# POLITICAL SYSTEMS: Social Studies 30 – 1
### (Last edited October 12, 2016)

<u>Basic Ideas of All Political Systems</u>

The purpose of government is to establish order in society. If a country doesn't have a government, it results in 'anarchy' (no order). This has not worked out long term when it has occurred in history.

There are 2 main kinds of political systems;

DEMOCRACY (you can pick your leaders)(The main aim is to have the most possible freedom in the society, by distributing power and limiting control)

DICTATORSHIP (you can't pick your leaders)(The main aim is to have the most possible security for a society, by concentrating power and strongly maintaining control)

Political beliefs are categorized according to a continuum often called the 'political spectrum.' The political spectrum mostly relates to 1) the amount and speed of political change people expect out of a government, and 2) the amount of involvement of and equality between ordinary citizens. This arose out of the French Revolution, according to the seating arrangement of the newly elected 'National Assembly', which replaced absolute monarchy. In the National Assembly, the most radical politicians (who wanted the most change the fastest) sat to the left of the President's chair. The most conservative politicians, who favoured the most continuity in the society, with an emphasis on tradition and a strong role for the king, didn't want to sit by the radicals, so they sat to the far right. The moderates, who were able to share some viewpoints with the radicals and other viewpoints with the conservatives, sat in the middle. (See http://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/political-science-and-government/military-affairs-nonnaval/left-wing )

Another way of categorizing political beliefs, which also allows for different concepts of the level of authority consolidated in the government, is the political compass. Check out this web site;
https://www.politicalcompass.org/