

# Questions...

- What is government?
- What were the origins of government?
- Why do people submit to governments?
- Why do governments fail?
- What are the various forms governments can take?

# What is government?

- People and institutions charged with establishing, carrying out, and interpreting laws and public policy
  - Family – parents (with input from children?)
  - School – administration (with input from teachers, students, parents)
  - Town – mayor and council (with input from citizens)
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# What were the origins of government?

- Collective needs: food, clothing, shelter
- Collective protection: from crime, outside attacks, natural disasters
- Economies of scale: by working collectively, societies reduce cost and increase effectiveness

# Why do people submit to governments?

- Force Theory: a person or group uses physical force to control a population
- Evolutionary Theory: a family group grew and expanded to a clan, then tribe, and with the development of agriculture (tie to land) the state emerged
- Divine Right Theory: God created the state and gave royals “divine right” to rule
- Social Contract theory: members agree to give power to the state in return for protection of rights and well-being

# Why do governments fail?

- Abuse of power: individuals and groups controlling government use power for their own ends
- Weakness: individuals and groups controlling government are unable to protect the people's rights and/or well-being
- Power struggle: individuals, groups, and/or the people fundamentally disagree about the best ways to protect the people's rights and/or well-being

# What are the various forms governments can take?

*With your group, use your notes from the last night's reading to develop a list of positives and negatives about each of the following forms of government:*

**Democracy**

**Dictatorship**

**Presidential**

**Parliamentary**

**Unitary**

**Federal**

**Confederate**

Forms of Government	Unitary	Federal	Confederate
Democracy	Presidential France	Presidential United States Brazil	Presidential Belgium (quasi) CSA
	Parliamentary Italy	Parliamentary Germany	Parliamentary Iroquois
Dictatorship	Presidential Uganda (Amin)	Presidential Venezuela	Presidential n/a
	Parliamentary Cuba	Parliamentary Russia?	Parliamentary n/a