

## Political/Economic Systems

Although it is often thought that political and economic systems are separate entities, they are very much tied together. A political system will often exert control over an economic system. In addition, values present in a political system will often be in evidence in an economic system. (For example, if citizens have freedom politically, it is most likely that they have freedom economically.) So, sometimes it's hard to talk about a political system without talking about the economic system at the same time (and vice versa).

Some terms to help things be more clear:

Private: ownership by individuals

Public: ownership by government (usually paid for with tax dollars)

State: country or government (ex: "state-run media," "enemy of the state")

### Political Systems

1. Democracy: The governed (individuals/citizens) have a say in the government (voting, use of representatives (republic)). Rights/responsibilities of the individual stressed. Needs of the society/community/group may not be as emphasized. Minimal government role in society (lower taxes, fewer government services). High degree of capitalism.

2. Socialism: Usually has large elements of democracy. Moderate government role in society (higher taxes, more government services). Needs of the society/community/group has slightly higher emphasis; rights of the individual slightly less stressed.

### 3. Totalitarian governments (Dictatorships):

Totalitarian governments use an authoritarian means (denying political freedom to others) to keep control. No elections. Imposed ideology (way of thinking).

Nation in which a single party controls the government, economy, and law and order, with the use of propaganda and restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly. Unlimited power. Mass surveillance and physical force is used to insure compliance/enforcement. No dissenters (opposition). Often includes a leader with a strong personality. Citizens are influenced to adhere morally and privately to the dictates of the state (cultural control). Individual interests are always subservient (come second) to the interests of the state (country/government). Use of slogans, banners, symbols, powerful oratory.

A. Authoritarianism (mild totalitarianism), allows very limited freedoms.

	Totalitarianism	Authoritarianism
Charisma	High	Low
Role conception	Leader as function	Leader as individual
Ends of power	Public	Private
Corruption	Low	High
Official ideology	Yes	No
Limited pluralism	No/Yes	Yes
Legitimacy	Yes	No

Sondrol, Paul C. "Totalitarian and Authoritarian Dictators: A Comparison of Fidel Castro and Alfredo Stroessner."

Authoritarian state: "Mind your own business, or we'll shoot you"

Totalitarian state: "Do what we say, or we'll shoot you" \*

1. **Communism**: Extreme form of socialism. Government control/ownership of the means of production. Most services are government run. Idea behind it is the goal of equalizing the social conditions of life (specifically, the abolition of inequalities in the possession of property by distributing all wealth equally to all, or, by holding all wealth in common for the equal use and advantage of all). A classless society (no upper class or lower class). The means is the ultimate collectivization (collection) of all private property. To make this happen, however, all political and economic decisions are made by one entity (single party or dictator). Aka, Marxism (struggle between classes).

2. **Fascism**: use of militarism, extreme nationalism, and requiring blind loyalty to the state and its leader. Anti-communist.

a. **Nazism**: a form of fascism in Germany, led by Hitler, with racism at the core of its beliefs (struggle between races)

### **Economic Systems**

1. **Free market (capitalism)**: Individuals (entrepreneurs) are "free" to develop and try to sell products/services. Customers are "free" to buy them or not. Entrepreneurs set wages and prices in an attempt to make a profit (take in more money than they spend in production) while taking into account that they are in competition for customers' money. Private ownership of goods and services.

2. **Command market (communism)**: The government decides (commands) what needs to be produced and sets prices and wages.

3. **Mixed market**: Some private ownership, some government control (could be 70-30, could be 30-70)

\* Wikipedia, "Totalitarianism" (May 7, 2012)