

PUB 1270 : Socio-Political Environment

Session 08



INTRODUCTION TO

GOVERNMENT

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Learning Outcomes



- Identify the main branches of government.
- Describe the role of government.
- Explain the different forms of government.
- Discuss the impact of government decisions on business.

Branches of Government

Branches of Government

Legislature

(Formulation of Law)



Executive

(Execution of Law)



Judiciary

(Interpretation of Law)



Definitions of Government



Government is a political system by which a country or community is administered and regulated.

(www.britannica.com)

Government is the organization through which the state manifests its will, issues its commands, and conducts its affairs.

[J.W. Garner, - Political Science and Government (1928)]

Role of the Government



- Create and maintain a stable and peaceful community (nation-building)
- Provide security and maintain law and order
- Protect civil, economic and political rights
- Promote economic efficiency and growth
- Promote social justice
- Protect the weak (individuals and groups who cannot act to protect their own interests)

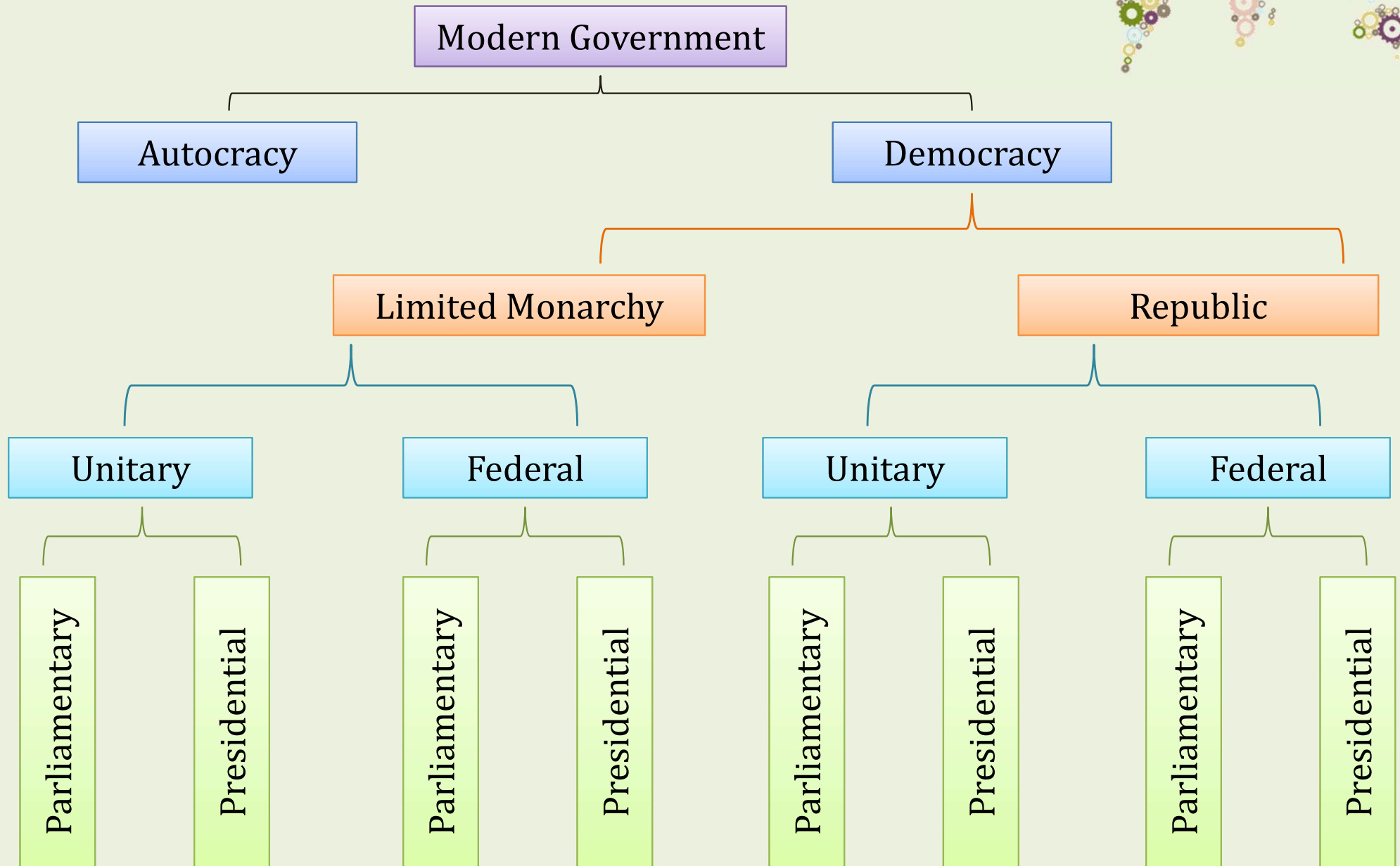
(Source : Comparative Politics Today: A World View (11th Ed.) - by Bingham Powell, Russell Dalton & Kaare Strom(2014))

