

Governments

Chapters 01 and Chapters 02

Josh Allen

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What is the Point of Government?

The Game

- If **all** of you choose A then you will get **10 points** toward your final grade

The Game

- If **all** of you choose A then you will get **10 points** toward your final grade
- If **one** of you chooses B then that person gets **50 points** toward their final grade

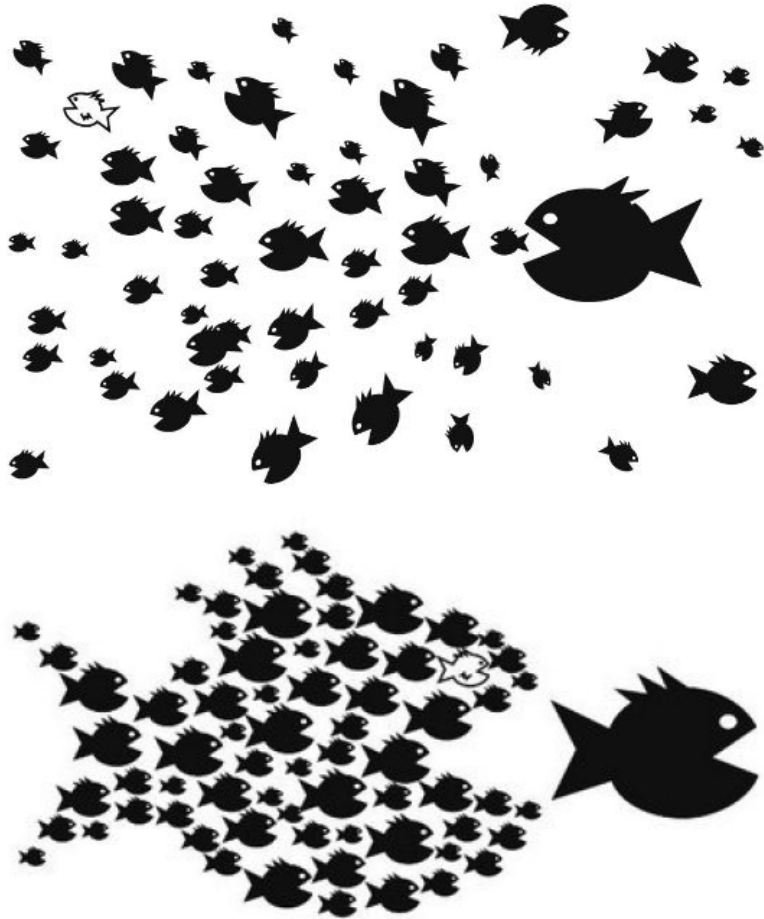
The Game

- If **all** of you choose A then you will get **10 points** toward your final grade
- If **one** of you chooses B then that person gets **50 points** toward their final grade
- But the class gets **no points**
- If **more than two people** choose B then the class gets **no points**
- Follow this **link**

The Prisoners Dilemma

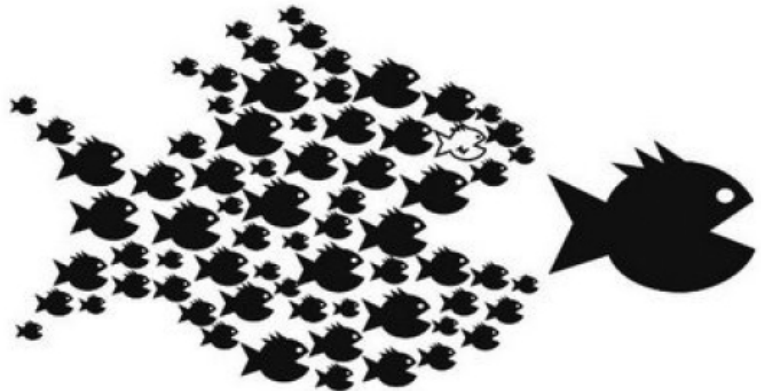
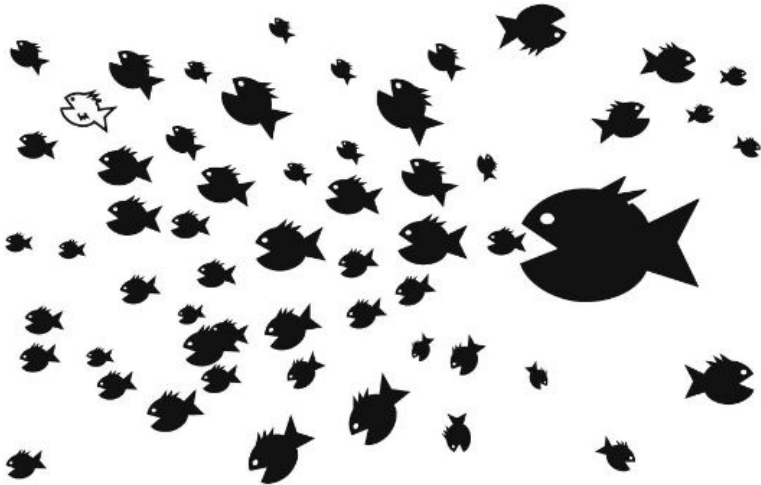
- To understand the purpose of government we have to start with the prisoners dilemma
- Basically the goal of the game is to maximize the number of points

