

## CHAPTER SUMMARY



# Political Systems in Today's World

## ★ DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS ★

Nations with fair elections, competing political parties, constitutional governments that guarantee individual rights, an independent judiciary, and usually market economies, are called consolidated democracies.

**Great Britain** In a parliamentary government, legislative and executive powers both reside in an elected assembly, or parliament. The British Parliament is bicameral, which means that it is a two-house legislature. The leader of the majority party in the House of Commons becomes prime minister—the chief executive. If the majority party loses an important vote, the prime minister must resign, and new elections are held.

**Japan** Japan's parliament, the National Diet, also has two houses. The lower house, the House of Representatives, considers legislative measures, elects the prime minister, and has the power to vote "no confidence" to dissolve the House of Representatives and call for new elections. The upper house, the House of Councillors, also considers legislation. It has less power but cannot be dissolved.

**France** France has a presidential government. The president appoints a premier (prime minister) who, in turn,

names the cabinet members. The president has the power to dissolve the legislature, or National Assembly.

Other nations have struggled in the last decade to establish democratic governments. Poland was the first eastern European nation to overthrow its Communist government. Lech Walesa, the leader of a trade union called *Solidarity*, became the first freely elected president in 1990, though a new constitution was not approved until 1997. Despite progress, Poland today remains in a precarious position. Beginning in 1948, South Africa followed a policy of apartheid, or strict government-enforced racial segregation; after years of resistance from the African National Congress and others, apartheid laws were repealed during the 1990s, and Nelson Mandela was elected president in 1994. Despite its 1917 constitution, the Mexican government remained more authoritarian than democratic because of the power of the president and control of a single political party. Nationwide electoral reforms introduced in the 1990s allowed other parties to compete fairly in Mexico's political process.

## ★ AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS ★

**China** In China most political power rests with the leaders of the Communist Party. The legislative and executive branches of government have little independent authority. The Politburo, made up of the party's top 20 leaders, makes all the key political, economic, and military decisions for the nation. China continues to commit many human-rights abuses, including the government-ordered massacre of protestors in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

**Cuba** Communist dictator Fidel Castro has ruled Cuba since 1959. Since then, relations between the United States and Cuba have been strained. The end of the Cold War left Cuba isolated and in economic distress. U.S. hopes that its trade embargo will force Castro to institute democratic reforms have gone unfulfilled.

**North Korea** North Korea's totalitarian government centers on unquestioning loyalty to its leader, Kim Jong Il, despite the fact that millions of North Koreans suffer greatly as a result of Kim's policies. Since the early 1990s, North Korea has worked to develop chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The United States has sought to limit these developments.

**Islamic Governments** Muslim secularists desire friendly relations with Western nations and believe that religious and secular law should be kept separate. Muslim fundamentalists, on the other hand, believe that Islamic countries should base their legal system strictly on the law of the Quran. Many fundamentalist Muslims are anti-Western and see Western culture and society as a threat to Islamic culture.

- **Iran** In 1979 Islamic religious leaders overthrew the pro-Western shah, or king. In the new regime, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, conservative religious leaders had veto power over the actions of political leaders. U.S.-Iran relations have been strained since Iranians took American diplomats hostage in 1979.
- **Saudi Arabia** Since 1932 the government of Saudi Arabia has been based on a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam with no separation of religion and the state. Despite increasing Saudi demands for a modern economy and government, many Americans have accused the Saudi government of indirectly supporting terrorist attacks against the United States.

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## CHAPTER 25 SUMMARY CONTINUED

## ★ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International organizations play a key role in world politics. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are made up of individuals and groups, such as the Red Cross, that are outside the scope of government. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) are composed of members of various national governments.

**The United Nations** UN membership now includes 191 countries. The UN has three goals: to preserve world peace and security; to encourage fair dealings between nations; and to help nations cooperate in trying to solve their problems. The UN has a limited ability to use military force to calm an explosive situation, provide humanitarian aid, or for other peacekeeping missions.

