

between an electorate and a selectorate is well represented. Intelligence, police and security forces were not mentioned separately, but should be included in the tag "Army."

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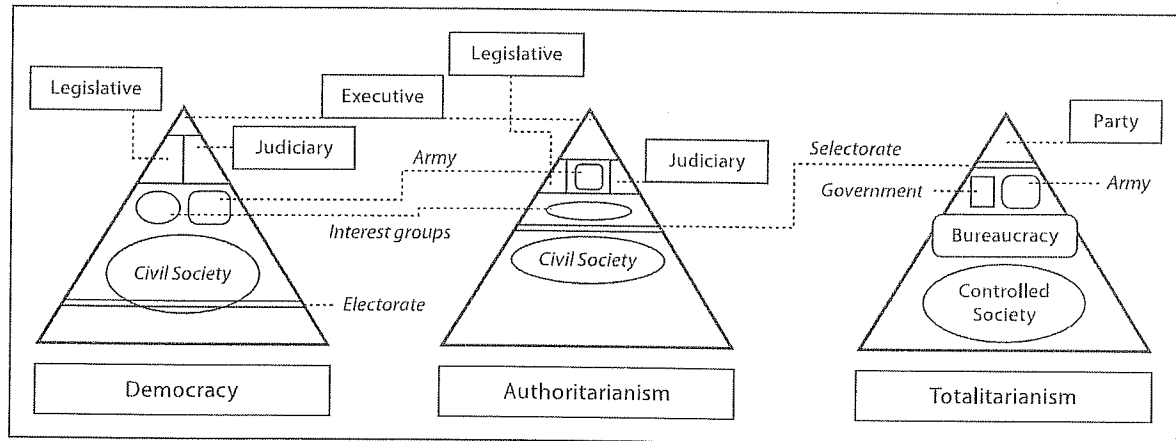


Figure 1.1. Basic Typology of Political Regimes

In a democracy the regimes are usually chosen from political parties (although sometimes independent candidates win elections). The governmental instruments of their power are the legislative and the executive. Depending of the political system, the regime's power is more concentrated in the former or latter. For instance, in parliamentary democracies the nexus of power is the legislative. In presidential regimes power typically lies in the executive. The judiciary plays a crucial role as it has the final word in disputes and has an important hand in the creation of new formal rules. In democratic regime types, the three branches of government all have their turf, and maintain this balance through checks and balances.

Decision-making in democracies does not exclusively belong to parties: Interest groups and sometimes the military apparatus can influence or steer decisions through lobbying the governing parties or by their leverage on the branches of government. Key is that there are clear rules, widely accepted by all actors at all levels. Even when rules are broken, those actors who break them realize they are crossing a line. There exist formal rules to denote the electorate: usually citizenship, universal suffrage and an age limit at 18. In consolidated democracies the rule of law is upheld and political, economic and civic liberties are protected. Breaches of the law or cases of discrimination are usually investigated under pressure of citizens and civil society.

As democratic regimes are elected, there are no general "rules" on how often these regimes change and succeed each other. Analyzing elections results and