The Collective Action Problem



The Collective Action Problem

multiple individuals would benefit from a certain action, but this action has a cost that makes it implausible that any individual can or will undertake and solve it alone - Olson



Enter Government

- Cooperation is hard as we have seen

Enter Government

- Cooperation is hard as we have seen
- To entice people to cooperate we have to offer people selective incentives
- This is where government comes in

Selective Incentives

What Are They?

Negative (Sticks)

- Fines
- Imprisonment

Positive (Carrots)

- Payments
- tax credits

Get to the Point

- Governments ultimately provide what are known as public goods
- Public Goods have two components
 1. Non-Rivalrious
 2. Non-Excludable

Problems

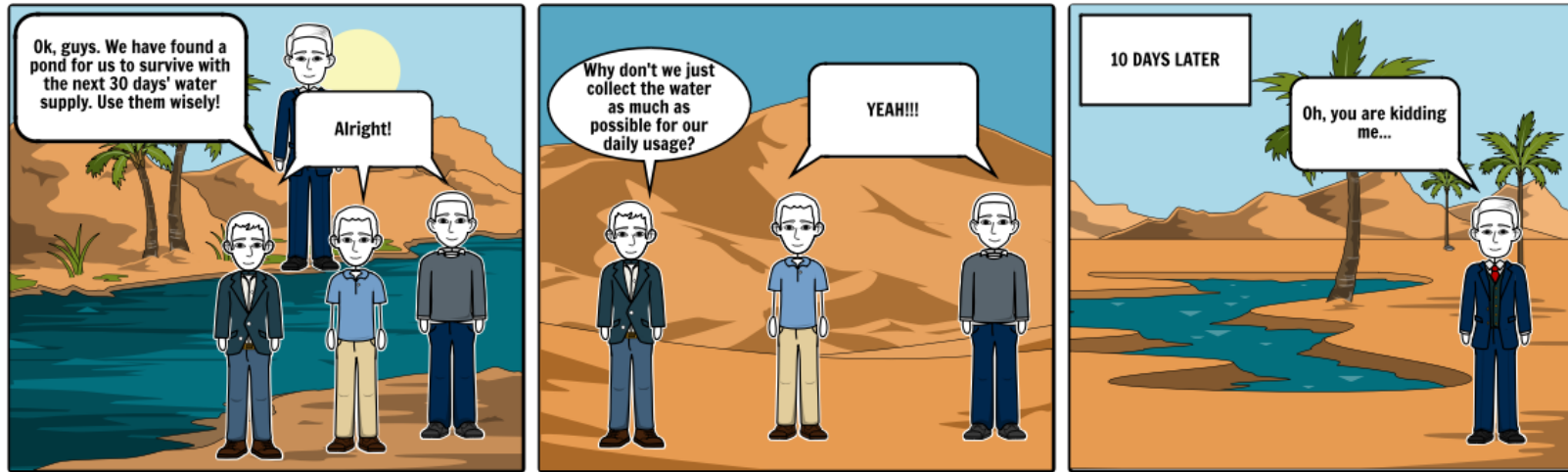
Free Riding	Common-Pool/Tragedy of the Commons
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- It would be pretty great to benefit from stuff without paying for it, right?
- paying taxes is not fun for anybody

