

## B. Control Over People

In the 21st century, there are over 7 billion people living in communities experiencing some form of government control. This next section focuses on political control over people: why people choose to live together, how governments function, as well as understanding the various levels of political organizations.

### Personal Liberty vs Community

When a person is by themselves and not living as a part of a society, they experience absolute liberty. In 10,000 BCE, when a person walked through the uninhabited forests or plains by themselves, they experienced 100% freedom. The person could say what they wanted, whenever they wanted. The person could act and behave in whichever way they desired. Because they were alone, nothing was taboo or forbidden to them. There were no rules or laws, no consequences, no punishments or rewards. The person experienced pure, unadulterated liberty from societal norms.

However, even though this single human has unlimited liberty, an extreme vulnerability remains. Humans are not the fastest creatures, nor the strongest. They cannot swim very well, nor can they fly. They have weak skin and no claws to defend. What humans *do* have is an advanced ability to organize, communicate, share knowledge with others, and innovate. When one human has a limited ability to prosper, a collection of humans can accomplish the unfathomable. One elite human can run at 25 miles per hour for a few seconds, while a collection of people can build a vehicle traveling 285 miles per hour that runs for hours. One elite human can barely jump 6-7 feet off the ground; a collection of people can launch humans into outer space. One human can struggle to build a simple house; a collection of people can build a skyscraper. One human can sing an a cappella solo; a collection of humans can perform a symphony.

While there are immense benefits to humans working together, it comes at a cost: individual liberty. To receive the benefits of collaborating together, each person must agree to a social contract defining acceptable actions and consequences. For example, if Joe wants to live in community with Bobby, Sally, James, and Rhonda, Joe must agree to the following rules/laws:

- Do not touch or take other peoples goods
- Do not physically harm another person
- Tell the truth (or only lie when socially appropriate)
- Let other people speak and be willing to listen/comply to other's ideas
- Be willing to contribute when work needs to be done

If Joe is willing to limit his liberties in these ways, he can join the community and receive its benefits. If Joe is not willing to follow the social contract, he will either receive a consequence or be removed from the society.

As people form large communities or societies, governments form to provide political organization and guidance. In an ideal world, governments function on the idea that people can accomplish more working together than they can living independently. The government itself is ideally composed of people from the society who devote their time and effort to making policies that organize the land, people, and resources to meet the needs of the community. The government leaders (should) work together to create the laws that inform the rest of society of what is normal or acceptable behavior, what is taboo, as well as the consequences for breaking the law. The government has the power to organize people, land, and resources to meet the needs of the people.



## Components of Government

No matter the style or structure, every state's government is composed of a common set of components:

**Leadership.** *Leadership* serves as the Head(s) of State and makes crucial decisions, provides guidance in policy making, and represents the entire State when engaging in overseas diplomacy. The amount of power available to the Head of State varies based on the style of government. In a monarchy or dictatorship the leader has 100% power and rules for life. For example, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan have a king. In a republic or constitutional monarchy, the leader has limited power as defined by the constitution.

**Lawmaking.** Modern States are ruled by *legislation*. Every State has a group responsible for drafting policies, making budgets, and crafting laws to guide and govern the people. This can include determining budgets and taxes, providing services, planning infrastructure projects, zoning, environmental protection, migration policies, pro-natalist or anti-natalist policies, free trade agreements, zoning, etc.

**Bureaucracy.** Governments are extremely complex organizations. No Head of State or group of legislatures can run EVERY aspect of a government or be experts on EVERY aspect of society. *Bureaucracy* is the structure and hierarchy of experts whose have the task of turning legislative policy into real-life action. Bureaucracies can also be granted authority to make their own rules - called regulations - according to what the experts conclude is appropriate. As an example, the US Secretary of the Treasury takes the legislative policies/budgets and takes action by organizing funds, talking with banks, making payments, etc. The US Department of Education takes the legislative policies and begins to take action by giving directions to school districts about how to implement the new changes. The Environmental Protection Agency can create regulations for gas emissions of cars and factories, with specific ramifications for when the rules are broken.

**Enforcement.** A law is only as effective as its ability to be enforced. While people may enjoy the benefits of living in an organized society, they do not always want to obey the social contracts and laws that are required to be a member. The government takes on the responsibility of training a police force to make sure everyone is obeying the rules and to enforce the agreed upon consequences. Prisons are established for people who violate severe laws or who repeatedly break certain rules. Enforcement also includes regulation of businesses and corporations. Governments enforce regulations to make sure that businesses are following the laws, paying taxes, and making products or services that are safe for their clients. Businesses can be penalized and closed if they are found to be in violation of the required regulations.

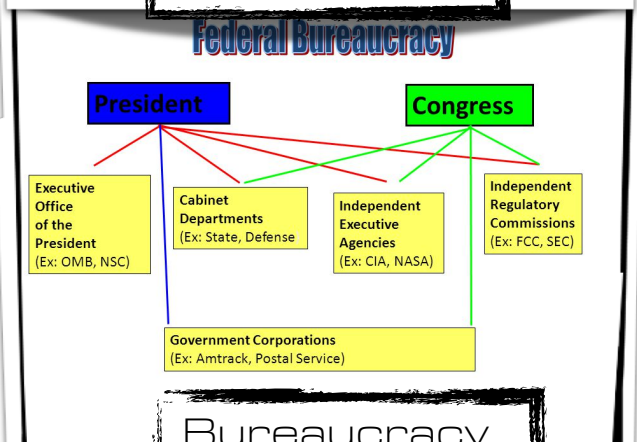
**Judicial.** While laws may appear “black and white” or “right and wrong,” the reality of laws are not that simple. When a law is proposed, it sets off a series of questions: Is the law fair and just? What are examples of how to live within the law? Are there exceptions to the law? These questions are sorted out in the *judicial system*. Judges study and master the laws to best understand their deeper meaning. Lawyers bring cases before the judges in courts, bringing evidence to support their claim that either (a) their client's actions should be protected by the law or (b) another person/group's actions violated the law. The judges (along with a bureaucracy of legal assistants and experts) study the laws and previous court cases to determine a judgement. Because society and technology are always changing, the interpretation of laws is always changing to reflect the current reality.



Head of State



Law Makers



Bureaucracy



Enforcement



**Protection.** A state is only as functional as its security from outside threats. Since a state is composed of borders, land, people and laws, the land and people must be protected from other states who wish to conquer or take the land for themselves. A government hires (or forces/conscripts) citizens into the military to become trained with weapons for the purpose of defending against outside threats. In the USA, military service is considered a career option unless there is a major military threat. In Switzerland, ALL 18 year old males must serve 21 months of military service, plus multiple supplemental trainings throughout their adulthood.

