European Governments: United Kingdom, Russia, & Germany
### Comparing European Governments: UK, Germany, & Russia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>System</th>
<th>Citizen Participation</th>
<th>Democracy Type</th>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Citizen Rights</th>
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Parliamentary System of the United Kingdom

• Unitary System: the central government has all the power

• Democracy: citizens of the country hold the power (voting)

• Parliamentary Democracy: leader is elected through the legislature, not directly by the people
Parliamentary System of the United Kingdom

- Parliament is the lawmaking body of the United Kingdom
- Composed of the House of Lords and the House of Commons
  - The monarch is also part of Parliament
Parliament: House of Lords

- In the past, these seats were passed down through wealthy families
- Now, Lords are elected by the House or are appointed by the monarch
  - Have little power
- Can only make suggestions of ways to improve a bill that is on its way to becoming a law
Parliament: House of Commons

- Citizens elect these members
  - 646 members total: 529 from England, 40 from Wales, 59 from Scotland, and 18 from Northern Ireland

- This branch controls the countries budget (lots of power)

- The leader of the political party with the most members becomes the Prime Minister
  - Head of the government (chief executive) & runs the government on a day to day basis
UK’s Leadership

- **Prime Minister** is the chief executive with the MOST power
  - Leader of the British Parliament, works with legislative branch
  - Runs the government

- **The monarch** is the official head of state (a symbol for the country)
  - Duties are mostly ceremonial
  - role is restricted by the constitution of the United Kingdom
Queen Elizabeth II
Prime Minister -
David Cameron
2013
UK’s Citizen Participation

- Citizens have personal freedoms like those in the US
  - All citizens are treated equally and have the right to worship as they choose
  - British citizens have freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, the right to own property, and the right to security
- Citizens do not directly elect the leaders (only the House of Commons)
Germany
Federal System of Germany

- Federal System: the power is shared between the central government and the governments of the 16 states

- Democracy: citizens of the country hold the power (voting)

- Parliamentary Democracy: leader is elected through the legislature, not directly by the people
Parliamentary System of Germany

- Germany’s parliament is composed of two houses: the Bundestag and the Bundesrat.
- Germany’s constitution is called the Basic Law.
  - States that Germany is a welfare state: government guarantees people certain benefits when they are unemployed, sick, poor, or disabled.
Parliament: Bundestag

- Has the most power
- Citizens of each German state elect its members
- Members of this house elect the Chancellor (chief executive of Germany)
Parliament: Bundesrat

- Represents the interests of the state governments
- Each state government selects representatives for this house
  - The 16 states each have differing numbers of representatives, depending on their population
- Mainly concerned with laws that affect states, such as education and local government issues
Germany’s Leadership

- Chancellor is the chief executive
  - Runs the government
  - Elected by the Bundestag (legislature)

- The president is the official head of state
  - a symbol for the country
  - Duties are mostly ceremonial
  - Representatives of the legislature and representatives of the states choose the president
Germany’s Chancellor - Angela Merkel
2013
Germany’s President - Joachim Gauck

2013
Germany’s Citizen Participation

• Citizens have same basic freedoms like those in the United Kingdom
  – All citizens are treated equally and have the right to worship as they choose
  – Have freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, the right to own property, and the right to security

• Citizens do not directly elect the leaders (only the Bundestag)
Federal System of Russian Federation

- Federal System: the power is shared between the central government and the governments of the states

- Democracy: citizens of the country hold the power (voting)

- Presidential Democracy: leader is directly elected by the people
Russian Federal Assembly

• Russia’s legislature is called the Federal Assembly and is divided into two parts: the Federation Council and the State Duma.
Federal Assembly: Federation Council

- Has two representatives from each state
- States appoint the council’s members; they are not directly elected by the people
- One important duty: approve the president’s choices of people to fill different government jobs
Federal Assembly: State Duma

- Larger than the Federation Council
  - Has 450 members who are elected directly by the people
- This house controls the budget and makes the laws
- Approves the president’s choice for prime minister
Russia’s Leadership

• President is the chief executive with the MOST power
  – Elected by the people (presidential democracy)
  – Can disband the legislature

• President also selects a Prime Minister
  – helps in the day-to-day running of the government
  – Similar to USA’s vice president
Russian Prime Minister -- Dimitri Medvedev

2013
Russia’s Citizen Participation

- **Russia’s constitution guarantees human and civil rights for its citizens**
  - All people are equal
  - Russians have the right to life and dignity, freedom of speech, and the right to privacy

- **Citizens directly elect the leader**
**LEADER TRADING CARDS**

**Your Task:** Create trading cards for the important leaders of UK, Germany, and Russia.

**Instructions:**
1. Fill out each box in the cards below according to the template to the right.
2. Be sure to rate how much political power each person has, and how interesting the person is to you.
3. Color your pictures and anything else that will make your cards look more realistic.
4. Cut out your trading card, fold along the middle, and tape the sides together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Person</th>
<th>Picture of Person, Event, Object</th>
<th>Gov. Position</th>
<th>Make a Logo</th>
<th>Fact #1 about Person/Government</th>
<th>Fact #2 about Person/Government</th>
<th>How much power does he have?</th>
<th>How interesting is he?</th>
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Compare and Contrast European Governments

Russia

United Kingdom

Germany
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Parliamentary</td>
<td>Prime Minister = chief executive; Monarch = head of state</td>
<td>Citizens have many personal freedoms; Citizens vote for legislature; legislature elects leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Parliamentary</td>
<td>Chancellor = chief executive; President = head of state</td>
<td>Citizens have many freedoms (after Cold War); Citizens do not directly elect the Chancellor; legislature does</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>President = chief executive; Prime Minister = similar to Vice President</td>
<td>Citizens have many freedoms (after fall of Soviet Union); directly elect President</td>
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