Problems

Free Riding

Common-Pool/Tragedy of the Commons



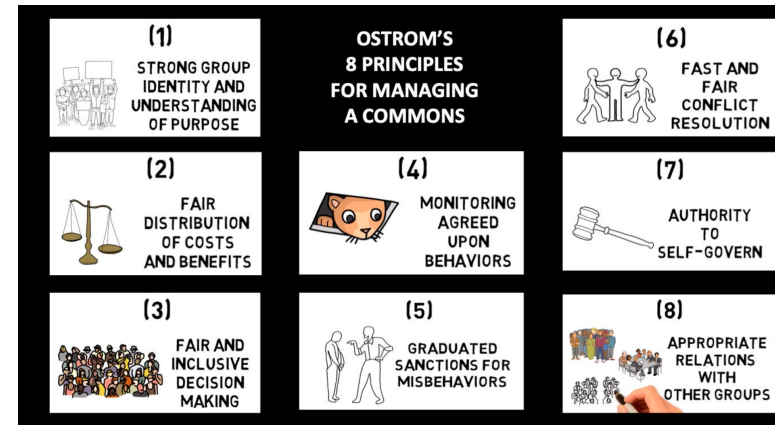
Create your own at [Storyboard That](#)

What is a Government to Do?

Free Riding

- Selective incentives typically of the stick variety

Tragedy of the Commons



05:00

The Enlightenment

Main Ideas:

- Natural Rights
- the Social Contract
- Legal Rights

Hobbes

Hobbes

Locke

Economic Systems

Capitalism

State Socialism

Book Definition	Command Economy
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State socialists believe market capitalism necessarily results in too much economic inequality and in oppressive relationships between workers and the owners of capital. Mainstream Americans believe market capitalism, properly harnessed, can be an engine of prosperity for everyone and that government ownership of the means of production concentrates too much power in the hands of government

State Socialism

Book Definition	Command Economy
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The state owns and controls most of the factors of production, including land and capital goods. The state also engages in central planning. Production of goods and services, as well as their prices and distribution, are centrally controlled by the state.

Democratic Socialism

- It's in the news a lot but [what is it?](#)

