

Forms of Government Political Spectrum

THE LEFT

HIGH Level of Government Control/Encroachment

LOW Level of Personal Power

Left Wing ←

THE RIGHT

LOW Level of Government Control/Encroachment

HIGH Level of Personal Power

→ Right Wing

Monarchy	Oligarchy	Democracy	Republic	Anarchy
<i>Rule by One</i>	<i>Rule by a Powerful Few "The Elites"</i>	<i>Rule by a Majority</i>	<i>Rule by Law</i>	<i>Rule by No One</i>
<p>Total Government whereby a king or dictator has total control over the people.</p> <p>This rarely – or never technically – exists because typically a monarch or emperor is surrounded and supported by a group of elites that helps keep him in power.</p>	<p>THE Most Common Form of Government BY FAR! Almost all governments - past & present - are oligarchies.</p> <p>A group of elites are either formally or informally in control of the government.</p> <p>Power effectively rests with a small elite segment of society constructing consent from the powerless through cultural values.</p> <p>The elite in control may be wealthy elite, intellectual elite, military elite, media elite, religious or royal elite, or from an elite family. The elite is typically made up of a combination of these groups.</p> <p>This form of government goes by many names, but it is fundamentally a large central STATE controlled by a small group of elites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empires (Imperialism) • Kingdoms • Monarchies • Feudalism (Serfdom) • Communism • Socialism • National Socialism (Nazism) • Fascism • Totalitarianism • Statism • Progressivism • Marxism 	<p>Rule by the majority is based on the belief that people are "basically good" and therefore, the majority can be trusted to make laws and make decisions best for all.</p> <p>The standard of right and wrong - used to determine legislation - is seen to evolve over time and is based on the whim of the people of the time. In a democracy, what is "right" for one generation may be different for the next. Only the majority can decide.</p> <p>A democracy always sounds good...But the problem is that the majority is not restrained. The majority can be persuaded to do something that's wrong.</p> <p>The majority can be convinced that what is right is bad and what is wrong is just fine. For example, the majority can vote to kill someone (as in abortion).</p> <p>Democracy is nothing more than a broad form of mob rule.</p> <p>The word "democracy" does not appear in the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. The founding fathers knew that in a democracy, the people always vote themselves other people's money. And so, a democracy always evolves into a welfare state.</p>	<p>Rule by a fixed standard of laws based on principles of absolute right and wrong that do not evolve over time.</p> <p>Government is limited in order to restrain the majority and maximize individual liberty. This is based on an understanding that people have a sin nature and are not born "basically good". Therefore, the majority cannot be trusted to always do what is right.</p> <p>According to the "rule of law," decisions should be made by applying known principles and laws to each situation – not by leaving the decisions up to the whim of the majority.</p> <p>The rule of law means that the law is above everyone, and it applies to everyone. Whether governor or governed, rulers or ruled, no one is above the law, no one is exempted from the law, and no one can grant exemption from the application of the law.</p> <p>The rule of law is an ancient ideal, and was discussed by Ancient Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle around 350 BC. Plato wrote: "Where the law is subject to some other authority and has none of its own, the collapse of the state, in my view, is not far off; but if law is the master of the government and the government is its slave, then the situation is full of promise and men enjoy all the blessings that the gods shower on a state." Likewise, Aristotle endorsed the rule of law, writing that "law should govern", and those in power should be "servants of the laws."</p> <p>In 1776, the notion that no one is above the law was popular during the founding of the United States. Thomas Paine wrote in his pamphlet Common Sense "that in America, the law is king. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other." In 1780, John Adams enshrined this principle in the Massachusetts Constitution by seeking to establish "a government of laws and not of men."</p> <p>Article IV of the Constitution of the United States "guarantee[s] to every State in this Union a Republican form of Government."</p>	<p>State of anarchy is always temporary.</p> <p>It does not truly exist except as a transition. Anarchy is like a vacuum; something always rushes in to fill it.</p> <p>During a state of anarchy, there is no law and so the result is a dramatic loss of freedom. Property must be protected at all times, so citizens lose their freedom to come and go freely from their homes.</p> <p>In order to increase their freedom, the citizens end up hiring someone to enforce the law (for example, a sheriff), or they embrace a new leader who promises to restore order. Thus, government is re-established. The new government is usually a monarchy (dictatorship) or oligarchy.</p>

The U.S. was founded as a Republic

The U.S. is now more of a Democracy moving toward an Oligarchy

AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL
VERSUS PERSONAL POWER

Oligarchy

Tyrannical Government
Socialistic Government
High Control Government

Protects the privileges of the elites.

Focused on POWER

Provides for "the needs" of the people as a tool for keeping power

Controls the economic and social aspects of society = Central planning

The STATE promotes a social and economic agenda

The State takes authority to *dictate* to the people on a wide range of policies

Common Terms for Oligarchies:

- Empires (Imperialism)
- Kingdoms
- Monarchies
- Feudalism (Serfdom)
- Communism
- Socialism
- National Socialism (Nazism)
- Fascism
- Totalitarianism
- Statism

Democracy

Democratic Government
Evolving Government

Protects nothing. Ever-changing. Erratic. Depends on the Whim of the Majority

The whim of the majority creates instability because the laws are evolving and ever-changing based on what the majority wants.

