



Latin American Governments

Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba

Standards

SS6CG1 The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.

- a. Describe the ways government systems distribute power: unitary, confederation, and federal.
- b. Explain how governments determine citizen participation: autocratic, oligarchic, and democratic.
- c. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.

SS6CG2 The student will explain the structures of national governments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- a. Compare the federal-republican systems of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil) and the United Mexican States (Mexico) to the dictatorship of the Republic of Cuba (Cuba), distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting and personal freedoms.

Comparing Latin American Governments

Directions: Complete the chart below with information from the presentation.

| Country | Distribution of Power | Type of Government | Executive Branch | How is the head of government chosen? | Legislative Branch | Role of Citizen |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Federative Republic of Brazil | | | | | | |
| United Mexican States | | | | | | |
| Republic of Cuba | | | | | | |

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| Federative Republic of Brazil | Federal | Presidential Democracy | President (Head of state & Chief executive) Vice President | Elected by popular vote for single 4-year term | National Congress in bicameral legislature—Senate and Chamber of Deputies | Ages 18-70 are required by law to vote |
| United Mexican States | Federal | Presidential Democracy | President (head of state and chief executive) | Elected by popular vote for single 6-year term | National Congress in bicameral legislature—Senate and Chamber of Deputies | Citizens over 18 may vote in elections |
| Republic of Cuba | Unitary | Autocratic Dictatorship | President (dictator) | Castro came to power by military force in 1959 -elections are held, but there is only one candidate | The National Assembly of People's Power is the country's unicameral legislature. Candidates are approved by government. | Over 16 must vote, can only vote for candidates selected by government (Communist Party) |

Latin American Governments: Anticipation Guide

Directions: You will make predictions about the answers to the following questions BEFORE learning about this unit. Write the letter of the vocabulary term that matches the definitions below.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| A. Unitary | B. Presidential | C. Democracy | D. Federal | E. Cuba |
| F. Legislature | G. Autocracy | H. Parliamentary | I. Confederation | |

1. ____ In this type of democracy, the leader works through the legislature.
2. ____ This branch of government makes the country's laws.
3. ____ In this type of government, citizens play an important role because they are able to vote for leaders and laws.
4. ____ In this type of government structure, power is held by individual countries joined for a common purpose.
5. ____ In this type of government, citizens have virtually no role because all the decisions are made by a single leader.
6. ____ This country is the only autocratic government in Latin America.
7. ____ In this type of government, power is shared by national and regional/local authorities.
8. ____ What type of democracy is found in Mexico and Brazil?
9. ____ This government structure is where the power is held by one central authority.

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Answer Key

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | H |
| 2 | F |
| 3 | C |
| 4 | I |
| 5 | G |
| 6 | E |
| 7 | D |
| 8 | B |
| 9 | A |



Latin American Governments

Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba

Let's Review

Government Systems - Who has the power?

- **Unitary**--power is held by one central authority
- **Confederation**--association of independent states that agree to certain limitations on their freedoms by joining together
- **Federal**--power is divided between central authority & several regional authorities

Let's Review

Government Types - how do citizens participate?

- **Autocracy**-- 1 person possesses unlimited power & citizens have limited role in government
- **Oligarchy**-- small group exercises control & citizens have limited role in government
- **Democracy**--supreme power is vested in the people & exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation involving free elections

Let's Review

Two Types of Democratic Governments:

- **Parliamentary**— citizens elect members of Parliament, and then the members select the leader
 - Leader works with or through the legislature
- **Presidential**--system of government in which the leader is constitutionally independent of the legislature; citizens directly elect leader
 - Leader works separate from legislature