Democratic Socialism

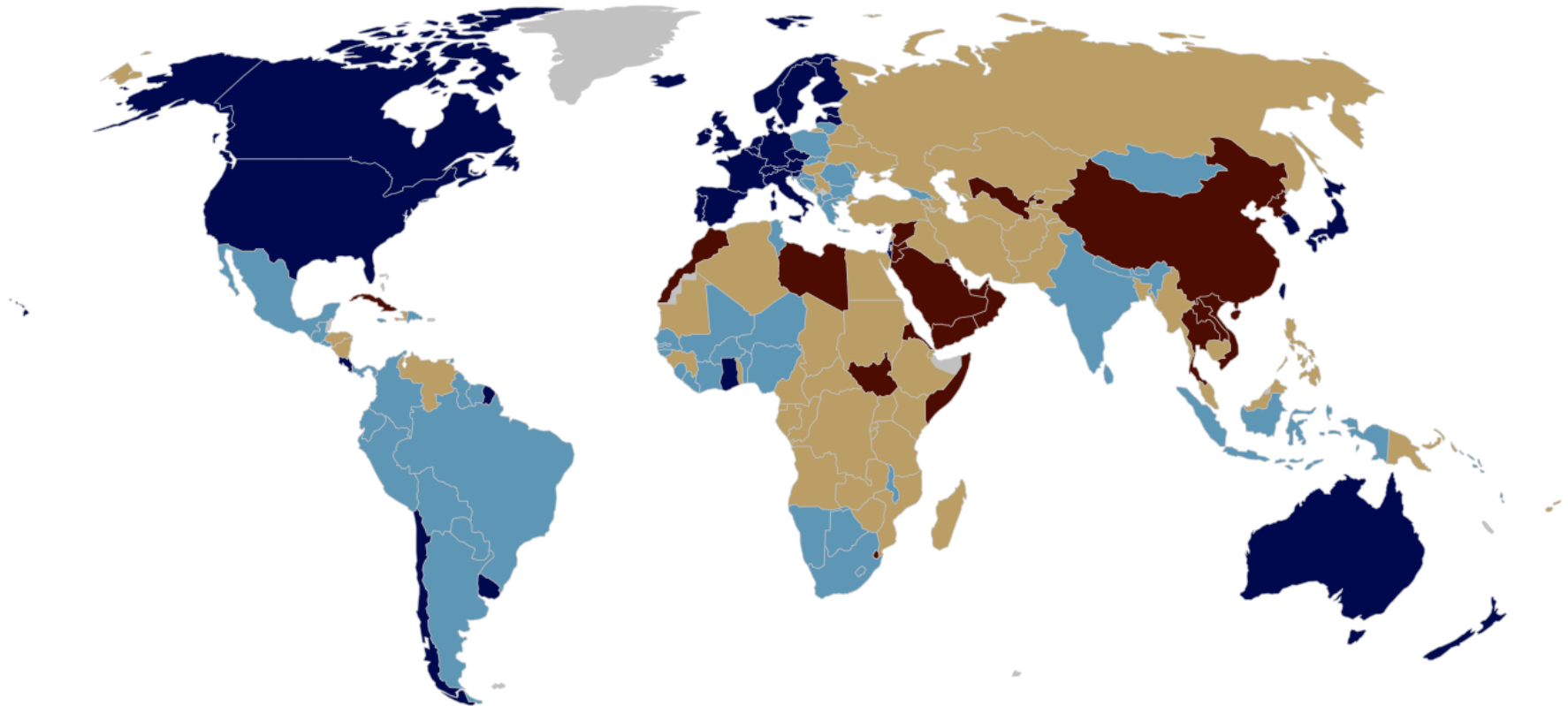
- It's in the news a lot but [what is it?](#)

Democratic Socialist: Ideology of those on the left-wing of the Democratic Party (and of mainstream American politics), which advocates for a more substantial role by government in promoting equality and other distinctive left values than does center-left liberalism