**Land & Resource Use.** A state uses boundaries to zone, or give a designated, predefined purpose to the land. This is used for urban planning, economic structuring, and broader regional infrastructure development. Governments can zone land for commercial or business use, residential housing, heavy industrial, light industrial, environmental protection, or mixed usage. Zoning can also be used to protect resources or to permit land use for profitable economic gain.

**Public Services.** Since governments function under the premise of “better together than separate,” governments may choose to take control of certain services. Governments wrestle with the tension of using tax payer money to provide a service versus to allowing privately owned business to control, manage, and profit from a service. On one side, governments tend to be large organizations that are inefficient, slow, and resistant to change. On the other side, businesses are profit driven and will make choices in the best interest for increasing profit shares, rather than in the best interest of the consumer. Businesses must stay profitable to survive and are not directly concerned if EVERYONE in society has access to a service. Looking at healthcare as an example:



Public = Tax Payer/Gov't Run-Subsidized.  
Private = Individual Owned, for Profit

*James is a blue collar working making just above minimum wage. He has heart disease and needs a heart transplant, which is an expensive operation. A publicly (government) funded health care system may not have the MOST advanced technologies for their health care procedures, but they would have policies that would provide everyone who needs a heart transplant the opportunity to get one - including James. It is not a question of if James gets a new heart, but of when and where. (The United Kingdom is an example of privatized healthcare system)*

*In a private (business) run health care system, James would have multiple business-run hospitals competing to provide James a heart transplant. Chances are the technology would be highly advanced with a relatively short wait time. However, this service would come at a cost that guarantees everyone in the business makes a profit - doctors, nurses, executives, manufacturers, pharmacies, etc. As a result, the cost of the operation would be very expensive. If Joe cannot pay, Joe may not be able to get his heart procedure. (The USA is an example of privatized healthcare system)*

## Services by the Government

A society must decide which services will be subsidized by the government and which will be paid for privately. *Subsidized services* are paid for through public tax dollars and are typically labeled as a Public Service. For example, Public education is composed of schools and districts subsidized by tax dollars. Public Transportation is buses and trains subsidized by tax dollars.

Every society wrestles with the decision of public versus private funding. Thus, there are no two societies who have an identical model for how they provide and fund these services. Governments may choose to take on 100% of the burden of a service. The government may choose to give businesses 100% of the responsibility for a service. The government may also choose a mixed approach, allowing the private businesses to run a service, but provide the

private businesses a *subsidy* - tax money to help support the business operations. These are fluid conversations that change over time as circumstances and technologies evolve. For example: In 1898, Chicago started various public transportation projects, such as street cars, buses, and bridges. In the 1950s, 100% of the transportation services were publicly run (by the city). In 2009, Chicago decided to lease their Skyway Bridge & Parking Garages to private businesses for 99 years. The following are the main services each society must consider for public vs. private funding:

- **Military & Policing.** Should the government pay for its own citizens to be trained with generals that owe their allegiance to the governing body? Or should the government pay paramilitary businesses and foreign mercenaries (soldiers for hire) to provide protection from foreign threats? Should it be a mixture of businesses ownership with subsidies? Switzerland mandates that all citizens serve in the military for two years while Libya mainly relies on mercenaries and private military forces. The USA uses a mixture of publicly funded troops and private paramilitary businesses.
- **Health Care.** Should the government help make sure that all citizens have health care coverage or should they leave the medical decisions to private, profit driven businesses? Should it be a mixture of business ownership with subsidies? Norway, Great Britain, Canada, and Italy provide an entirely government funded system. The USA's health care is mainly run by private health insurance agencies, with limited government support. Germany and France have a mixture of strong public funding with private corporations, as well as laws that limit prices, while in France, all the prices are listed on the walls of the Doctor's office for each procedure.
- **Welfare.** What about the poor, sick and disabled? Should the government take responsibility for the food, security, and shelter of citizens who cannot provide for themselves? Should the care for these people be left to private businesses or charities? Should it be a mixture of business ownership with subsidies?
- **Emergency Services.** Should the government be completely responsible for emergency services like ambulances and fire fighters? Should that be a private-paid for service?
- **Education.** Who should be responsible for controlling the education of young people and what and how they are taught? Who should provide the funding and resources? How much education should be provided - just kindergarten through 6th grade? Through 12th grade? Through college? Should it be publicly or privately run? Should it be a mixture of business ownership with subsidies?
- **Transportation & Physical Infrastructure.** Should the government fund the construction and maintenance of all the roads, ports, bridges, tunnels, and dams? What about energy, sanitation, and water purification? Should they leave those decisions to businesses? Should it be a mixture of business ownership with subsidies?

In the 1880s, the USA required businesses to pay to build and maintain all the railroads. In the 1950s, President Eisenhower signed a bill that said the government would pay to build and maintain all the highways in the USA. In the mid 2000s, the city of Chicago privatized the management of parking spaces to a private business because it was becoming too expensive for tax payers to maintain.

- **Food Production & Distribution.** Who should be responsible providing food for the society? Should the governments own the farms, controlling how much food is produced and how it is distributed? Should it be a competition between businesses? Should it be a mixture of businesses ownership with subsidies? Should the government pay for children to have meals while at school?

Citizen  
Soldier or  
Mercenary?



Who is paying for  
this Medical Bill?



Who will help me  
with Food, Shelter  
& Medical for the  
rest of my life?  
Gov't, Charities,  
or just my family?



Private Business  
or Public Tax-  
Paid Service?



Who should pay  
to maintain this?





- **Manufacturing Production & Distribution.** Who should be responsible for producing and distributing all the of the material goods in the society - clothing, shoes, technology, tools, housing appliances... Who controls the resources and should have the opportunity to profit from them: the forest, water, oceans, oil, metals, coal, natural gas, etc? Formerly in the USSR, all manufacturing was owned and controlled by the government. In the USA, almost all the manufacturing is controlled by private corporations. In China and Japan, there is a mixture of government owned, subsidized, and privately owned industry.
- **Recreation.** What about parks, theaters, sports stadiums, beach fronts, hiking trails? Should that be just for businesses to control? For example, the Green Bay Packers stadium is 100% publicly funded while the Staples Center in LA is 100% privately owned.

