# How do governments distribute power?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unitary</th>
<th>Confederation</th>
<th>Federal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central government has all the power to make laws and decision for the people.</td>
<td>Individual states make their own laws and decision and are loosely aligned to a weak central government</td>
<td>Power to make laws and decision for the people is SHARED between central government and states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture:</td>
<td>Picture:</td>
<td>Picture:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Unitary Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Confederation Diagram" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Federal Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Long definition:**
- **Unitary:** One central government controls weaker states. Power is not shared between states, counties, or provinces.
- **Confederation:** A weak or loose organization of states that agree to follow a central government. Each state makes its own laws and the central government is only concerned about defense and trade.
- **Federal:** Power is shared by a powerful central government and states or provinces that are given considerable self-rule, usually through their own legislatures.

**Examples of unitary governments:**
- China
- United Kingdom

**Examples of confederation governments:**
- No current examples – confederations don't last long

**Examples of federal governments:**
- United States
- Germany
- Australia
- Russia
### How do citizens participate in the government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autocratic/Autocracy</th>
<th>Oligarchic/Oligarchy</th>
<th>Democratic/Democracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule of ONE</td>
<td>Rule of a FEW</td>
<td>Rule of ALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Long definition:**
- A country or nation that is governed by a single person with unlimited power
- A country or nation controlled by a small group of people that hold the key to power
- A country or nation that receives its power from the people (all the people hold the key to power)

**Examples of autocratic governments**
- Dictatorship
- Absolute Monarchy

**Examples of oligarchic governments**
- Theocracy

**Examples of democratic governments**
- Parliamentary democracy
- Presidential democracy