Federative Republic Of Brazil

Presidential Representative Democratic
Republic

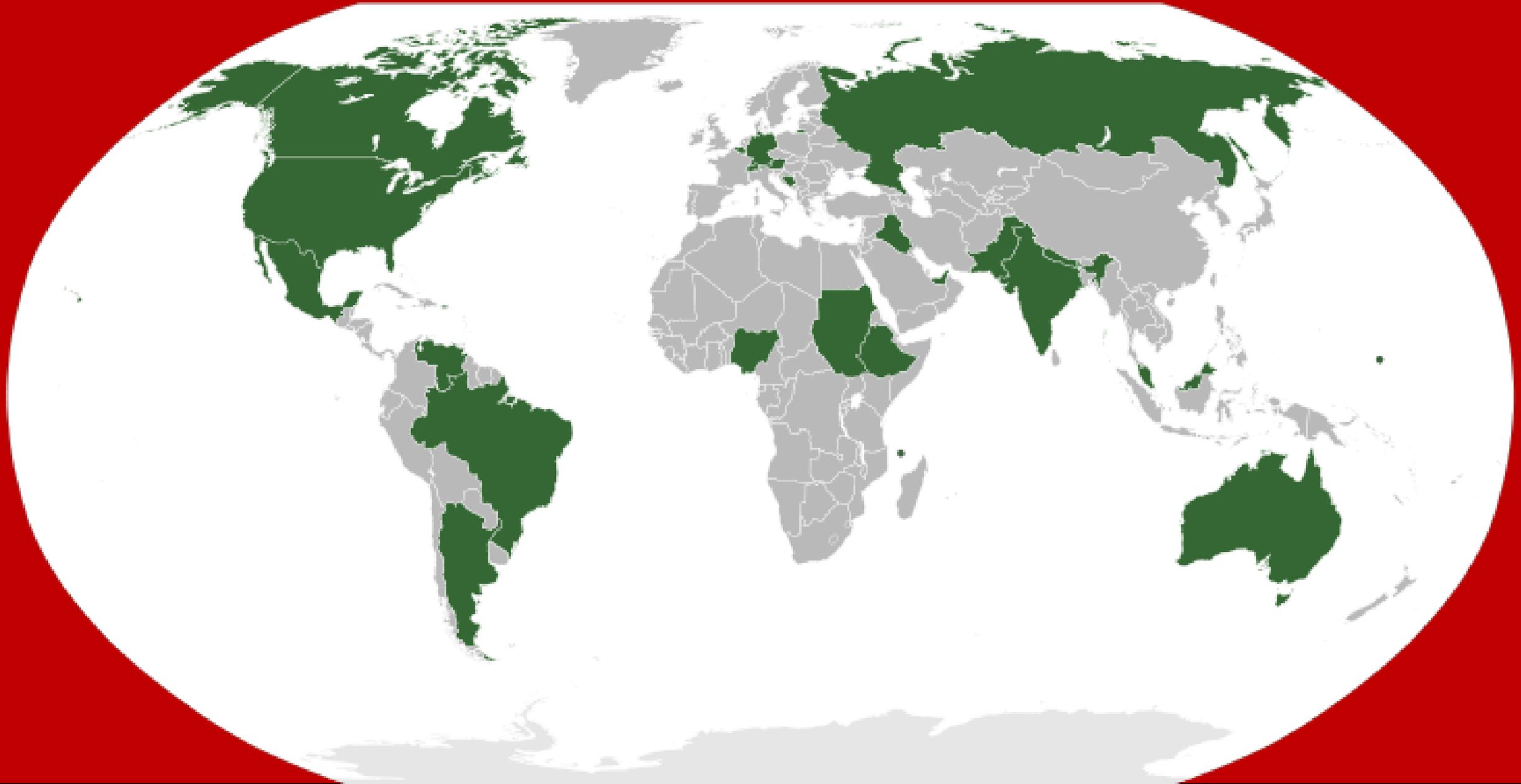
Brazil's National Congress Building



Federal System

- Brazil has a federal system, which means that the national government and the state governments **SHARE** power.
- There are 26 states in Brazil.

Federal Governments



Leadership

1. **President:** holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.

