 is allowed to vote.

The European Union

(Avrupa Birliği)

The **European Union (EU)** is an economic and political association of European countries. Currently the EU has 27 member countries. Most of its policies are decided by the **Council of Ministers**, which is made up of ministers from each country's government. It meets in Brussels and Luxembourg. Each country also elects a number of **MEPs** (or **Euro-MPs**) to the European Parliament, which meets in Strasbourg.

The **European Commission** is a permanent group of people that is based in Brussels, and whose job is to recommend and carry out EU policies. These are discussed in the European Parliament, but the final decision is taken by the Council of Ministers.



The **European Court of Justice** has the power to force member states to keep European laws. It is based in Luxembourg.

The Government of the United States of America

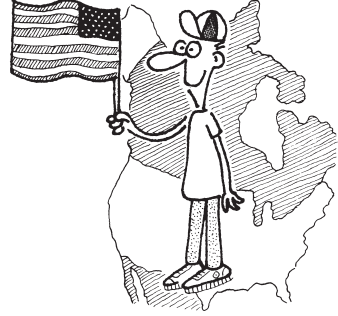
(Amerikan yönetim şekli)

The Federal System

(federal sistem)

The **United States Constitution** divides power between the **federal government** and the governments of the individual **states**. Each state has its own laws and government. The federal government deals with national issues, such as economic and foreign policies.

There are three branches of federal government: the **executive** branch (which is led by the **president**); the **legislative** branch (**Congress**, which is made up of the **Senate** and the **House of Representatives**); and the **judicial** branch (the **Supreme Court** and other federal courts). Laws are made by Congress, but the president can **veto** a law, and the Supreme Court can say that it is unconstitutional.



Elections

(seçimler)

Each state elects two **senators** to the Senate, and a number of **representatives** to the House of Representatives (the exact number depends on the size of the state's population). Elections for representatives are held every two years; senators are elected for six-year terms, but there are elections for one third of the Senate every two years. **Presidential elections** are held every four years.

The United Nations

(Birleşmiş Milletler)

Most countries in the world belong to the **United Nations** (the **UN**), an organization which was set up in 1945 to encourage international peace, security and cooperation. Its headquarters is in New York, and its chief administrator is called the **Secretary-General**.

Each country has a seat in the **General Assembly**, which meets to discuss world problems. The **UN Security Council** is a smaller group that tries to settle problems between nations peacefully. It has 15 members: 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States), which can veto any proposals; and 10 members that are elected for two-year terms. It may send



a **UN peacekeeping force** to keep the peace in a particular area.

The UN also has specialized **agencies** that deal with issues such as food and agriculture, health, and education.