## Controlling People: Citizens & Foreigners

There are three primary ways a person can come under the control of a governing authority:

- **Control is Given.** People can choose to willingly submit to the rule and authority of a governing body. A person can weigh the benefits of being a *citizen*, or member, of that State and choose to abide by the social contract laws setup by that cultural society. For example: If a person wants to become a US citizen, they must first apply for and be granted a Green Card; this gives the person the legal right to live and work in the USA, but does not give them all the rights and benefits from the US Government. After obtaining a Green Card, the person can apply for Naturalization, whereby the person gives up the citizenship of their former country of residence and pledges allegiance to the USA.
- **Control is Taken.** When a people are conquered by another State, the conquered population may be forced to assimilate to the social contract/laws of the conquering society. In this case, obedience is not optional and any resistance is met with strict consequences. For example: European colonization forced indigenous Americans to become controlled members of their Empire.
- **Control through Birth.** The most common method of increasing citizenship is through birth. There are two primary forms of birth-based citizenship: *Jus Sanguine* and *Jus Soli*. *Jus Sanguine* is the policy where citizenship is determined by having one or both parents as citizens. It doesn't matter the physical location of the birth, just the citizenship status of the parents. For example, two German citizens are working temporarily in Great Britain. The wife has a baby while in Britain. Because of *Jus Sanguine*, the baby is a German citizen because the parents are German citizens. The *Jus Soli* policy states that anyone born on the territory has birthright citizenship. It does not matter what citizenship the parents have, just the location of the birth. For example: In the USA, a Latin American

Funded and maintained by Gov't Taxes



## CHANGES TO THE CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

Bill C-6, an Act to amend the Citizenship Act has become LAW and here are some of the changes that you will notice when applying for your citizenship



### PHYSICAL PRESENCE



You must be **PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN CANADA** for

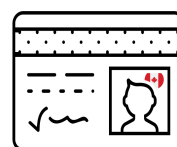
1 2 3 4 5  
years out of 5

1. **Previously:** You had to be physically present in Canada for **4 out of 6 years** before applying for citizenship  
IRCC, 2017

You **DO NOT NEED** to be physically present in Canada for **A MINIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS PER YEAR.**



2. **Previously:** You had to be physically present in Canada for **183 days in four out of the six years** preceding your application.  
IRCC, 2017



**DAYS SPENT IN CANADA BEFORE BECOMING PERMANENT RESIDENT** (as temporary resident or protected person) **COUNT AS 1/2 DAY**

3. **Previously:** The time spent in Canada before becoming a permanent resident **did not count towards the physical presence requirement** for citizenship.  
IRCC, 2017

### LANGUAGE AND KNOWLEDGE

If you are



**17 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER**



**56 YEARS OLD AND OLDER**

### YOU DO NOT HAVE TO:

- meet language (English or French) requirements
- take the Citizenship test

4. **Previously:** If you are between **14 and 64 years**, you had to meet the language and knowledge requirements for citizenship.  
IRCC, 2017

### INCOME TAX



You must file **CANADIAN INCOME TAXES** for **3 OUT OF 5 YEARS**

5. **Previously:** You had to file Canadian income taxes, if required to do so under the Income Tax Act, for **4 out of 6 years**, matching the physical presence requirement.  
IRCC, 2017

ALL THE CHANGES ABOVE ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE EFFECT ON **OCTOBER 11, 2017**



You are **NO LONGER REQUIRED** TO **DECLARE YOUR INTENTION TO RESIDE IN CANADA** after becoming Canadian Citizen  
IRCC, 2017

THIS CHANGE IS IN EFFECT SINCE JUNE 19, 2017

Read **more changes** at Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship Canada web ► [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

**IWC** IMMIGRANTS WORKING CENTRE  
[www.iwchamilton.ca](http://www.iwchamilton.ca)

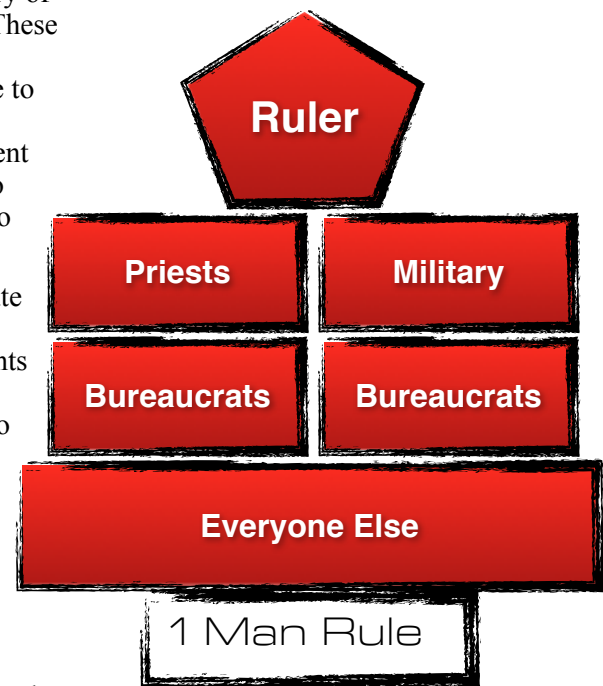
migrant is pregnant who has crossed the border illegally. While in the USA, she gives birth on American soil. Even though the parents are foreigners, the child was born on USA soil. Thus, the child is an American citizen. Jus Soli is mainly found in North and South America and was instituted to accommodate the European immigrants in the 1800s.



## How to Rule: Styles of Government Authority

Within a state, the governing style can be categorized by the number of people who have authority to make decisions within the state. Throughout the history of the world, the most common type of government has been one person rule. These rulers had different titles: tyrant, dictator, king, monarch, emperor, Pharaoh, Caesar, Khan, Tsar, Kaiser, Sultan... But they all had a very similar structure to their government: one person (usually a man) on top, everyone else beneath. Whatever that person says is law. This has been the simplest and most efficient government design, allowing for quick action. When the society became too big for one person, a bureaucracy would be created of close-trusted friends to help rule.

Being ruled by a single person has problems. There is a saying that, “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” In systems with one person rule, there are typically gross abuses of power and corruption. Rulers spend massive amounts of tax money on displaying their power with lavish palaces and expensive clothing. If a ruler became too arrogant or loses touch with reality, there is no way of “checking” their power. If a person disagreed with the ruler, if the ruler felt someone was a threat, or simply didn’t like someone, a ruler with total power could order death, imprisonment, torture, or banishment. Because of the draw of absolute power, there was always the threat of assassination and revolt. The threat typically would come from the bureaucrats who would appear friendly with the ruler, while they waited for an opportunity to take the throne for themselves.



The second form of rule is the rule of the people: *democracy*. In a democracy, the citizens, or legal residents of the city/state, make the laws and decisions and every person\* has the right to vote and have their voice heard. Every citizen typically has the right to run for office and become a part of the government to represent the voice of their people in decision making. As a result, democratic governments traditionally grant greater freedoms and privileges for their citizens. Democracies also tend to promote services that support the needs of the people, while avoiding putting people into harms way as frequently (democracies go to war less frequently and stay in wars for shorter time periods than other government types). On the downside, democracies are slow moving and messy in their decision making, often getting gridlocked over tough decisions. Democracies also struggle from the ignorance of the masses, and are prone to being swayed by “populist” politicians. The quality of decisions is directly affected by *the quality of education of the citizens*. The better educated the populace, the more informed they will be when making decisions. The less educated they are, the poorer their decision-making ability.

