

Unitary Government

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Unitary Government

- A unitary government is when a power is held in a single, central agency but has many local governments. The central power, Parliament, has total power over the smaller sub-divisions because it is a local authority for all government functions.

Unitary Diagram



= Direction of power



= Political unit ie., state

Unitary System

Countries that are unitary

- Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, **ENGLAND**, Iceland, Italy, and Mexico.
- These countries choose to be unitary because the government wants power. A unitary government is always poking its nose around in other countries business because they want control.

STRENGTHS of unitary government

- Smaller Government
- Better tax handling abilities
- Can manage economy better



Weaknesses of unitary government

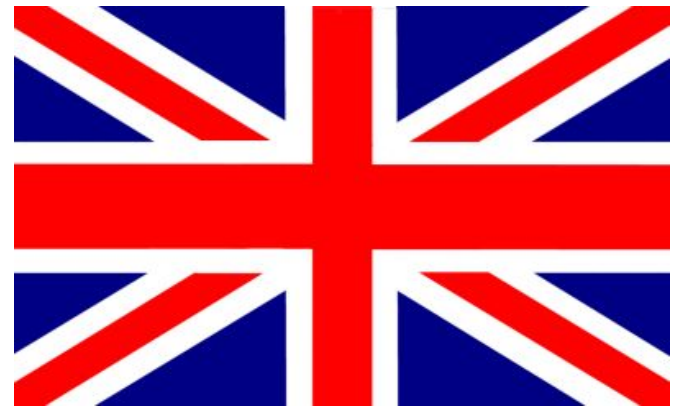
- Slow at making decisions because there are so many to make.
- Governs too big of an area.
- Bureaucracy
- No balance of power





Geography of England

- England is in the heart of Great Britain surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, Irish Sea, North Sea, and English Channel. England is a low land country except for the large mountains in the North and South West.



Demography of England

- England is the most populous country of the United Kingdom, taking up 84% of all the inhabitants of the U.K.
- England has over 51 million inhabitants.
- 89% of these people are White British and the rest are of different ethnicities.
- English is the main language in England although it has a French influence.

Form of Government

- England is a constitutional Monarchy and a Parliamentary Democracy.
- There is a queen, a Prime Minister ,and two houses of Parliament: House of Lords and House of Commons.
- The citizens elect a party into power and the head of the biggest party then becomes the Prime Minister.
- Parliament controls supreme Legislative power to make laws

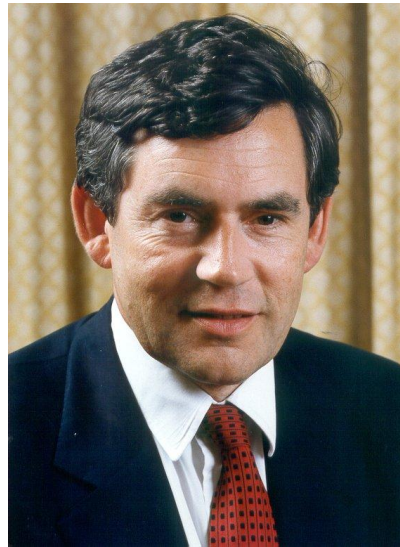
Head of State

- The Queen is the Head of State.



Head of Government

- The Prime Minister is head of the government.
- The Prime Minister selects who he wants in his cabinet and from there on they hold executive power.



LAW MAKING Body

- Parliament is the supreme legal authority in England. They have the power to create or end any law. The longest a parliamentary term can last is five years before it is dissolved.



Judicial Body

- The judicial body is independent of parliament and cannot review the constitutionality of legislation.
- There isn't one highest national court in England.
- The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is one of the highest courts, along with the House of

Sub-National Governments

- Under Parliament there are two houses. One is the House of Lords and the other is the House of Commons.
- The House of Lords does not have much power and their main function is to revise legislation.
- The House of Commons consists of 646 elected members and the Prime Minister belongs to this group.

How do people in government achieve their positions?

- Every four to five years general elections are held to decide members of parliament. There are three major political parties including The Labors, The Conservatives, and The Liberal Democrats. Each party chooses a leader and whichever party wins the majority of the seats in parliament, their leader then becomes the Prime Minister.

Analyzing a Unitary Government

- This government works well for England. They have operated with this system for a very long time and it seems to suit the country well.

Current Events/Interesting Findings

- England's government does not follow a written constitution. It governs partly by statutes and by common law and practice.
- The current Prime Minister is Gordon Brown. He replaced Tony Blair as head of the Labor Government in 2007.