Kinds of Governments

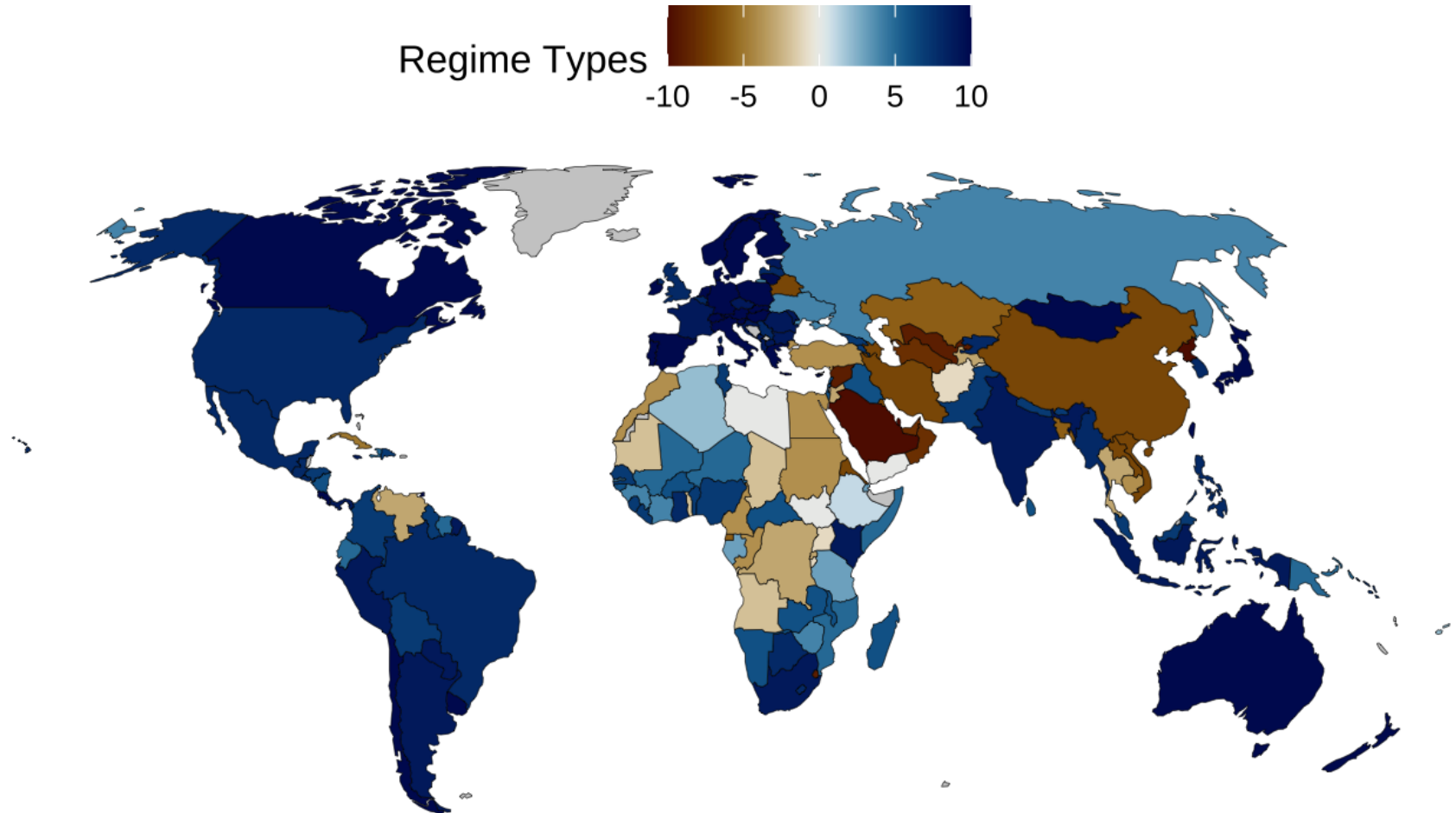
Regime Types According to VDEM

Regime Types ■ Full Autocracy ■ Electoral Autocracy ■ Electoral Democracy ■ Liberal Democracy ■ NA



Data are derived from the Varieties of Democracy Project

Regimes According to Polity IV



Data are derived from Polity IV

Lets Break Down VDEM

Closed Autocracy

Electoral Autocracy

Electoral Democracy

Liberal Democracy

No multiparty elections for the chief executive or the legislature

Lets Break Down VDEM

Closed Autocracy

Electoral Autocracy

Electoral Democracy

Liberal Democracy

De-jure multiparty elections for the chief executive and the legislature, but failing to achieve that elections are free and fair, or de-facto multiparty, or a minimum level of Dahl's institutional prerequisites of polyarchy as measured by V-Dem

Lets Break Down VDEM

Closed Autocracy

Electoral Autocracy

Electoral Democracy

Liberal Democracy

De-facto free and fair multiparty elections and a minimum level of Dahl's institutional prerequisites for polyarchy as measured by V- Dem's Electoral Democracy Index (v2x_polyarchy), but either access to justice, or transparent law enforcement, or liberal principles of respect for personal liberties, rule of law, and judicial as well as legislative constraints on the executive not satisfied

Lets Break Down VDEM

Closed Autocracy

Electoral Autocracy

Electoral Democracy

Liberal Democracy

De-facto free and fair multiparty elections and a minimum level of Dahl's institutional prerequisites for polyarchy as measured by V-Dem's are guaranteed as well as access to justice, transparent law enforcement and the liberal principles of respect for personal liberties, rule of law, and judicial as well as legislative constraints on the executive satisfied as measured by V-Dem

