

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT SHARE ITS POWER?)

USE YOUR OWN PAPER!

DEFINITIONS: (1) **Read** thoroughly, (2) **understand** completely, and (3) **sketch/draw** what you understood about **each** type of distribution of power on a separate piece of paper; label them Unitary, Confederate, and Federal; give the division of each type separately on the same sheet—front and back. The bold words under each type is your clue; and (4) **write a summary** of one or more paragraphs showing that you understood what you read today. Turn in #3 (sketch/drawing) and #4 (summary) today. Staple them together if finished. Otherwise, they become homework if you do not finish them in class.

A discussion of democracy presumes that people have a basic understanding of what government is and what purposes it fulfills. In reality, a person cannot comprehend what hot means without experiencing cold; one cannot achieve the fullest understanding of American democracy without a basic knowledge of other theories of government. How does government share its duties? How does it involve citizens in its decision making? How is power shared?

Unitary Government

In a unitary government, the **central government** possesses much or almost all authority and decision-making power. Local governing bodies simply serve as administrative arms of the central government, just to carry out the decisions of the central authority. Great Britain is a familiar example of a unitary government; unlike the American counties in each state, individual British **local authorities or counties** have little of the power commonly exercised by American states. France, with 90 departments grouped into 36 provinces, also has a unitary form of government. It is important, however, to note that unitary governments are not necessarily less democratic than other forms (Sanford 10).

Unitary governments can be found under authoritarian, totalitarian, monarchy, military, dictatorship,

Confederation

It is a union by compact or treaty between states, provinces, or territories, that creates a central government with limited powers; the constituent entities retain supreme authority over all matters except those delegated to the central government.

Power is distributed completely opposite of a unitary government in a **confederate government**. **Local governments** have most of the power, and they protect and preserve their own authority by forming a weak central government at the top. The United States has employed confederate systems of government briefly in the past, in the Articles of Confederation. However, the confederate type of government was so weak that it led to the current federal system, and in the southern states' attempts to form the Confederate States of America (Sanford 10).