Every member has one vote in the General Assembly. The Security Council, with 5 permanent and 10 rotating members, can make peacekeeping decisions for the UN. The Secretariat conducts the day-to-day business of the UN. Member nations can submit disputes over international law to the UN's International Court of Justice. The Economic and Social

Council helps the UN promote social and economic progress around the world. Special UN agencies carry out the UN's humanitarian activities.

**The European Union** The EU has evolved further than any other IGO toward becoming a supranational organization, or an organization whose authority supercedes the sovereignty of its individual members. The EU membership now includes 15 countries. A series of treaties has given the EU government more authority and allowed the EU to act as a political unit.

The Council of the European Union decides the direction of EU policy. Representation in the legislative branch of the EU, or the European Parliament, is based on population, with larger nations receiving more votes. The European Court of Justice hears international cases and can declare laws of member nations invalid. Every member has one representative in the European Commission, which does much of the daily work of the EU. The President of the Commission directs the large bureaucracy and oversees the EU's annual budget.

## ★ GLOBAL ISSUES

Today's governments must deal with global issues that affect a large part of the world's population and that cannot be solved by the actions of any single nation. Sometimes individual nations must give up some measure of national authority in order to cooperate on solving larger global issues.

One of the greatest dangers of the global era has been **international terrorism**, or the use of violence by non-governmental groups against civilians to achieve a political goal. Since World War II, the main terrorist threat to Americans has been Middle Eastern groups. Several Middle Eastern nations have been accused of state-sponsored terrorism, or secretly supporting terrorist organizations. An Afghan resistance movement called al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, was responsible for many terrorist attacks against the United States, culminating in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. President George W. Bush has vowed to continue the war on terrorism until every terrorist group is eliminated, but many nations will have to work together to end global terrorism.

The United States has worked with many other developed nations to end **nuclear proliferation**, or the spread of nuclear weapons. In the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, the major nuclear powers promised:

- not to provide nuclear weapons technology to other nations.
- to promote the safe use of nuclear power.

- to encourage disarmament and destruction of existing nuclear weapons.

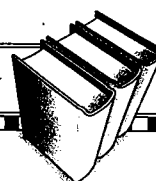
Small nuclear weapons can now be built using readily available products, increasing the chance that a terrorist group may obtain a nuclear weapon. The United States is especially concerned about the nuclear developments of North Korea and Iran, both of whom have been accused of sponsoring terrorist groups in the past.

**Human rights** are the basic freedoms and rights that all people, regardless of age, gender, nationality, or ethnicity, should enjoy. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights lists the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. The United Nations and the European Union have both established courts for trying violators of international human-rights laws

**The environment** is threatened by exploding population growth, increasing consumption of natural resources, and growing pollution. The core dilemma for policymakers is how to attain sustainable development, or the combining of economic development with environmental protection. The United States, as a powerful nation and a critical member of the global community, drew international criticism for refusing to implement the Kyoto Protocol in 1999 and then later withdrawing from it altogether. Government leaders must find a way to balance the economic needs of their nation with the environmental needs of a global society.



# Guided Reading Activity 25-1



## Democratic Governments

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to complete this chart.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOVERNMENT			
	Great Britain	France	Japan
Type of government			
Head of state			
Head of government			
Who elects head of state/government			
Type of legislature			
Names of legislative bodies			
Separation of powers (yes/no)			
Cabinet (yes/no)			

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to classify each item below under the country heading to which it refers.

THE ROAD TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT		
Poland	South Africa	Mexico

1. The Constitution of 1917 established a national government.
2. Eastern European democratic revolutions of 1989 began in this country.
3. Apartheid, the strict segregation of races, ended with a gradual transition to majority rule.
4. Political opponents described the government as authoritarian rather than democratic.
5. Nelson Mandela, leader of the ANC, became his country's symbol of freedom.
6. The labor union *Solidarity* launched a national strike that symbolized this country's struggle for a democratic government.
7. The Institutional Revolutionary Party dominated this country's government for many years.
8. In the 1990 presidential election, Lech Walesa received 74 percent of the national vote.
9. The first free election in this country in 1994 resulted in victory for the ANC.



**Guided Reading Activity 25-2** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★**Authoritarian Governments**

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to match the items in Column A with their definitions in Column B. Write the correct letter in the space provided.