The rights of minorities are constantly under threat.

A Democratic Government is usually a *transition* stage between a Constitutional Republic and an Oligarchy like Socialism.

Republic

Constitutional Government
Limited Government

Protects the Rights of the People – all the people. Even minority rights are protected in a Republic!

Limits the power of the government to oppress the people

Creates stability because decisions are based on a fixed standard of laws

The United States was founded as a republic.

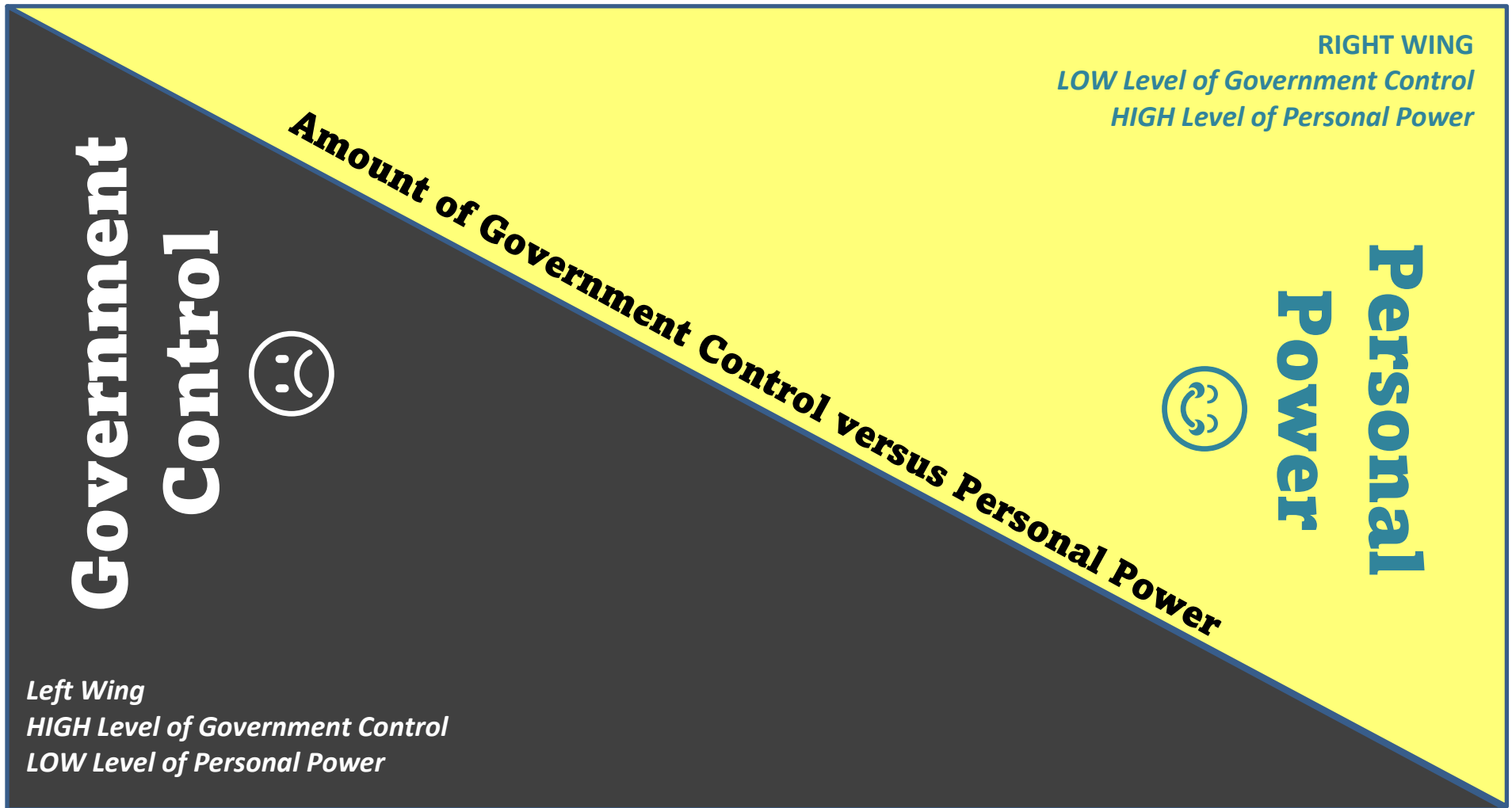
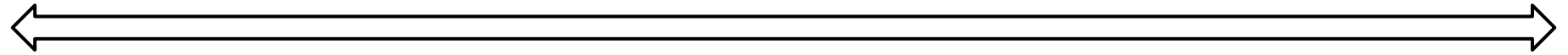
Anarchy

No Government
A temporary vacuum of leadership until an Oligarchy comes in to restore order.

Oligarchy

Democracy

Republic



Continuum of Government Control versus Personal Power

The further Left, the more government control and the less personal power.
The further Right, the less government control and the more personal power.