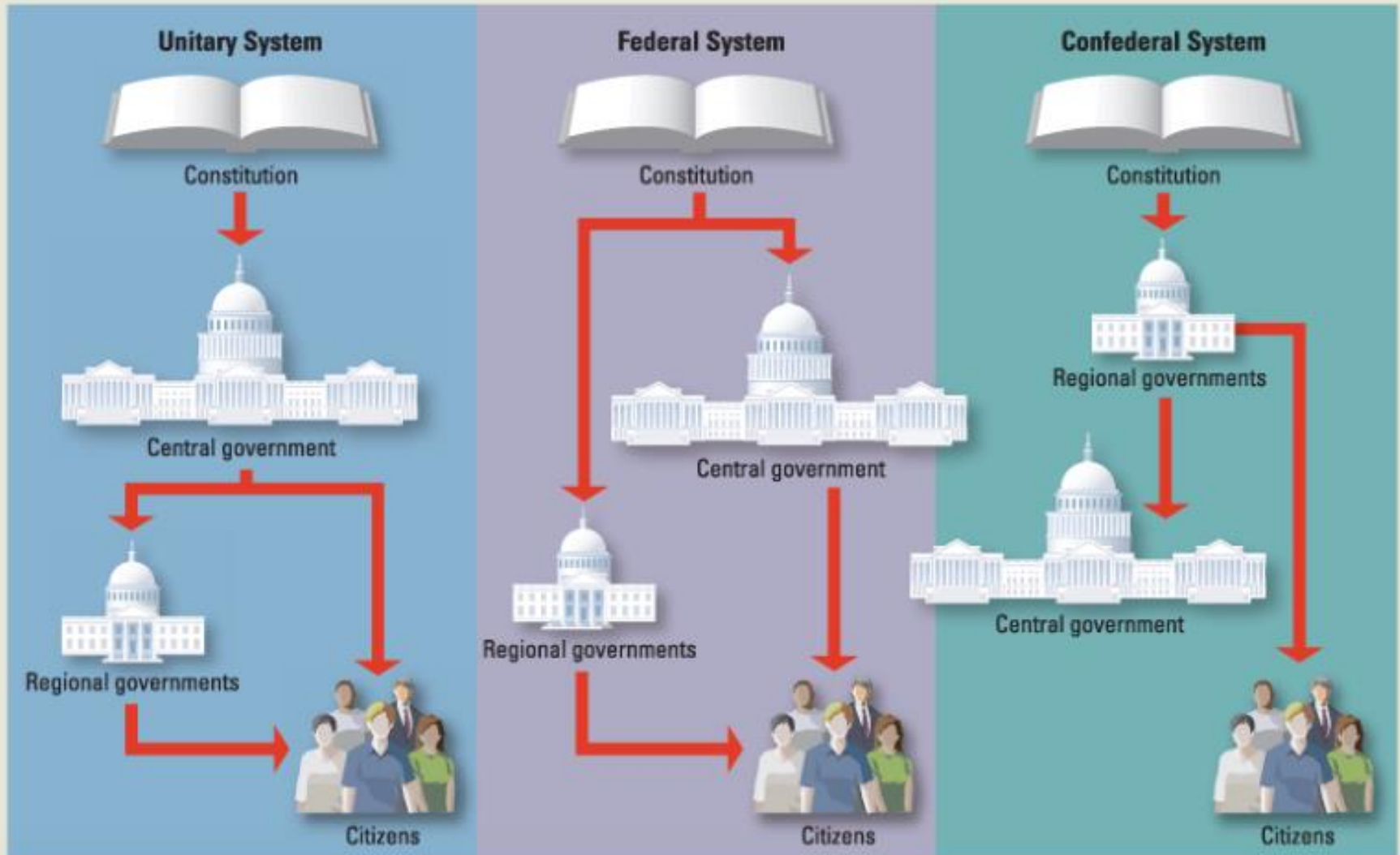


How Power Flows in Three Systems of Government

Power is highly centralized in a unitary system, divided in a federal system, and decentralized in a confederal system. Most nations today have a unitary system. None has a confederal system. Federal systems are more likely to be found in large nations with diverse populations.

Chapter 2.4



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Three Forms of Totalitarianism

Chapter 2.2

Communism

Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1953. Historians hold him responsible for the deaths of millions of Russians. The hammer in this communist symbol represents industrial workers, while the sickle represents agricultural workers.



Key Characteristics

- The Communist Party holds supreme power
- Belief that the state should control the economy
- Brutal suppression of opposition
- Hostility to religion and human rights

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Fascism

Benito Mussolini was dictator of Italy from 1922 to 1943. He used his power to control every aspect of the government and the press. This symbol of fascism suggests that while a single stick may be easily broken, a bundle of sticks bound together is too strong to break.



Chapter 2.2

Key Characteristics

- Dictator holds supreme power
- Belief that everyone should serve the state
- Extreme nationalism
- Glorification of the military
- Use of censorship and terror to suppress opposition

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Nazism

While ruling Germany from 1933 to 1945, Adolf Hitler tried to rid Europe of Jews, Gypsies, and others he deemed "undesirable." The swastika is an ancient Hindu symbol of well-being. The Nazis adopted it as a symbol of the German master race.



Chapter 2.2

Key Characteristics

- The Nazi Party holds supreme power
- Belief in racial superiority
- Aggressive territorial expansion
- Elimination of "inferior" minorities
- Rejection of democracy and civil liberties

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Presidential and Parliamentary Forms of Government

Chapter 2.3

In a presidential democracy, such as the United States, citizens vote for their legislators and also for a president. Legislative and executive powers are thus separated. In a parliamentary democracy, voters elect only their legislators. The majority party in the parliament then chooses one of its own to be prime minister. Legislative and executive powers are thus joined.

