

CHAPTER VIII

CLASSIFICATION OF STATES

States or governments are classified as Unitary, Federal and Confederal.

Unitary States

مركزيه

Q In a unitary system all power and authority is concentrated in a central or national government. The central government can override the decisions of local governments. The majority of states in the world have unitary governments. It fits states with homogeneous populations. The new states of Asia and Africa have adopted the unitary system hoping that a strong government would break tribal differences and promote national unity. Many believe that the complexities and problems of modern society require a strong central gov-

ernment.

Federal States

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In a federal system, power and authority is divided between a national or federal government and regional governments - 'states', provinces, 'republics' or cantons.

The division of powers is enumerated in a written constitution. The constitution is difficult to amend. Some federal systems enumerate the powers of the central government and leave the rest to the regional governments; this class includes Switzerland, West Germany, Malaysia and the United States. Other federal systems enumerate the regional powers, leaving the rest to the central government; Canada and India belong to this class. Usually a supreme court is vested with

the power to interpret (explain) the constitution ^{نظام الحكم} in cases of conflict over jurisdiction (control) between regional and federal governments.

In most federal systems the federal government has complete jurisdiction over national defence, foreign policy, commerce and monetary policy. Regional governments deal with education, welfare and policing.

The national legislature is ^{دو مجلسي تشريعي} bicameral, with the regional governments equally represented in one of the chambers or houses.

The federal system usually suits large states with a population made of several racial or ethnic groups (heterogeneous societies). (2)

Confederal States

In a confederal system most of the power

belongs to the regional governments constituting the confederation. Very limited authority is delegated by them to the central government. The latter usually lacks the means of enforcing its decisions. The regional governments often can veto actions of the national legislatures. Some federal governments have passed through a confederal period before realizing the need for a stronger government. (3)

The most interesting confederations, at the present, are the United Nations and the various regional confederations, such as the European Economic Community. (4)

References:

1. Cord, op.cit., pp. 485, 59.
2. Ibid., pp. 485, 487-489, 60. Also Rodee, op.cit., pp. 54-58. Almond and Powell, op.cit., pp. 234-235.
3. Cord, op.cit., pp. 485, 60. Also Almond and Powell, op.cit., p. 236.

Almond and Powell, op.cit., p. 236.

CHAPTER IX

ELEMENTS OF THE STATE

TERRITORY, POPULATION, GOVERNMENT AND SOVEREIGNTY

The modern state has four essential elements: territory, population (or people), government and sovereignty (or independence).

The term 'state' has many definitions. Following are a number of these definitions:

- ① "The state or political community is an organization which has the means of using force and controlling those who happen to live within its agreed boundaries.."(1)
- ② According to L. Oppenheim, a state "-- is in existence when a people is settled in a country under its own sovereign government."(2)

③

"The state is the territorial association of which the government is the administrative institution." (3)

④

"A community politically organized under one independent government within a definite territory." (4)

"We have said that what differentiates membership of the state from that of other associations is its compulsory nature and the fact that the state lays down the framework within which all other exercises of power must function. This power to direct is a twofold power. The state gives the directions and it also enforces them, if necessary by employing armed force. The state is the only association within the national frontiers which can use the nation's armed forces to compel obedience to its orders." (5)

The Differences between State and Government:

It should be pointed out that the terms 'state' and 'government' are not the same. The state is larger and includes the whole population while the government includes only a part of them. The state is a continuing entity while a particular government is temporary and liable to change. Yet, to continue in existence a state must have a recognized government.

Thus, the definition of government is as follows:

"government is the administrative organ or machinery through which the state maintains its existence, performs its functions and implements its policies and objectives." (6)

So, according to the above definitions, the

state is the combination of independent government and populated territory. (7)

Population and Territory

All states must have population and territory. No definite answer is available as to the number of population necessary to form a state or the adequate size of territory required. At different times, ideal numbers and sizes have been suggested. Some states are underpopulated others are overpopulated. Some states cover a very small area, others are continental in size.

Aside from number and size, the quality of the population and the nature of the territory should be taken into consideration. The kind of people, whether literate, educated, skilled in modern technology and constituting one

homogeneous nationality, is important. The nature of the territory; its natural resources, climate, geographical position, are all important factors in determining the character of the state.

Independent Government or Sovereignty:

Every populated territory has some kind of government. But what distinguishes the government of states is independence or sovereignty. The term 'sovereignty' means supreme and final authority, above and beyond which no further legal power exists.

Sovereignty has two aspects: internal supremacy within the territory of a state, and external independence from control by any other state. (8)

CHAPTER X

GOVERNMENT

Forms of Government

Many methods have been used to classify the different forms of government in the world. The earliest of these methods were developed by the Greeks. And the best known is the one presented by Aristotle in the 4th century B.C. although he himself was not satisfied with his own classification. (1)

Aristotle's Six Types of Government:

Aristotle based his classification of government on: 1. the ~~number~~ of people who ruled and 2. the purpose behind their rule. The rule of one was ^① monarchy ^{ملکیت}, the rule of the ^② few was aristocracy ^{حکومت اشراف} and the rule of the many

Six Types:

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|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Monarchy | 4. tyranny |
| 2. Aristocracy | 5. Oligarchy |
| 3. Polity | 6. democracy |

was ^④ polity (constitutional rule of the many). These three forms were expected to act according to law and in the interest of all the community. If they ignored the law and utilized (used) power for their own selfish interest, then monarchy degenerated (changed) into ^{استبداد} tyranny, aristocracy into ^{مكملاتية} oligarchy and polity into ^⑦ democracy. To Aristotle, democracy was the rule of the poor or irresponsible majority. (2)

So, monarchy, aristocracy and polity were considered as normal or good forms of government, whereas tyranny, oligarchy and democracy as their abnormal or corrupt forms. (3)

Monarchies and Republics:

A state is either a monarchy or a republic.

