

Presidential & Parliamentary

Political Science

Two ways of organising the executive, with different failure modes.

Parliamentary

- Executive drawn from the legislature
- Government falls if it loses confidence
- Prime minister removable between elections
- Fewer deadlocks
- Coalition bargaining is central

Presidential

- Separately elected executive
- Fixed terms for both branches
- Removal only by impeachment
- Deadlock is possible and common
- Clearer separation of powers

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Presidential systems risk deadlock with no constitutional exit; parliamentary systems risk instability.

Educational reference. Semi-presidential systems combine both, dividing executive power between president and prime minister.