

GOVERNMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

This chart provides an overview of forms of government in seven Middle Eastern countries. Study it, then answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

| Country | Form of Government | Description | Head of Government | Fact |
|---------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Iran | Presidential-parliamentary democracy under Islamic religious control | Power is shared by an elected Parliament and a President elected by the people. | President Mohammad Khatami | Iran has been an Islamic republic since 1979, when Muslim revolutionaries overthrew the country's constitutional monarchy. |
| Iraq | One-party presidential dictatorship | A President with complete power leads the country's only political party. | President Saddam Hussein | The Baath Party eliminated virtually all political opposition after it took control of the government in 1968. |
| Israel | Parliamentary democracy | The people elect a Parliament, which in turn elects the Prime Minister. | Prime Minister Ariel Sharon | Israel has no formal constitution; a set of "Basic Laws" passed by the Parliament serve a similar function. |
| Kuwait | Constitutional monarchy | The power of the Emir (king) is limited by a constitution and a National Assembly. | Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad al-Abdullah al-Salim Al Sabah | The Emir acts as head of state and appoints a Prime Minister who heads the government. |
| Saudi Arabia | Monarchy | The country is ruled by a King who is a member of the Al Sa'ud royal family. | King and Prime Minister Fahd ibn Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud | The kingdom of Saudi Arabia was created in 1932 by Ibn Sa'ud, the present King's father. |
| Syria | Dominant party (military-dominated) | The government is controlled by a single political party, but opposing parties exist. | President Bashar al-Assad | The Arab Socialist Baath Party, which leads Syria, retains its power largely through control of the country's military. |
| Turkey | Presidential-parliamentary democracy | The Parliament elects the President (head of state), who appoints the Prime Minister. | Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan | Turkey, which became a republic in 1923, was part of the Ottoman Empire from the 1300s until 1922. |

1. Which country, according to the chart, has a dominant-party form of government? Name the party.
2. What is the name and title of Turkey's head of government?
3. How many countries on the chart have kings? Name the countries.
4. In some countries, the head of state and the head of government are different. Find two examples on the chart.
5. Which two countries have a presidential-parliamentary form of government? Name an important difference between them.