2. **Vice President:** helps in the day-to-day running of the government; performs ceremonial duties.

Dilma Rouseff



Brazil's President

Michel Temer



Brazil's Vice-President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected by popular vote for a single four-year term
- **Vice President:** runs on the same ticket as the president

Legislature

- The National Congress is the country's bicameral legislature.
- It consists of:
 1. Senate (81 seats) – 3 members elected from each state.
 2. Chamber of Deputies (513 seats) – members are elected by proportional representation.
- Members serve four and eight-year terms.

Inside Brazil's Senate



Presidential Democracy

- The citizens directly elect the president (every four years).
 - The last election was in October 2010 (next to be held in 2014).
- The president works separately from Brazil's Congress.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens have many freedoms and they also have the right to vote.
- Men and women who are 16 years of age may choose to vote, but citizens 18-70 are required by law to vote in national elections.
- Citizens can choose representatives from many political parties.

Voting in Brazil – October 2010





United
Mexican
States

Federal Republic

Mexico's National Congress Building



Federal System

- Mexico has a federal system, which means that the national government and the state governments **SHARE** power.
- There are 31 states in Mexico.

Leadership

- **President:** holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.

Enrique Peña Nieto



Mexico's President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected by popular vote for a single six-year term

Legislature

- The National Congress of Mexico is the country's bicameral legislature.
- It consists of:
 1. Senate (128 seats) – elected by popular vote to serve six-year term.
 2. Chamber of Deputies (500 seats) – members elected by popular vote to serve three-year terms.

National Congress Chamber



Presidential Democracy

- The citizens directly elect the president (every six years).
 - The last election was in July 2012 (next to be held in 2018).
- The president works separately from Mexico's Congress.

Role of the Citizen

- Citizens of Mexico have many freedoms, and they also have the right to vote.
- It is universal and compulsory (but not enforced) that citizens who are 18 or older vote in national elections.
- There are many political parties in Mexico.