Forms of Government



- There are several factors which induce the existence of different forms of Governments.
(geographical basis, size of the country, hereditary and ethnicity)
- Monarchy, Aristocracy, Dictatorship, Democracy, Unitary, Federal, Parliamentary and Presidential Governments are certain popular forms of Governments
- But it is difficult to have proper classifications on ***Modern Governments***.

Forms of Government cont'd



Unitary and Federal Governments



This classification is based on;

the *distribution of power among the central government and regional governments*

and,

the *relationship between central and regional governments*

Unitary and Federal Governments cont'd



Federal Government

Governmental power is divided between a central government and regional governments

Central Government

National Matters

E.g. : National security,
foreign affairs, issuing
of currency

Regional Governments

Local Matters

E.g. : Health care,
education, road
construction

*Main
Concern /
Responsibilities*

Federal Governments



- Regional Governments exercise both statutory independence and financial independence
- Though there is a constitutional autonomy within its sphere, the constitution of the Central Government is supreme.
- In order to make changes in the federal structure, it is needed to amend the Constitutions of both central and regional Governments .

E.g.: United States of America

India

Canada



Unitary Government



- One integrated system of Government and the supreme power belongs to the Central Government.
- For administrative convenience and other considerations, the country may be divided into different political sub-divisions , but all authorities derive from the Central Government.
- The power given to sub-divisions can be increased, diminished or withdrawn at the discretion of Central Government.

E.g.: Japan

Thailand

United Kingdom

France



Unitary and Federal Governments cont'd



Unitary Government	Federal Government
<p>Entire territory of the State forms one integrated authority.</p>	<p>Powers are distributed among the Central Government and Regional Governments/State Governments.</p>
<p>Central Government has the supreme power, and the other political divisions exercise only the delegated power.</p>	<p>Central and Regional Governments exercise power granted by the Constitution and enjoy autonomy within its area.</p>

Unitary and Federal Governments – Sri Lankan Context



E.g.: **Article no.02** of the Constitution of Sri Lanka emphasizes that Sri Lanka is a Unitary State.

However, there are several political sub-divisions as the agents of the Central Government.

Those are Provincial Councils and Local Government (*Municipal Council, Urban Council and Pradeshiya Sabha*)

Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



The difference is determined by,

the *relationship between the executive and the legislative* branches of Government

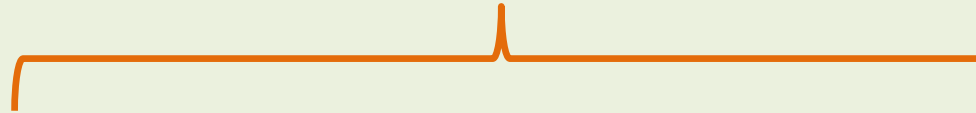
and,

who holds the *executive power* of the State.

Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



Parliamentary Government



Head of the State

King / Queen or President
(Nominal Power)

Head of the Government

Prime Minister
(Real Power)