Polyarchy

What is it

1. Freedom of Expression

Polyarchy

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2. Freedom of Association

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3. Who chooses our leaders

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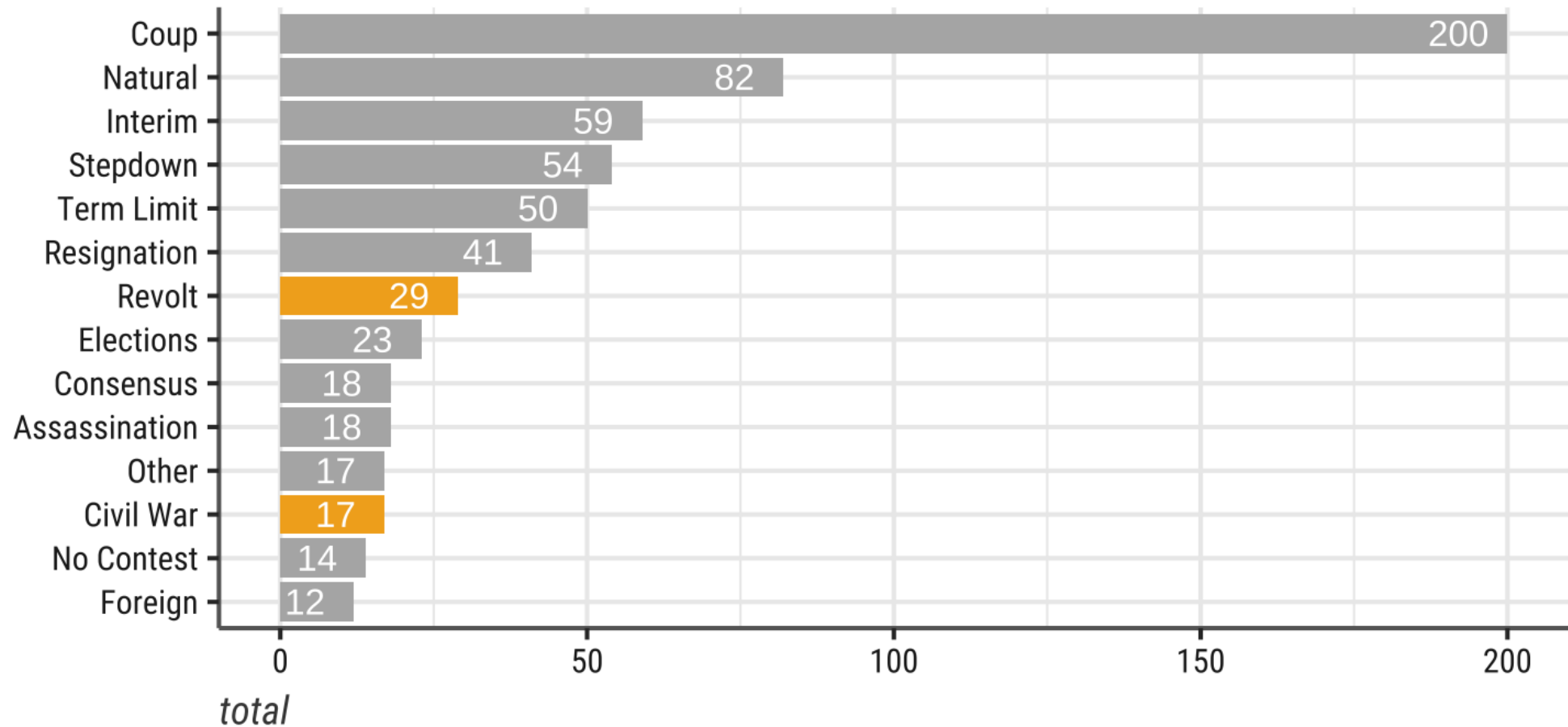
Polyarchy

What is it

1. Freedom of Expression
2. Freedom of Association
3. Who chooses our leaders
4. That choice is open to all and can unseat those in power
5. People from different backgrounds can be our leaders
6. Those making that decision can consume a variety of information to make that choice

Authoritarianism

Authoritarianism



The American Way of Government

AFLD (American Flavored Liberal Democracy)

Democracy

Direct Democracy: “pure” democracy - one in which the people make the decisions in the manner in which political powers should be exercised.

Representative democracy – where the authority of the governments lies with the people (the electorate) that elect representatives to support their interests

Constitutional Democracy

Governments, like the United States, that are effectively bound by fundamental laws are called “constitutional governments.”

- **Rule of Law:** The idea that **all** citizens, **including government officials**, are bound by laws
- **Fundamental law:** The federal government is bound by the laws declared in the Constitution. If a statute is in conflict with the law of the constitution, then the statute is considered unlawful.

Role of Government

- What it provides
- What it ignores
- How it provides

