**FRENCH REPUBLIC**

**Semi-Presidential Republic**

* A form of government used by the France Repbulic; It has both a President and a Prime Minister

**Fun Fact**: *“France”* comes from the Latin word Francia, meaning *“country of the Franks*”. The franks might refer to Germanic words for *“Javelin”* or *“free”*

* France officially the French Republic is a sovereign state comprising territory in western Europe and several overseas regions and territories.
* The European part of France, called metropolitan France, extends from the Mediterranean Sea to the English Channel and the North Sea, and from the Rhine to the Atlantic Ocean.
* France spans 643,801 square kilometres and has a total population of 66.6 million, It is a unitary semi-presidential republic with the capital in Paris, the country's largest city and main cultural and commercial centre. French Republic.

**GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE**

* France’s government is divided into an executive, legislative, and judicial branch, much like the U.S. and the Philippines.
* The President appoints the Prime Minister, who must be approved by the lower house of parliament, the National Assembly.

**EXECUTIVE:**

* Consequently, the Presidency is easily the most powerful position in the French political system. Duties include heading the armed forces, appointment of the Prime Minister.
* in the French political system, the relationship between the President and the Prime Minister - the first- and second- highest authorities respectively - is critical.

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| **PRESIDENT** | **PRIME MINISTER** |
| * The president is directly elected by the French people every five years. The French Constitution declares him head of state and gives him control over foreign policy and defense. * The president names the prime minister. * The president can dissolve the national assembly (low chamber of the parliament) and the assembly can remove the prime minister through a vote of no confidence. | * The prime minister serves as head of government and is in charge of domestic policy and day-to-day governing. He also recommends for presidential approval the other members of his Cabinet. * The Prime Minister may propose legislation for Parliament’s approval, or he may issue decrees (i.e. executive orders) within certain constraints. * he/she is usually the first person to go when there is any serious trouble between the president and the assembly, or when the president explicitly wants to show he is changing his policy. |

**EXECUTIVE: MINISTRIES**

* Similar to “departments” in the U.S. and Philippines, ministries split responsibility in the executive branch.
* Each Ministry is divided into directions, which are each headed by a minister.

**DIFFERENT MINISTRIES**

* Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
* Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
* Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research
* Ministry of Justice Ministry of Finance and Public Accounts
* Ministry of Defence
* Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights
* Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue
* Ministry of the Interior
* Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forestry
* Ministry of the Economy, Industry, and the Digital Sector
* Ministry of Housing, Regional Equality and Rural Affairs
* Ministry for Decentralization and the Civil Service
* Ministry of Culture and Communication
* Ministry of Urban Affairs, Youth and Sport
* Ministry for Overseas France

**LEGISLATIVE**

* Divided between the National Assembly and the Senate, much like Congress in the U.S. and the Philippines.
* The Senate’s powers are limited; National Assembly has the last word in the event of a disagreement.

**GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE LEGISLATIVE: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

* The lower house in the French political system is the National Assembly. This has 577 seats representing single-member constituencies. The 2.5 million French people living abroad have the opportunity to vote in one of 11 constituencies grouping areas of the world together.
* Members of the National Assembly are directly elected in a two- stage voting system. A candidate who receives more than 50% of the vote in the first round is elected. All elections are held on a Sunday morning.
* The National Assembly tends to specialize in scrutinizing day-to- day government business. In cases of disagreement with the Senate, the position of the National Assembly prevails. Critics have argued that the Assembly is weak in terms of setting its own agenda and holding the executive to account.

**GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE LEGISLATIVE: SENATE**

* The upper house in the French political system is the Senate. This currently has a total of 348 seats (the number depends on population changes): 323 representing mainland France, 13 representing French overseas territories, and 12 representing French nationals abroad.
* The Senate tends to specialize in constitutional matters and foreign affairs including European . The Senate meets in the Luxembourg Palace. θ Members of the Senate are indirectly elected by an electoral college of 88,000 made up of city councilors and local officials which provides a rural and therefore Right-wing bias to the process. Since the Fifth Republic was established in 1958, Right- wing parties have always held a majority in the Senate until the elections when the Left took control for the first time. Members serve a six-year term - a reduction from the previous nine years - and one- half of seats come up for election every three years.

**GOVERNMENT OF FRANC LEGISLATIVE: POLITICAL PARTY**

* France is a multi-party-political system which means that often no one party wins a majority of seats in the Assembly. Indeed, the major parties themselves are often very fractional with shifting personal allegiances.
* French politics has traditionally been characterized by two politically opposed groupings but, in recent years, a third force has emerged so that elections are now effectively a triangular contest.

**GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE: JUDICIAL**

* France uses a civil legal system; that is, law arises primarily from written statutes; judges are not to make law, but merely to interpret it. The basic principles of the rule of law were laid down in the Napoleonic Code.
* The highest appellate court in France is called the Cour de Cassation and the six chief judges are appointed by the President. Unlike the supreme courts in other countries (such as the USA, and Philippines), it does not have the power of judicial review.
* The power of judicial review is vested in a separate Constitutional Court which is a unique creation of the Fifth Republic. The court consists of nine members: one appointment made by each of the President, the President of the Senate, and the President of the National Assembly every three years for a nine-year, non-renewable term. This contrasts with the US and Philippine system where the President makes all appointments to the Supreme Court but then the appointments are for life.