## Identifying Political Systems Name:

For each system described below, state whether that system is **autocratic**, **oligarchic**, **representative democratic**, **direct democratic,** or **anarchic**. If it does not match any of them, you should state that it is “**unknown**.” Then explain why it is the system you identified or why you cannot identify it.

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| **Federal Republic of Germany:** The German government has no royal family. It has two primary leaders. The President serves a primarily ceremonial role, hosting foreign dignitaries, attending international meetings, and similar things. The Chancellor serves as the actual head of government, making many international decisions and setting the domestic agenda. All German leadership is chosen directly or indirectly through elections in which all German Citizens can vote. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia is ruled by a king. The king inherits his powers from his family. There are also two bodies that produce political policy—the Council of Ministers and the Consulative Assembly. The king serves as the head of both bodies, appoints all members, and can dismiss any individual member at will. Since 1992, the official constitution of the country is the Qur’an and the government is required to abide by Sharia (religious law). Because of this, the Council of Senior Scholars (a council of religious scholars) has power in its ability to decide whether the King and government are following Sharia. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **Japan:** Japan has an Emperor, who inherits his position from his family. However, the Emperor is primarily ceremonial in function. Executive power is mostly held by the Prime Minister, who is not elected but rather appointed by the party that takes control of the National Diet (the main legislative branch). The National Diet is composed of two congresses, the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. Both are elected by the people. Each member of the House of Representatives must be elected every 3 years. Each member of the House of Councilors is elected every 6 years. The Prime Minister may dismiss the entire House of Representatives. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **The United Kingdom:** The UK has a Queen. However, almost all of the power actually rests in the Parliament. The parliament has two houses. The House of Commons has 650 ministers (MPs) who are elected from various regions of the country. The House of Commons is led by the Prime Minister, who is selected from among the largest party in the House of Commons. The Commons is where all laws and taxes are handled in the government—and also most international decisions. There is also a House of Lords, who are not elected. The House of Lords are appointed by the prime minister and monarch working together. The House of Lords has considerably less power than the House of Commons. Their chief responsibility is to make sure that laws coming out of the Commons are constitutional and good for the country. They have the power to delay—but not to cancel—laws they deem unworthy. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **People’s Republic of China:** China has no royal family. It elects representatives to the National People’s Congress (NPC). The NPC generally debates legislation issues before passing them along to the Politburo Standing Committee (PSC), which decides how and if to enact that legislation. The National People’s Congress only occasionally makes true policy decisions. The most important political body in China is the Communist Party, who are guaranteed power by the constitution and hold almost all positions of power. The Communist Party, in turn, relies upon the PSC to make decisions. The head of the PSC and the Communist Party is the Paramount Leader. The Paramount Leader holds the three most important political offices. He is the President, head of the Communist Party, and the commander-and-chief of the military. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **Turkey:** Similar to Germany, there is both a Prime Minister and President. The Prime Minister serves as head of government, the President serves as head of state. The President is elected directly while the Prime Minister is chosen by whichever party takes the majority in the Grand National Assembly (the legislature). However, the military also has a strong hand in Turkey’s politics. Sometimes, the military even takes control like in 1960, 1971, 1980, and 1997. Since 2000, there have been 4 attempted (and 2 successful) coups in Turkey, in which the military forced out the government and replaced them. Similarly, elections are often suspected of corruption because the government does not protect voters, and pro-government thugs often patrol voting stations, intimidating people to vote for the president. | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |
| **Rebel Zapatista Autonomous Municipalities:** In the Mexican province of Chiapas, there is a large stretch of land over which the Mexican government has no control. This territory is defended by a decentralized rebel army known as the Neo-Zapatistas. In this territory every 300 or so families are grouped together in a council where everyone over 12 can participate. They do not vote in these councils often but typically just try to get everyone to agree to the same course of action. There is no central government that rules over the councils and each council is free to operate as it chooses.  | **Autocracy, Oligarchy, Representative Democracy, Direct Democracy, or Anarchy?** Why? |
| **Monarchy or Republic?** |