

Regime Types

Political Science

How political systems are classified, and why the middle is crowded.

Type and defining feature.

Type	Elections	Constraint on rulers
Liberal democracy	Free and fair	Courts, press, rights protected
Electoral democracy	Competitive but flawed	Weak checks
Competitive authoritarian	Held, but tilted	Formal only
Authoritarian	Absent or ceremonial	None effective

Educational reference. Competitive authoritarian regimes hold real elections that the opposition cannot realistically win.