

POLS 3024: INTRO TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

**DO INSTITUTIONS MATTER?
PRESIDENTIALISM AND PARLIAMENTARISM**

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Michael Jana

1. Presidential System

2. Parliamentary System

Separation of power between various branches (exec, leg, jud)

Executive and Legislature fused

President directly elected

Ascendancy to president office depends on sufficient parliamentary support

President serves fixed term

Executive term depends on continued parliamentary support

President forms/appoints own cabinet

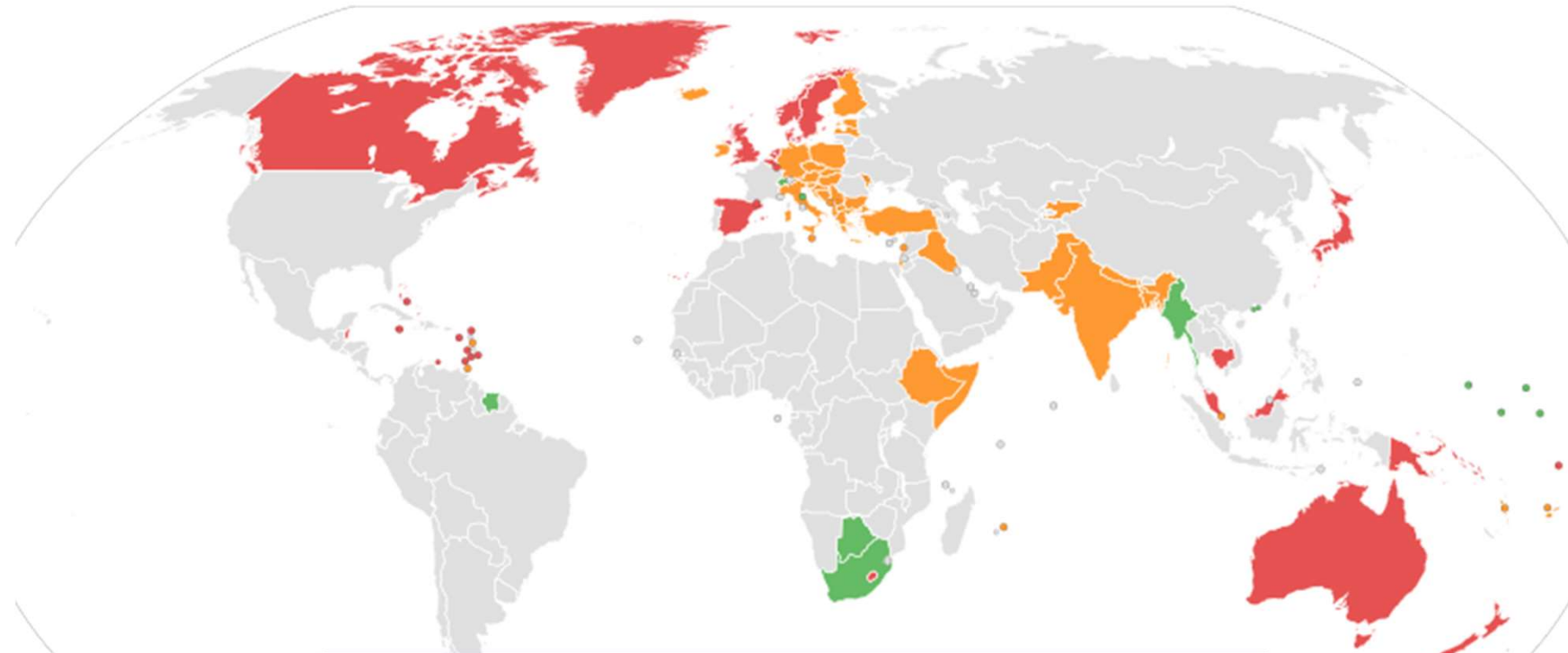
Formation of cabinet is collaborative

3. Hybrid Systems

Examples of Countries with Presidentialism

- Angola
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Examples of Countries with Parliamentarism



Map of different parliamentary systems

- Parliamentary monarchies in which authority is vested in a parliament.
- Parliamentary republics where parliaments are effectively supreme over a separate head of state.
- Parliamentary republics with an executive president elected by a parliament.

- **E.G of Hybrid Systems: France, Russia**

Case Study: Why did France adopt Hybrid system?



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- Hybrid since 1959
- Reaction to weaknesses of 4th Republic (1946-1958) parliamentary system with PR system
 - Weak coalition govts (21 administrations in 12 years!)
 - Threat of military coup
- Referendum on 6 Oct 1958 established the 5th Republic Constitution with a strengthened president
- President has significant powers and lengthened presidential term (7 years)

Case Study: Turkey



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- Why did Turkey hold a referendum on 16 April 2017?
- Why change from a parliamentary to a presidential system?
 - What are the contextual factors?
 - Failed military coup(s)
 - Insurgents - Maoists; Kurds (PKK)
 - Power politics
- What is the implication of changing to presidential system?
- What do you think about this change?

Effects of Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Adv. of Presidentialism	Disadv. of Parliamentarism
Govt efficiency	Chance of coalitions compromise preferred policy
Representativeness of entire populace	Candidates often appeal to narrow partisan interests
Separation of powers and checks and balances	Little separation of powers

Effects of Presidentialism and Parliamentarism

Adv. of Parliamentarism	Disadv. of Presidentialism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountability of political leadership<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collective responsibility between Exec and Legislature• Legislature can recall the head of the executive any time• The exec required to appear before the legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Little accountability
Facilitates formation of strong and disciplined political parties	Constrains party building and promotes personalism

Effects of Presidentialism on Democracy

- Presidentialism breeds competing claims to legitimacy between executive and parliament hence frequent deadlocks and policy paralysis
- Fixed term result in difficulty to recall the president even in cases of grave misconduct; let alone extend the term of popular presidents
- Winner-take-all electoral competition leads to politics as a “zero sum” game
- Personalized nature of presidentialism is less supportive of democratic politics

- The choice of a form of democracy (e.g. parl or pres) affects govt structural choice e.g.
 - Bureaucracy: Pres system has more rigid (little discretion) bureaucracies than parl system
 - Leadership structure
 - Personnel arrangement