There are two main forms of democracy. The first form is *direct democracy*, where every citizen has a say, votes on every law, and has a say in every decision. One example of a direct democracy was ancient Athens, Greece. In Athens, there had been a series of highly corrupt tyrants so the citizens decided they would remove the tyrant and share power amongst everyone, thus becoming the hearth of democracy. Athens’ direct democracy gave people a voice, but also proved very burdensome when attempting to make decisions.

The second form of democracy is *representative democracy*; also known as a *republic*. In a representative democracy, the people do not make the laws directly, they elect people to represent them in the law making process. Every certain number of years the representatives campaign in an election for the right to have the power to make the laws. If a representative pleases the people, they are reelected, possibly several times. If they don’t please the people, someone else can be elected to replace them. Republics are prone to the rich becoming the only elected officials, as they are the only ones that can afford to not be at work all day-every day and have connections to raise funds for wide-reaching campaigns.

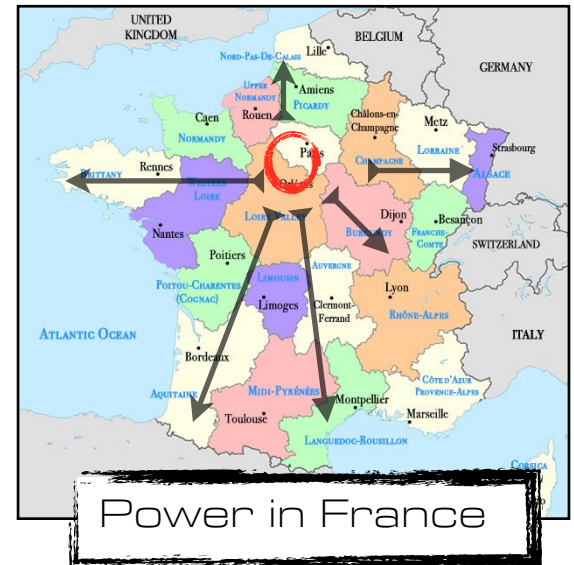
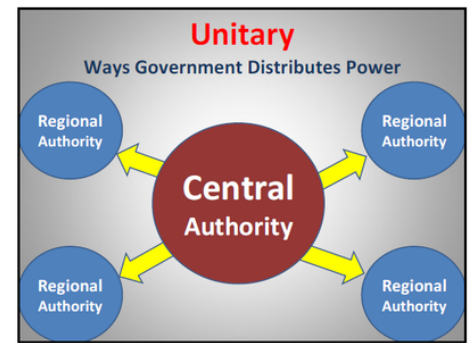




## Spatial Distribution of Government Organization

As state governments are formed, decisions must be made about where to physically locate governing institutions throughout the territory: Where will they place the center(s) of power? Will there be one city with one government institution overseeing all of the territory or will power be divided into regions? If so, how many? Most governments can be organized into two categories: *Federal* and *Unitary*.

**Unitary.** Unitary governments are structured to place the largest portion of power in the hands of one centralized government institution. Almost all decisions are made by this one institution: foreign affairs, food production, taxes, education, policing, natural disaster relief, trade negotiations, zoning... All decided by one, centralized governing body. Unitary governments tend to place themselves in the physical center of the state, to provide efficient access to all areas of the territory. If the state has any subnational regional or city governmental bodies, they have minimal power or control. Their job is to echo the commands of the central government and implement the policies of the central government. One example of a unitary government is France. People elect leaders to represent them in the Parliament in Paris. The decisions made in Paris are to be applied to all the people in Paris. In France, all decisions go through the Parliament in Paris - building projects, budget issues, public service complaints, policing needs, zoning decisions, farming concerns, housing issues... It doesn't matter if you live in Orleans, Corsica, or French Guinea in South America; the Parliament in Paris will make the decisions governing all the territories. Other states that use the unitary structure include United Kingdom - with the power center in London; Japan - with the power center in Tokyo; and China - with the power center in Beijing; and Cuba.

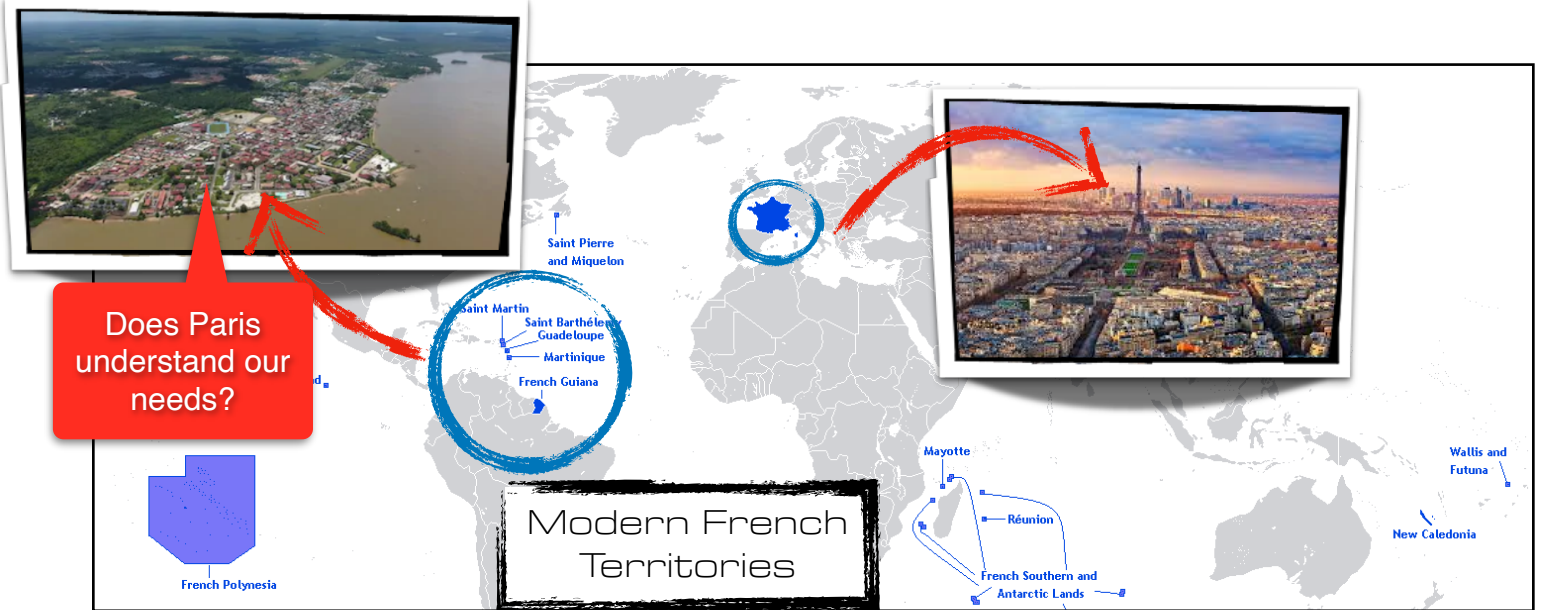


The unitary structure of government has certain strengths:

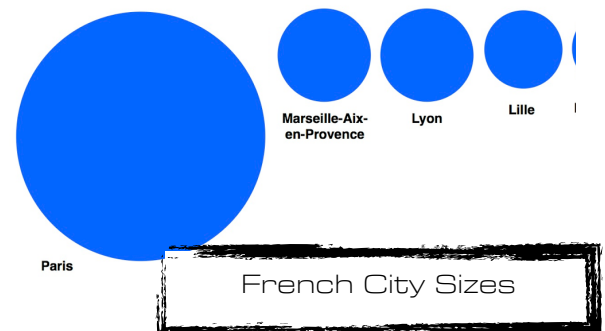
- ***Stability.*** A unitary system can be very stable because all of the State is ruled by one set of standardized laws with one set of public services. One decision by one government body enacts change to the entire State. There is only one governing body to raise and collect taxes. There is only one major round of elections. This creates a stable political vehicle for governing a society.
- ***Centripetal.*** The presence of only one government body helps to create unifying force for all the territories. Everyone in the formal political region has the one political body in common. The result is a strong, shared national identity and immense *patriotism*, or pride, in their state and country. There would not be any “my region vs your region” comparisons, no rankings on who provides better \_\_\_\_ (education, roads, pay, taxes, business opportunities...).

Unitary structures also have a number of weaknesses:

- ***Delays.*** Because only one governing body makes decisions, that means ALL decisions and actions must wait for that governing body to act. If a road in Toulouse, France needs a pot hole fixed, the city must request funds and supplies from Paris. If Bordeaux is dealing with a housing shortage, they must request legislative action from Paris. If rising sea levels are affecting Caen, they must request assistance from Paris. Because the subnational government units are weak and powerless, a tremendous burden is placed on the central government. This can cause a log-jam and long delays, as Paris sorts through all the requests.
- ***Disconnectedness & Being Out of Touch.*** In a large, diverse territory, unitary government's face the problem of not understanding the issues facing every locality within their state. In France, Paris is an inland city, built on a river along a fertile plain. The government officials in Paris may not understand the needs of the mountainous city of Lyon, the rural wine-regions of Bordeaux, or the tropical needs of French Guiana along the South American coast near the Amazon rain forest. Because of this disconnectedness, it can be difficult for the Parliament in Paris to best prioritize the needs of the people in all of France's worldwide territories.



- ***Assimilation & Marginalization.*** Because power is centralized in one region of a State within a unitary government, the cultural preferences of the most powerful region become the dominant cultural traits of the state. Policies favoring the values, traits, and norms of the most powerful region result in a hierarchal diffusion of values to distant regions. Minorities and regions with folk cultures are forced to acculturate or assimilate to the cultural/political demands made by the State's centralized power. There are no opportunities for cultural minorities to have their voices heard or to govern themselves according to their own cultural ideologies. As a result, the majority may feel like their needs are being met while the minority may feel marginalized and insignificant.
- ***Inequality.*** Due to all political power being centralized in one location, businesses and organizations tend to *agglomerate* - collect/cluster - in order to gain access to the government and its associated agencies. Because big headquarters will agglomerate there, the employees will also move to live in that one city, increasing the size of its population. The result will be the creation of a *primate city*, a city more than twice the size of the next largest city. For example, Paris's population is 2.8 million while Marseilles is ~800k. With more people living in Paris, more tertiary businesses will open to meet the needs of the residents - creating more jobs and attracting more people, attracting more jobs, attracting more people... This large population will allow the primate city to establish larger, more prominent opportunities: large universities, stock markets, major banks, advanced transportation, major theaters, and sporting teams. When the government looks to invest money into services and opportunities, the primate city will get the lion's share because of its size and socioeconomic importance. Meanwhile, the other cities... won't be so fortunate. They will lag behind in development, opportunities, and importance. They will struggle to kick-start their development, feeling second class.



**Federalization.** In light of these problems, many States have restructured their governments into a Federal system. Federal systems *devolve*, transfer, or decentralize power from the central government to empower the subnational regional units. The main central government oversees the state's universal issues such as the military, interstate highways, and large-federal banking. However, power and autonomy is also given to power centers dispersed throughout the state, empowering the regions to act of their own accord to meet regional needs. As a result, the regions do not have to consult or ask permission from the larger State level government to fulfill their needs. For example: The USA has a federal system. Each region in the USA has a large amount of control over the actions in their region. Columbus, Ohio can raise money for snow plows to handle the snowy winter lake effect along with other decisions that only effect Ohio, without having to get permission from Washington DC every time. Sacramento, California can pass policies and raise taxes for earthquake related issues without having to consult Washington DC. Power has devolved from one centralized governing body to locally controlled, dispersed power centers that have the autonomy to act in their own interests.



Germany also has a federal government. The mountainous and forested region around Munich can handle their unique environmental needs without consulting Berlin. The trading city of Hamburg can handle their own housing and transportation needs without getting permission from Berlin. Power has devolved from Berlin to allow Munich and Hamburg to have the autonomy to take action. In States like Canada and Spain, certain regions demand so much power and control, they are given the title of *Autonomous Region*. In Canada, Quebec and Nunavut are Autonomous Regions with very little connection to the federal government. Technically, they are still a part of Canada though and pay some Canadian taxes. However, the vast majority of the economic and political decision making in Quebec and Nunavut are made regionally, not by the central federal government.

There are two key reasons unitary states choose to devolve power and create a federal system:

1. **Embracing Diversity.** Federalism allows for the empowerment of minority groups or unique cultural regions. Each region can make the social contracts and cultural decisions best for themselves. In Canada, Nunavut was part of the indigenous home of the First Americans in Canada before British colonization. For decades, these First Americans protested the harsh treatment by the government and their attempts to force cultural assimilation. They claimed the government was treating the region unfairly and causing poverty. In 1999, the Canadian government made Nunavut a *semi-autonomous region*, allowing the indigenous people the opportunity to shape and run their society in a way that matches Nunavut cultural traits and values. The tribes stopped calling for complete independence, embracing the opportunity to receive the benefits from being united with the rest of Canada, while also having the power to govern their own territory with limited interference from outsiders.
2. **Addressing Challenging Environments.** If isolation creates uniqueness, challenging physical landscapes can create isolated and unique communities of people. Federalization allows for citizens to feel their government is legitimately theirs, and their unique needs are being addressed. For example, in a large State like the USA, there is a vast distance between Washington DC, Alaska, and Hawaii. The ability to devolve power to the 50 unique regions in the USA allows each to manage their unique environmental challenges, without having to wait for someone half a world away. Alaska can manage their oil and eight-month winter issues with the policies crafted by other Alaskans. This creates a sense of legitimacy in the government, giving the citizens the feeling that governments actions are in the best interest of its citizens. Meanwhile, Arizona has the authority to craft policies for its people living in the sun-roasted desert environment, which are far different then the needs of ice-palace Alaska.