Kingship or Monarchy

Monarchy or Kingship

Monarchy or kingship is one of the oldest forms of government. Hereditary kings ruled in Sumer and the other ancient kingdoms of the Middle East. They combined the ~~functions~~ of warrior, priest and judge. (4)

Monarchy is a system of hereditary rule. It includes many different forms of government. Monarchies may be absolute and ^{مطلق}arbitrary or limited and constitutional. They may or may not contain representative institutions. The monarch may combine all three powers, executive, legislative and judicial in himself, or he may delegate some of these powers. He may govern within the established custom and laws, or he may consider himself above the law. Some kings were elected or came as a result of a contract, others seized the throne by force and many claimed divine right. (5)

In the contemporary world, the monarchical form of government is in decline. All the surviving monarchies of Europe are constitutional and limited. The monarch is only the nominal or titular head of state with real power in the cabinet and parliament. In the rest of the world several monarchies were overthrown and others went through major changes. (6)

◎ Republic:

(After the exile of a despotic king Rome established a republic in the sixth century B.C. Two consuls were elected for one-year terms. In addition to full executive authority they exercised military and judicial powers. (7)

The titular head of a republic, in the modern world, is called a president. He is elected

for a definite term of office. In one type of republic the president has mainly ceremonial functions similar to a constitutional monarch, such as the presidents of Western Germany, Italy and India. In another type, such as in the United States, the president combines the ceremonial functions of the head of state with the political functions of the head of the executive; he is both the head of government and the head of state.) However, not all republican forms of government are constitutional and democratic. Many of the republics of Latin America are in fact dictatorships. (8)

Aristocracy, Oligarchy and Elites:

The terms "aristocracy, oligarchy and elites" mean the rule by the few or government by the few.

Aristocracy:

(At the time of the Greeks the term "Aristocracy" meant government by the "best" citizens. The ideal form of aristocracy was based on the quality of character, such as integrity, intelligence and devotion to public service. Rule in the ideal city, according to Plato, would be in the hands of a selected few, of outstanding qualities and special training.

They would have no material possessions, share everything with each other and lead a communal life. (9))

In practice, however, aristocracies have been more and more associated with heredity, wealth or both. The nobilities of the feudal system and their descendants were hereditary and

their power was based on land. At the present, with social changes and revolutions, their power and role as a class has diminished to a great extent.

oligarchy:

(In modern states, the term "oligarchy" is better suited to describe the rule of the few than the term 'aristocracy'. Oligarchy, usually, though not always, implies the rule of the wealthy.) The modern trend points to the strengthening of oligarchic elements in governments and other institutions. Moreover, under all systems of government, democratic and non-democratic, these oligarchic elements, whether managers of wealth, owners of wealth or other forms of organizations, are playing an increasingly important role in influencing and directing government

policy. (10)

Elites:

(The Greek division of governments into the rule of one, the few and the many has been criticized from many quarters. Gaetano Mosca, an Italian political scientist, has argued that forms of government are often a cover for the real rulers of the state. Whatever the form of government, according to him, there is only one ruling group or elite that holds power. The majority of people have little say. (11))

Leaving aside the theoretical arguments raised by the **elitists** and their validity, many, sociologists and political scientists point out the following facts: that in any society, whatever its theoretical basis, the actual process of ruling is in the hands of the few.

The difference between one government and another is in the nature of its constitution and the relation of the few who rule to the many who are ruled: If the few are not responsible to the many then it is an oligarchy; if they are responsible then it is a democracy. What distinguishes one constitution from another is how these few exercise power. (12)

Democracy:

The term "democracy" is Greek. It comes from two Greek words, "demos", meaning people and "kratia", meaning "rule of or by". Thus, it is rule of or by the people. It is also described as "government by the consent of the governed." (13)

States, monarchical and republican, can be democratic. There are basically two types of

democracies: (1) Direct or classical democracy, (2) Indirect or representative democracy.

1. Direct Democracy is when all the people meet in one place and participate in governing the state. This was the pattern in the Greek city-state.

2. Indirect Democracy is when the people elect representatives to govern on their behalf. It is the modern pattern of government. (14)

© Greek or Athenian Democracy:

The process towards democratic rule in the Greek city-states started from 750 B.C. First monarchies developed into aristocracies, then came dictatorial rule, and eventually democracies. The best model of Greek democracy was in Athens.

socio-economic change in Athens created discontent and resulted in a new constitution. The new constitution together with the appropriate (or "necessary") institutions and procedures established a fully democratic form of government by the middle of the fifth century B.C. (15)

(The most important institution was the Assembly. It was the highest authority in Athens.

It made all the important decisions and controlled everything. **The Assembly** that held regular monthly meetings included all the citizens over a certain age—probably twenty. Every citizen had the equal right to vote, express an opinion and make a proposal. Decisions were made by the majority after free and open discussion. All officials were accountable to it; ten times during the year the Assembly passed judgement on them approving or