**Column A**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Politburo
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. most powerful party leader in Cuba
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. National Party Congress
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Tiananmen Square
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Chinese Communist Party
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. shah
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Fidel Castro
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Khomeini and his followers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. North Korea
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Falun Gong
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Bay of Pigs
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Saudi Arabia
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. secularists
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. trade embargo
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Islamic Republic of Iran
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. mullah

**Column B**

- A.** scene of student uprising against the Chinese Communist Party
- B.** Fidel Castro
- C.** Iranian word meaning *king*
- D.** controls the Chinese national government
- E.** as religious leaders, they had veto power over political leaders
- F.** the highest organ of state power in China
- G.** Muslims who believe in keeping religious and secular law separate
- H.** began a process of increasing state power
- I.** provides oil and important military bases to the United States
- J.** failed invasion of Cuba by U.S.-trained anti-Castro exiles
- K.** composed of about 20 top party leaders in China
- L.** religious leaders who interpret and uphold traditional Islamic teachings
- M.** used by the United States to encourage democratic reforms in Cuba
- N.** totalitarian government centers on unquestioning loyalty to leader Kim Jong Il
- O.** spiritual movement combining physical exercise with Buddhism and Taoism; it is restricted by the Chinese government
- P.** under his leadership Cuba became a Communist dictatorship
- Q.** returned from exile in France to form an Islamic government in Iran









# Guided Reading Activity 25-4

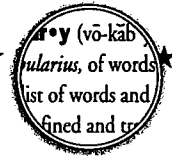
## Global Issues

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to choose the word or phrase that completes each sentence correctly.

1. Terrorism is defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The global importance of the oil industry has heightened tensions between the West and \_\_\_\_\_, resulting in increased terrorist activity.
3. When a government secretly supports terrorism, this is called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, the leader of the resistance movement al-Qaeda, is responsible for many terrorist attacks against Western nations.
5. The spread of nuclear weapons is called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The nations that have or are suspected to have nuclear weapons include \_\_\_\_\_.
7. In the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the major nuclear powers agreed \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two nations that are building their nuclear capabilities and have been accused of sponsoring terrorist groups.
9. The UN has established several \_\_\_\_\_ to prosecute violators of international human rights laws.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ set forth in 30 articles a comprehensive statement of "inalienable rights of all members of the human family."
11. "\_\_\_\_\_ " are things that governments should do for their citizens.
12. Policymakers struggle with the issue of sustainable development, defined as \_\_\_\_\_.
13. In 1999 the United States received international criticism for refusing to sign the \_\_\_\_\_.



# Vocabulary Activity 25



## Political Systems in Today's World

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**DIRECTIONS** Write terms from the list below that fit each description.

apartheid	presidential government	consolidated democracy	nongovernmental organization
Muslim	state-sponsored terrorism	mullah	intergovernmental organization
terrorism	parliamentary government	sanctions	

- Three related terms: one refers to a nation characterized by democratic elections, political parties, and usually a market economy; the second refers to a form of democratic government in which a president heads the executive branch; and the third refers to a form of government in which executive and legislative functions both reside in the elected assembly. \_\_\_\_\_
- Two related terms: one refers to a follower of the religion of Islam, and the other refers to a specially trained Islamic religious leader. \_\_\_\_\_
- Two related terms: one refers to the use of violence by nongovernmental groups against civilians to achieve a political goal, and the other refers to this type of violence that is secretly supported by a government. \_\_\_\_\_
- Two related terms: one refers to the strict separation of the races in South Africa, and the other refers to the coercive economic measures taken by many nations in an attempt to influence the ending of this practice. \_\_\_\_\_
- Two related terms: one refers to an international organization made up of individuals and groups outside the scope of government, and the other refers to an international group made up of members of national governments. \_\_\_\_\_

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DIRECTIONS** Use each of the following terms correctly in a complete sentences. Write the sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

life peers	shah	supranational organization	nuclear proliferation	trading blocs
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# Reteaching Activity



## Political Systems in Today's World

**DIRECTIONS** Write the letters of the items that go with each country in the chart.

North Korea	Great Britain	France	Japan	Poland	South Africa
Saudi Arabia	Mexico	China	Cuba	Iran	