E.g : United Kingdom, Singapore, India, Malaysia,
Bangladesh, New Zealand

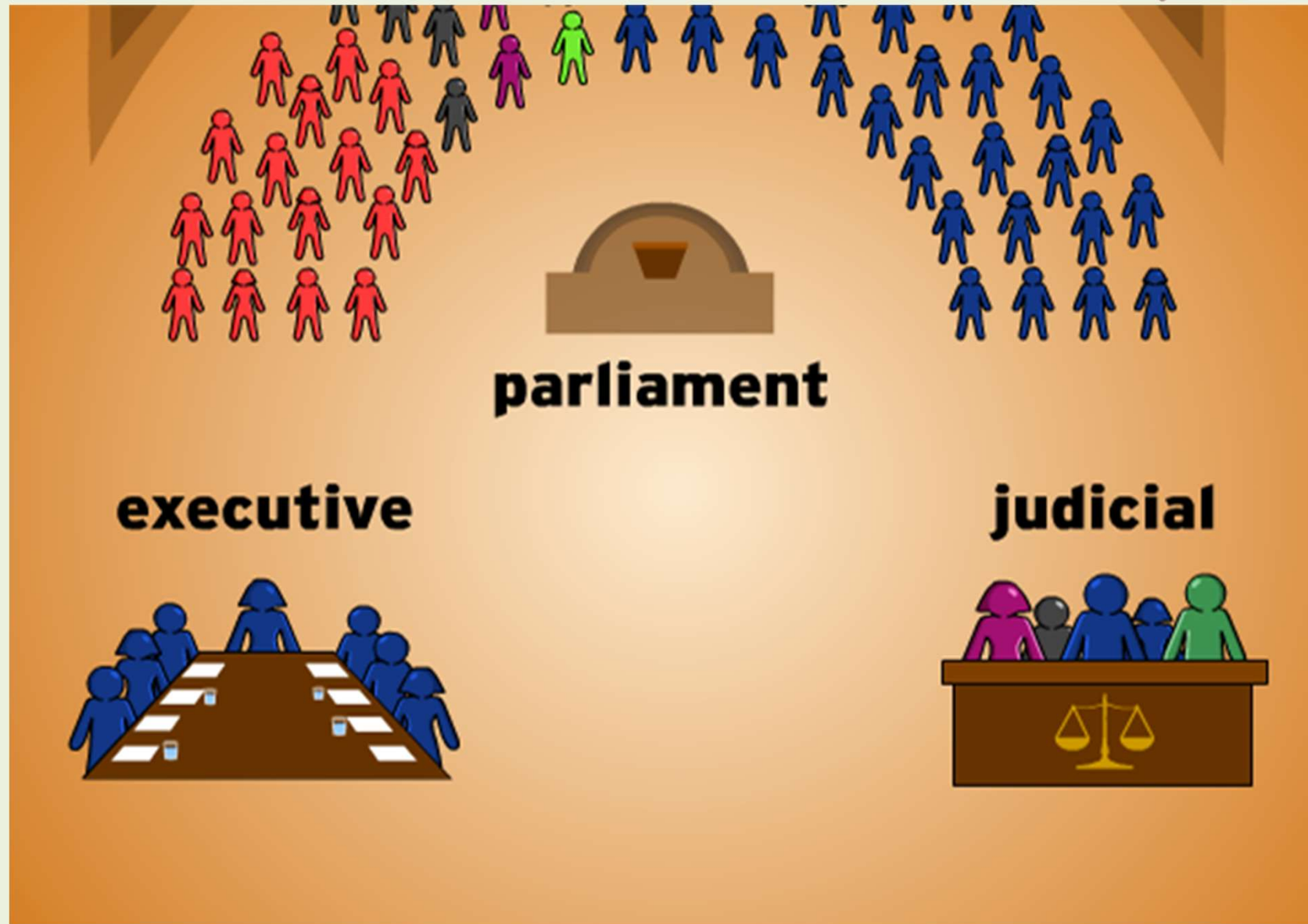
Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



Main Features of Parliamentary Government

- Membership of the parliament
- Leadership of the Prime Minister
- Head of the State exercises nominal power
- Clear and stable majority
- Political homogeneity
- Mutual tolerance between political parties
- Collective responsibility
- Individual responsibility
- Secrecy
- Right of the executive to dissolve the legislature

Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



Presidential Government

- In this system *the President enjoys real powers of the State and the Government.*
- He is the Real Executive.
- He is not a part of the legislature branch.

E.g.: USA, Brazil, Philippines, Mexico

Parliamentary and Presidential Governments cont'd



Main Features of Presidential Government

- Separation of power
- President is the Head of the State and the Government.
- President possesses real power.
- President is elected for a fixed tenure.
- President and his secretaries are not responsible to the legislature as they are not members of the legislature.

Impact of government decisions on business

- Government decisions influence positively and/or negatively on the business operations;

Eg : Lock down decisions made by governments in different countries during the Covid-19 pandemic

Import/Export Restrictions and Tax policies of different types of governments

- This impact on business activities can be varied depending on the nature of the government;

Eg : Decisions /the nature of democratic governments;

- encourage local businessmen with more freedom to operate their businesses
- attract foreign investors with positive values in indexes like, 'Ease of doing business', 'Global Competitiveness Index', 'Corruption Perception Index'.

FIGURE 0.1 What is measured in *Doing Business*?



All these aspects of the 'Ease of doing business' index are determined by the nature of a particular government

- Foreign policies adopted by different governments may influence the international trade among the countries.
Eg: GSP plus quota for apparel sector
- Federal governments may facilitate efficient decision making and effective local resource mobilization for businesses