Voting in Mexico – July 2012





Republic of Cuba

Unitary Socialist Republic

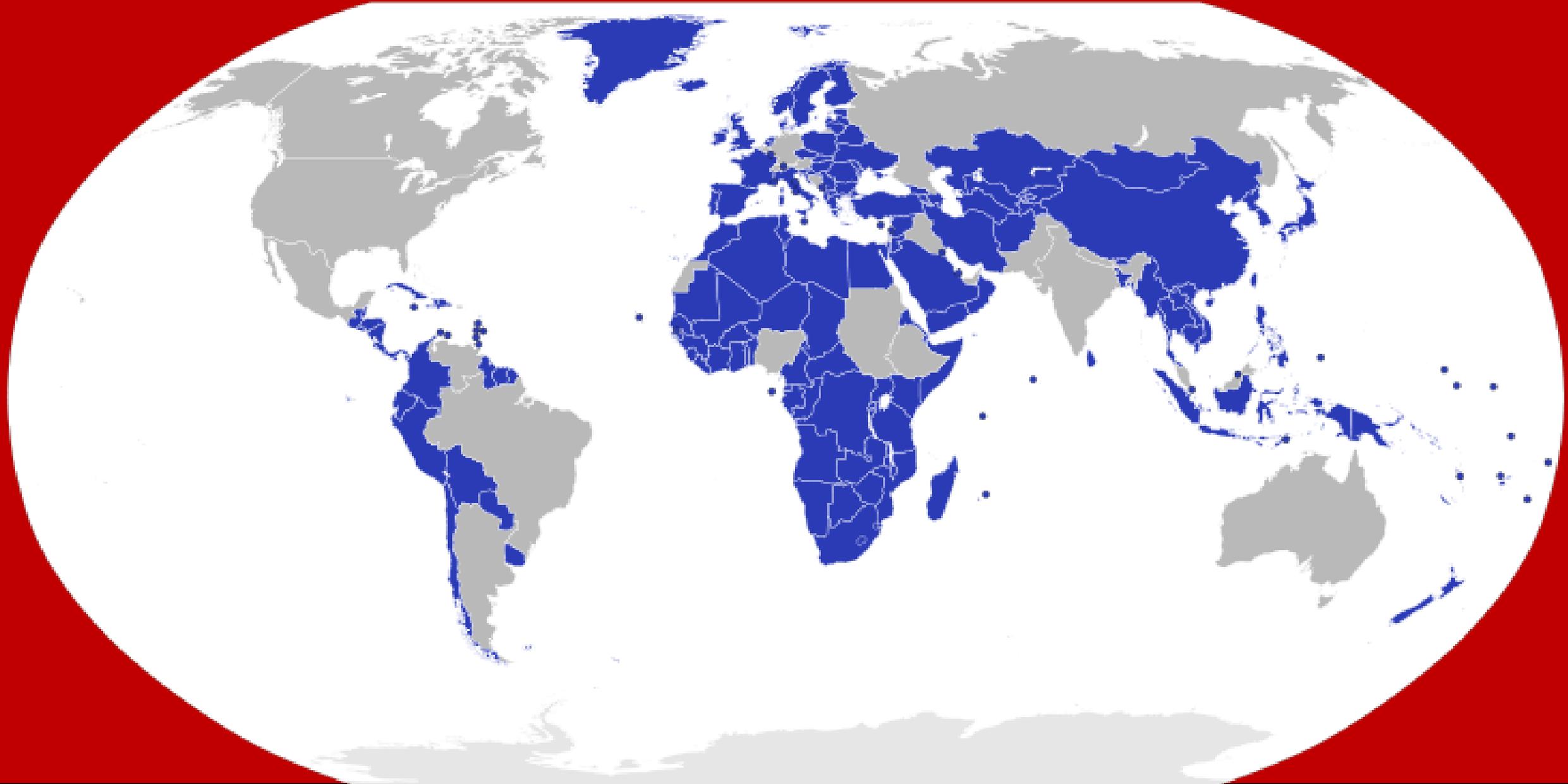
Capitol Building in Havana, Cuba



Unitary System

- Cuba has a unitary system, which means that the national (central) government holds all of the power.
- The provinces are under central government control.
- There are 15 provinces in Cuba.

Unitary Governments



Leadership

- **President:** holds the most political power; the president is both the chief executive and the head of state.

Raul Castro



Cuba's President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected* by National Assembly for a five-year term.
- *Cuba's Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed.

Legislature

- The National Assembly of People's Power is the country's unicameral legislature.
- The number of seats is based on Cuba's population.
 - As of the most recent election in February 2013, there were 614 seats.
- Candidates are selected and approved by the government before the people can vote for them.
- Members serve five-year terms.

Cuba's National Assembly



Autocracy

- Cuba has been an autocratic dictatorship since Fidel Castro used military force to overthrow the government in 1959.
- Since this time, there has been one leader (Fidel or Raul) who holds unlimited power over the country.
- Even though citizens get to “vote”, they do not get to select the candidates or make the laws.