- A.** The "Little Constitution" of 1992 divided powers between parliament, a prime minister, and a president.
- B.** Has developed nuclear weapons; accused of providing support to terrorist organizations.
- C.** In 1949 Communist revolutionaries established a totalitarian government.
- D.** Prior to the 1990s, apartheid was a major obstacle to democracy.
- E.** Parliament, the national legislature, holds almost all governmental authority.
- F.** Ruled as an absolute monarchy.
- G.** In late stages of being able to develop nuclear weapons.
- H.** The 1917 constitution set up executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- I.** Adopted permanent constitution in 1997.
- J.** The National Party Congress is the highest governing body.
- K.** The National Diet is its parliament.
- L.** In 1994 Nelson Mandela was elected in the first nonracial national election.
- M.** The constitution allows the president to appoint cabinet ministers and justices.
- N.** The president has the right to appeal directly to the people through a referendum.
- O.** National policy is made by the Politburo.
- P.** The upper house is the House of Councillors; the lower is the House of Representatives.
- Q.** A bicameral legislature consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
- R.** A 1959 revolt ousted dictator Fulgencio Batista.
- S.** Until 1994, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) dominated the government.
- T.** A 1958 constitution made the office of president the only nationally elected position.
- U.** Target of failed Bay of Pigs invasion by U.S.
- V.** This major military power's king strengthened economic ties to Western nations.
- W.** The majority party's leader is a prime minister who appoints a cabinet.
- X.** Provides oil and important military bases to the U.S.
- Y.** Government centers on unquestioning loyalty to its leader.
- Z.** A premier, appointed by the president, names the ministers, who form the cabinet.
- AA.** This Communist dictatorship was left isolated by the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s.
- BB.** When 1979 demonstrations forced the shah to flee, an exiled Shiite Muslim leader returned to form an Islamic government.



## CHAPTER SUMMARY *Activity* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



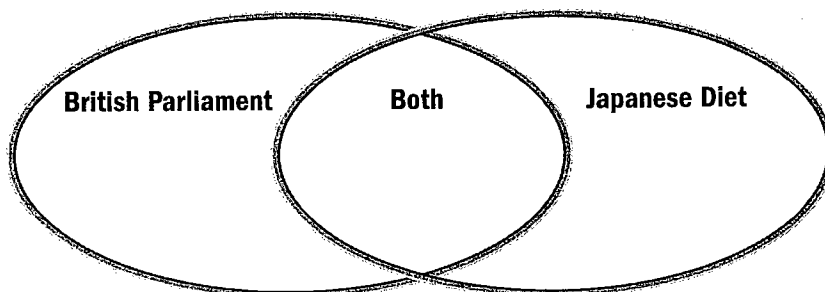
### Political Systems in Today's World

**★ DIRECTIONS** In the space provided, write the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are nations that enjoy democratic elections and market economies.
2. In a \_\_\_\_\_ government, legislative and executive powers both reside in an elected assembly.
3. The Japanese constitution states that the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be the "sole lawmaking organ of the state."
4. The overthrow of communism in Europe began in Poland with strikes launched by a labor union known as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After apartheid was abolished, \_\_\_\_\_, leader of the African National Congress, was elected president of South Africa.
6. Mexico's constitution created a strong presidency at the expense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ powers.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Muslims believe in keeping religious and secular law separate and desire friendly relations with Western nations.
8. In Iran \_\_\_\_\_ religious leaders overthrew the shah and established a regime in which they control the government.
9. Exploding population growth, increasing consumption of natural resources, and growing pollution all threaten \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ was established in 1945 to provide a forum for member nations to settle their disputes peacefully.

**Organizing Information** Examine the following diagram and study the list of characteristics associated with the British Parliament and/or Japanese National Diet. Write the letter of each item in the appropriate space in the diagram.

- A. parliamentary system
- B. House of Councillors
- C. House of Lords
- D. House of Commons
- E. bicameral legislature
- F. House of Representatives



**Critical Thinking** Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper.

11. Why would the end of the Cold War leave Cuba isolated and in economic distress?