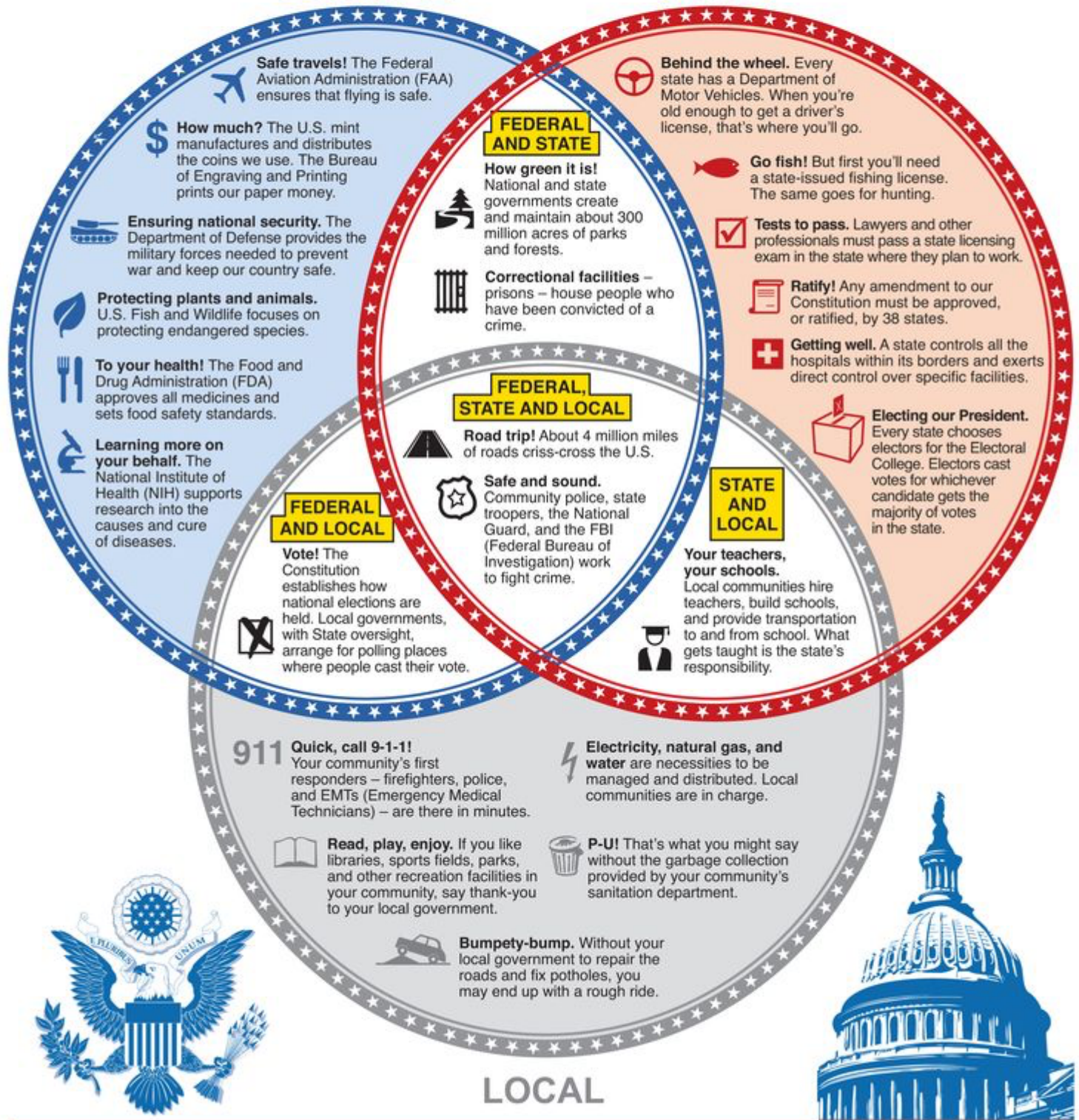
Federalism allows governments to reach beyond limitations of distance and physical landscape to unite diverse peoples and territories under one flag and banner. This gives the citizens the benefit of unity, while maintaining a level of overall stability and control.





# FEDERAL

# STATE



**Federalism in the USA.** American Federalism divides the power across 50 regions AND across scales. This Venn diagram displays how decision making is shared at the Local, Regional and Federal level.

What benefits are there to having power and decision making devolved across scales? What would be the challenges?

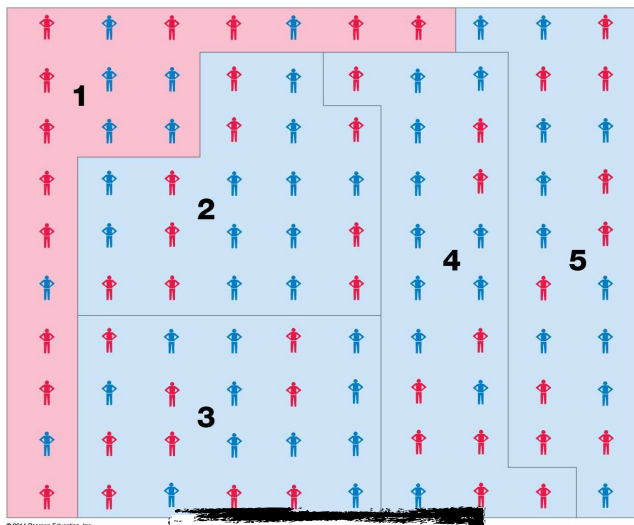
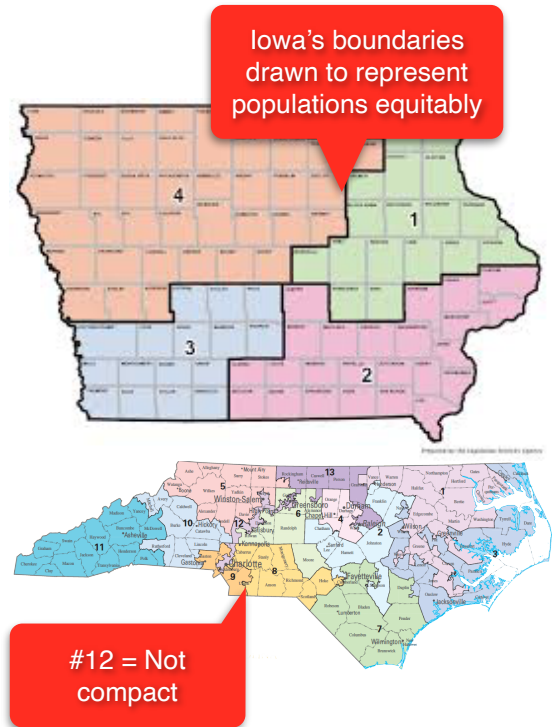


## Case Study: Boundaries & Voting Power

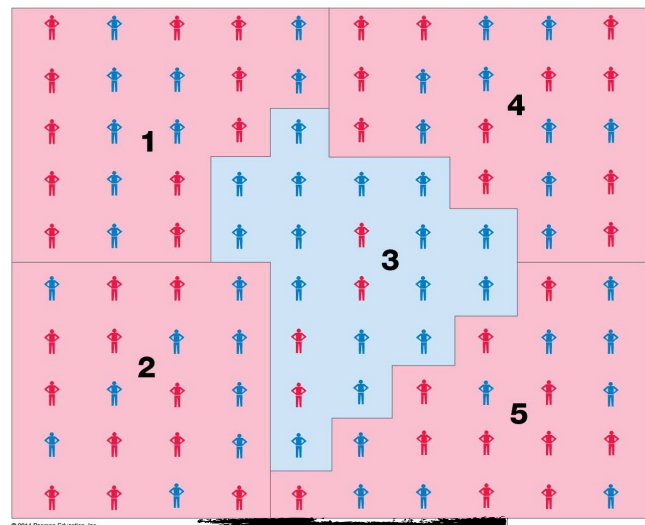
While the structure of government is different from the style of government, most federal governments are also representative democracies. Thus, the political leadership in the government is voted on by the people of each region. These votes will determine who will hold key offices in their local, regional, and federal government organizations.

To accomplish this, government leaders use the *census* and boundaries to create *voting districts*. The census is compiled every ten years to document changes in population and to redistribute political power to best represent the new demographic reality. The result is the voting districts with each state are reassessed and occasionally redrawn and redistricted.

While the idea of voting boundaries is to create equal and compact districts that best represent the will of the people... that does not always happen. Some states, like Iowa, desire fair and impartial elections and use an independent committee to create equal and balanced districts. However, in other states, political parties use their power to redraw voting boundaries as an opportunity to draw the lines that create the best possible situation for their own political party to keep power. This process is referred to as *gerrymandering*. Leaders use the combination of demographic data and computerized geographic information systems to digitally craft voting district boundaries. The modern data sets allow politicians to see the predication of whom everyone would vote for, allowing them to create voting districts that can potentially predetermine election results; almost ensuring they will keep political power. In one example from North Carolina a political party redrew voting lines to gain a sizable political advantage. Any population can have lines drawn that allow each party to win subsequent elections.



Scenario 1

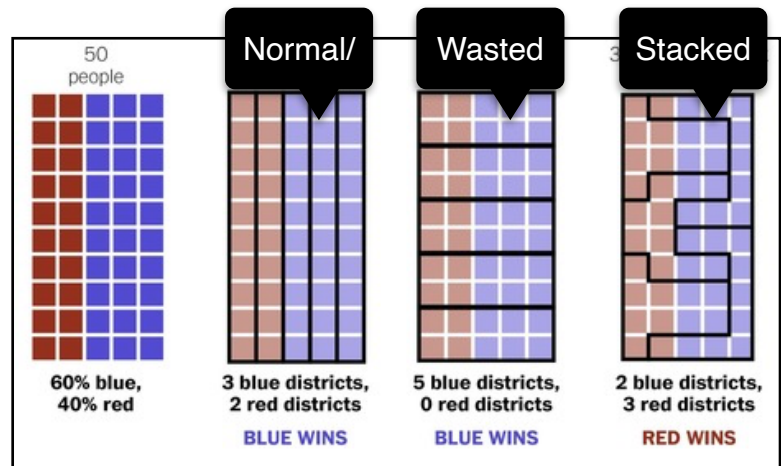


Scenario 2

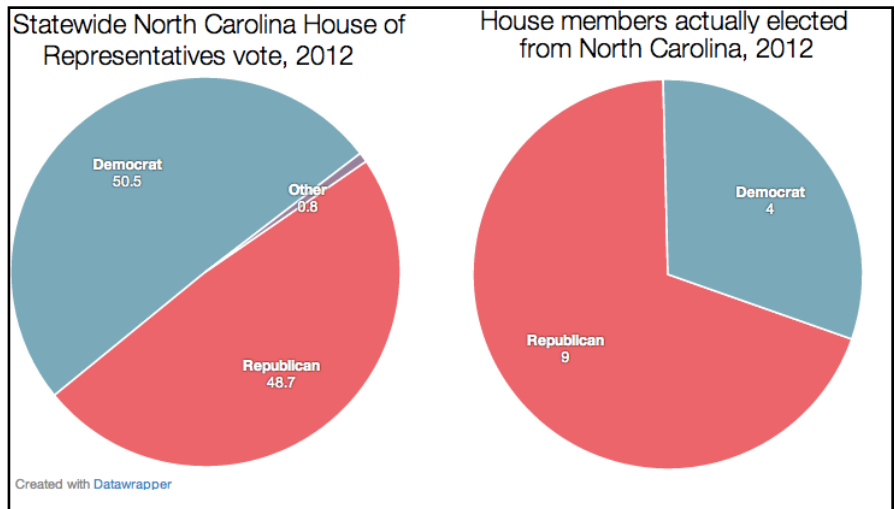
**Same Population, different results.** The following scenario has an even population of red & blue citizens. With the way Scenario 1 draw the lines, the blue side won: holding 4 of the 5 government seats. In Scenario 2, the redrawn lines took the same population... and the

When drawing voting boundaries, a region can be gerrymandered in a couple ways. The society shown in the diagram has 50 people. 40% vote for the red party, 60 vote for the blue party. If voting lines were equal and representative, there would be 3 blue representatives, 2 red representatives. However, when politicians begin to gerrymander, the results begin to change:

- **Wasted Vote:** Voting lines can be drawn by the party in power to completely waste the oppositions vote. In scenario two, 5 zones were drawn, but this time each zone has 6 blue/4 red. This would result in 5 blue candidates winning and zero red candidates! All of the red votes were wasted and red would not have ANY representation in government. Wasted votes are *centrifugal forces*, that make minority groups feel unimportant, hidden, disenfranchised and angry.
- **Stacked Vote:** Let's say the Red party was the one drawing the boundaries... how could a minority party win this election? The answer is to draw the lines to stack as many blue candidates together in one to two districts as possible. Then, Red can divide the remaining blue up: winning 3-2. A sign of stacking is the presence of odd, weird, and long shaped boundaries that almost look like someone scribbled on a page.



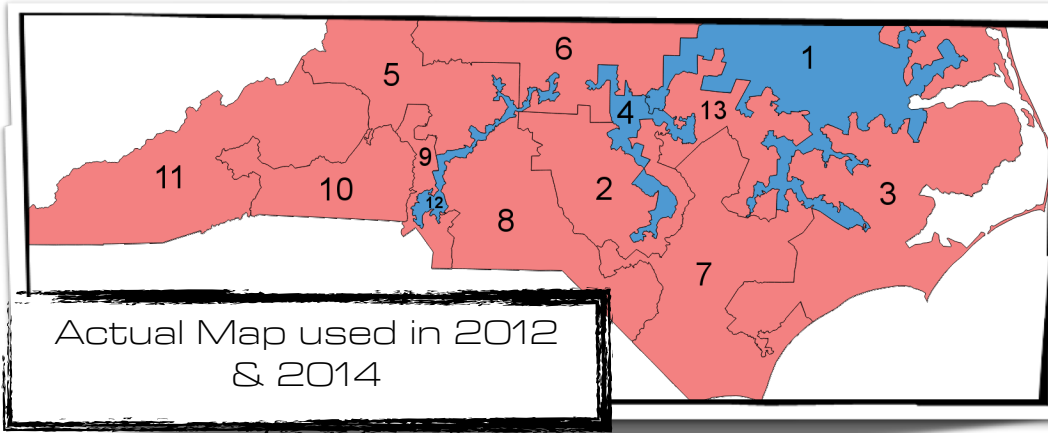
Gerrymandering creates important consequences. First, it can ensure the continuance of political power for one political party. By strengthening some voting districts and weakening others, the balance of political power can be shifted to reflect the values of the political party in power, not the desires of the population. For example, the 2012 North Carolina election saw 50.5% of the population vote for the Democratic candidate for president. However, because of how the congressional districts are drawn, only 30% of the House of Representatives that were elected were Democrats. This creates a feeling of powerlessness amongst voters, that their vote really doesn't matter because it is all pre-decided, thus reducing voter turn out.



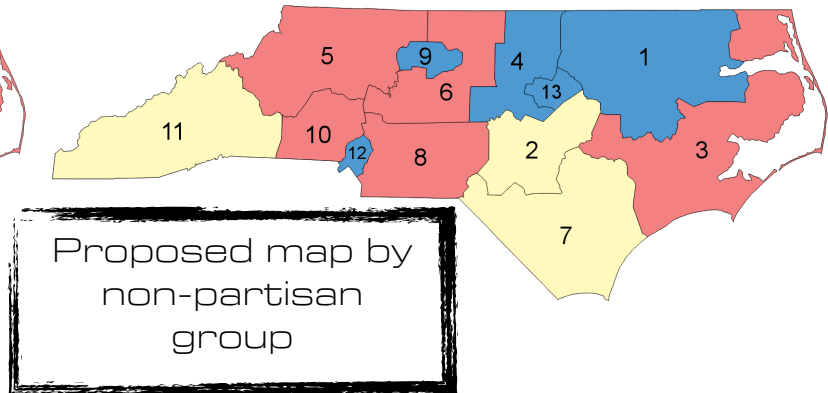
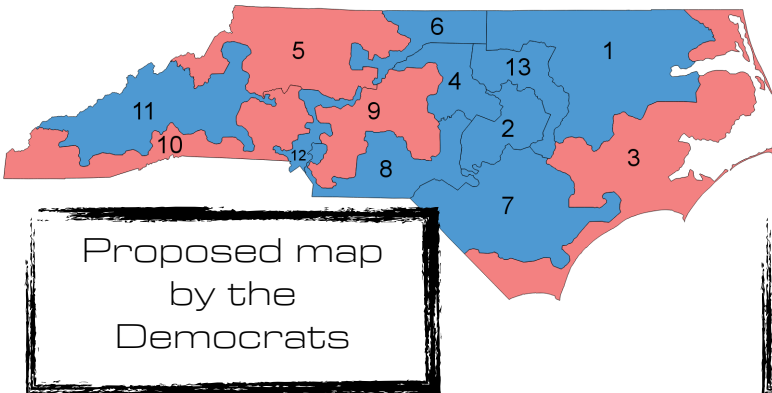
Second, gerrymandered districts break the sense of cohesion between the candidate and the electorate. Gerrymandered districts can connect people into a single voting district, even if they live 2 hours away. The candidate running for that office may then live hours away from the people he or she is attempting to represent. In North Carolina, District 12 was gerrymandered to stack the urban-downtown populations of Charlotte, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem together into one district, despite those cities being 100 miles apart.

Third, a drawn district can result in the state being sued if the gerrymandering is extreme or unlawful. For example, if the lines are drawn based on racial discrimination, the state can be sued and forced to redraw the districts under judicial supervision. Some states have their maps pre-cleared before voting them into law, to make sure that the plan aligns with federal laws.



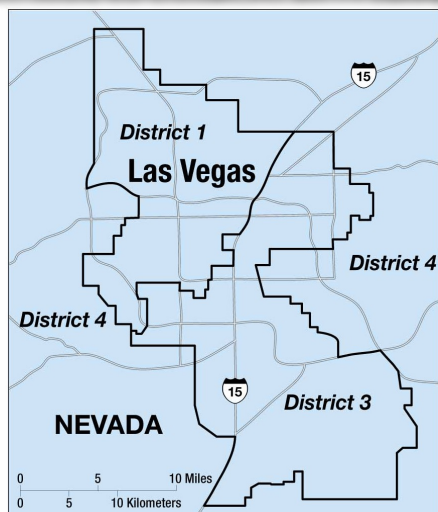
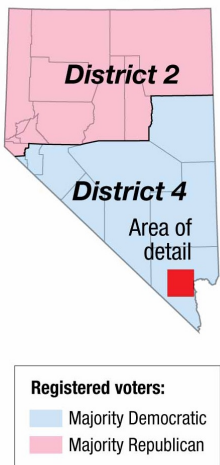


**Story of 3 North Carolinas.** North Carolina has been told by the Supreme Court that its voting maps were heavily gerrymandered, using racial and political data to create unfair maps. Examining the 3 maps, how would the results of the election change?



**Find the Gerrymandering.** Nevada had two proposed election maps in 2010. Which gerrymandering strategy did the democrats utilize? Which strategy did the Republicans utilize?

Democratic proposal



Republican proposal

