

State of Nature Wrap-up

**FORMS OF
GOVERNMENT
(WITH A FOCUS ON
DEMOCRACIES)**

Dictatorship

Those who rule cannot be held accountable for its policies, nor for how they are carried out.

Autocracy: rule by a
single person

Oligarchy: rule by a small
group

Dictatorships often
present the outward
appearance of control by
the people.

Was Ahmadinejad's Win Rigged?

By Simon Robinson Monday, June 15, 2009

Surrounded by bodyguards, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad greets supporters before casting his ballot in the presidential elections in Tehran on June 12, 2009

Iran's Interior Ministry announced Saturday that incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won **63.29%** of the vote in the country's presidential election — a landslide. But Iran's opposition leader [Mir-Hossein Mousavi](#) says he won and that the result had been rigged; Mousavi supporters have taken to the streets in Tehran and other cities to protest the official outcome.



The military usually holds many of the major posts in the government of a dictatorship.



Geographic Distributions of Power

- Unitary Government
- Federal Government
- Confederate Government

Unitary

- All powers held by the government belong to a single, central agency
- Local governments have only those powers that the central government chooses to give them
- Most governments are unitary

Federal

- Powers of government are divided between a central government and several local governments
- US Constitution divides power between the National government and State governments

Confederate Government

- ⦿ Alliance of independent states
- ⦿ Confederate governments have limited powers in areas of defense and foreign affairs
- ⦿ Examples:
 - European Union
 - U.S. under Articles of Confederation (1781-1789)

Relationship between Legislative and Executive Branches

- ◎ Presidential government
 - Separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches
- ◎ Parliamentary government
 - Executive is made up of the prime minister, who is also a member of parliament