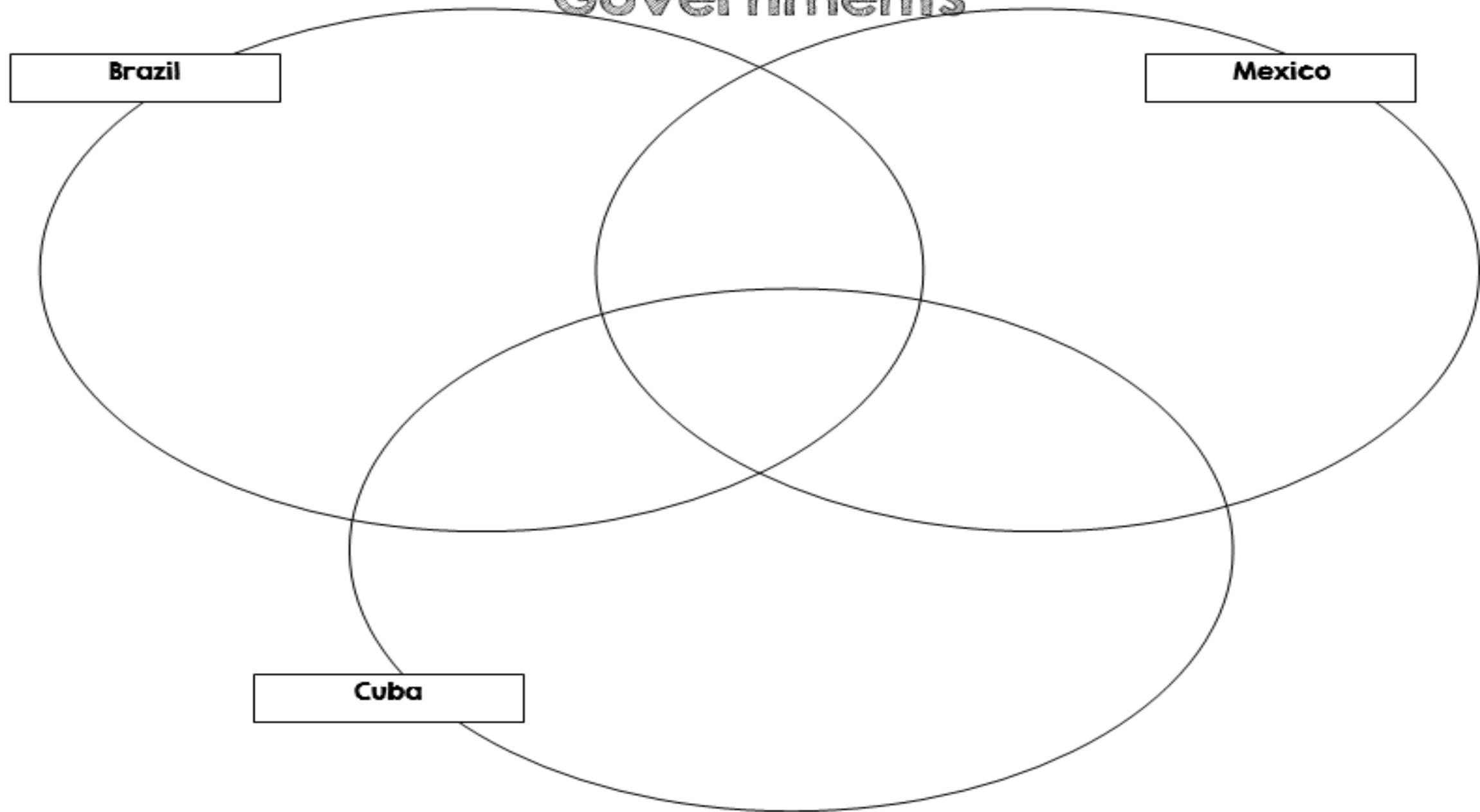
Role of the Citizen

- Citizens have few freedoms.
- Men and women aged 16 and over may choose to vote, but have few choices.
- There is only one political party (the Communist Party) that is allowed in Cuba.
 - It has been controlled by Fidel Castro and his brother, Raul, since 1959.

Voting in Cuba



Compare and Contrast Latin American Governments



Crystal Ball Predictions

Based on what we learned about Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba's governments, what do you think their economies will be like?



Crystal Ball Predictions

Based on what we learned about Brazil, Mexico, & Cuba's governments, what do you think their economies will be like?



Google It!

Directions: Write several important facts, words, people, etc., that would pop up about the country's government in the "search results" boxes.

1. Google It!

Brazil's Government

Search

Search Results:

2. Google It!

Mexico's Government

Search

Search Results:

3. Google It!

Cuba's Government

Search

Search Results: