

Forms of Democratic Government: Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

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Presidentialism

Presidential government consists of three features:

- ▶ popular election of the president who directs the government and makes appointments to it
- ▶ fixed terms of offices for the president and the assembly, neither of which can bring down the other
- ▶ no overlap in membership between the executive and the legislature.

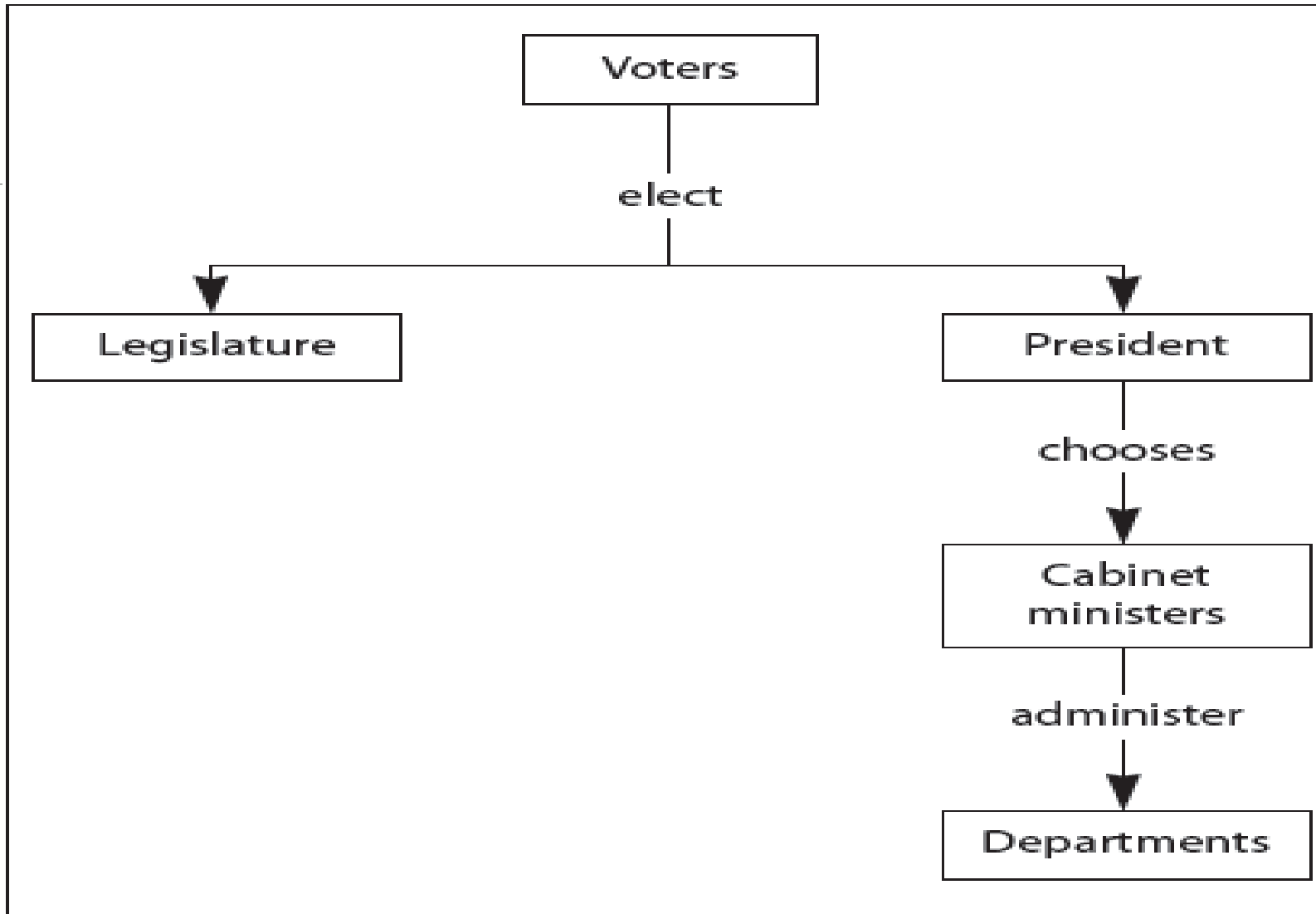
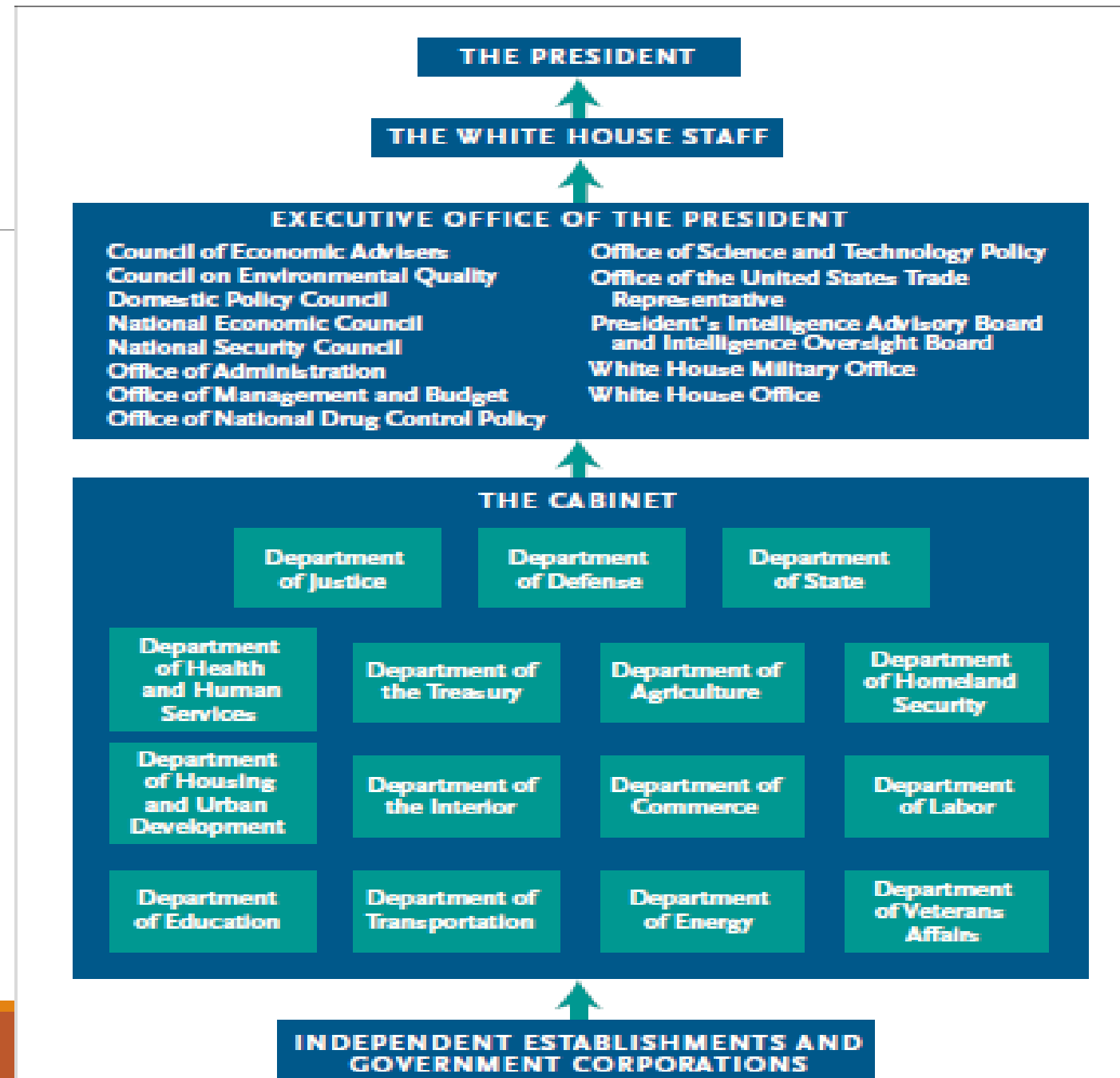


FIGURE 6.2 THE INSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENCY, 2009

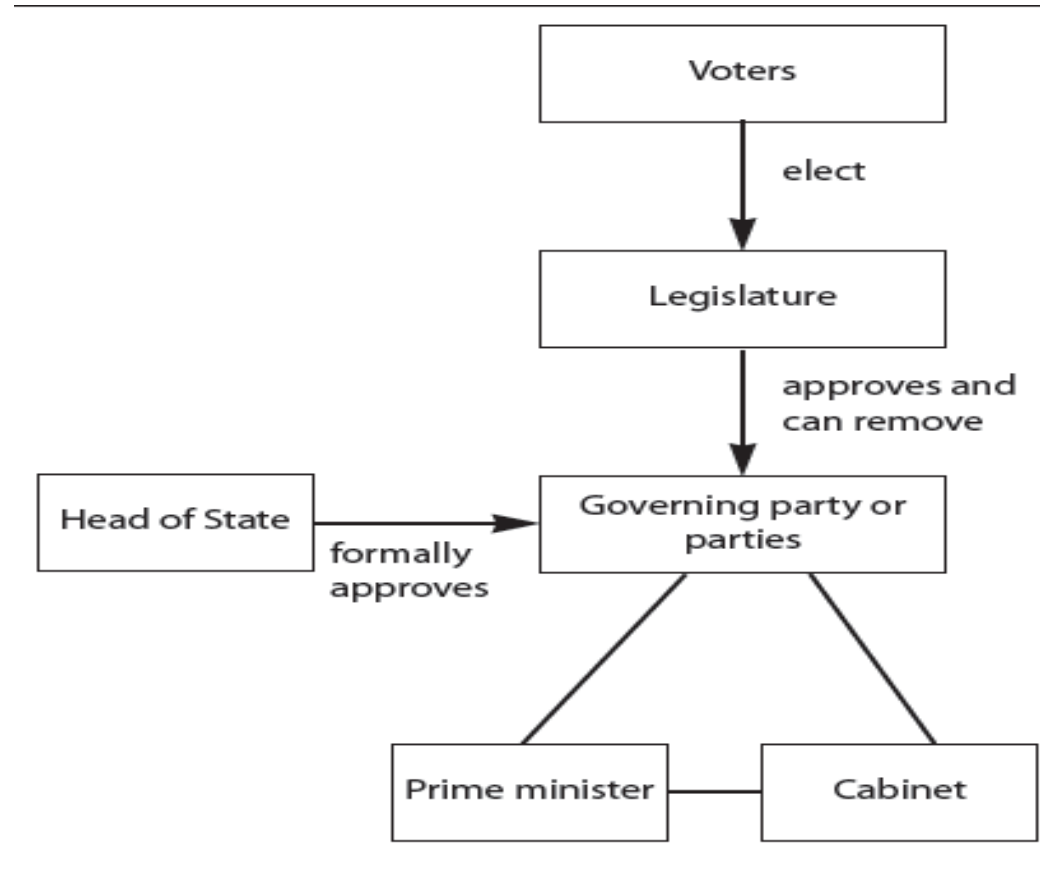


Parliamentarism

Parliamentary government has three main features:

- ▶ The governing parties emerge from the assembly. Government ministers are usually drawn from, and remain members of, the legislature.
- ▶ The head of the government (called prime minister, premier or chancellor) and the council of ministers (usually called the cabinet) can be dismissed from office through a vote of no confidence by parliament. The post of prime minister is normally separate from that of a ceremonial head of state.
- ▶ The executive is collegial, taking the form of a cabinet in which the prime minister is traditionally just first among equals. This plural executive contrasts with the focus in presidential government on a single chief executive.

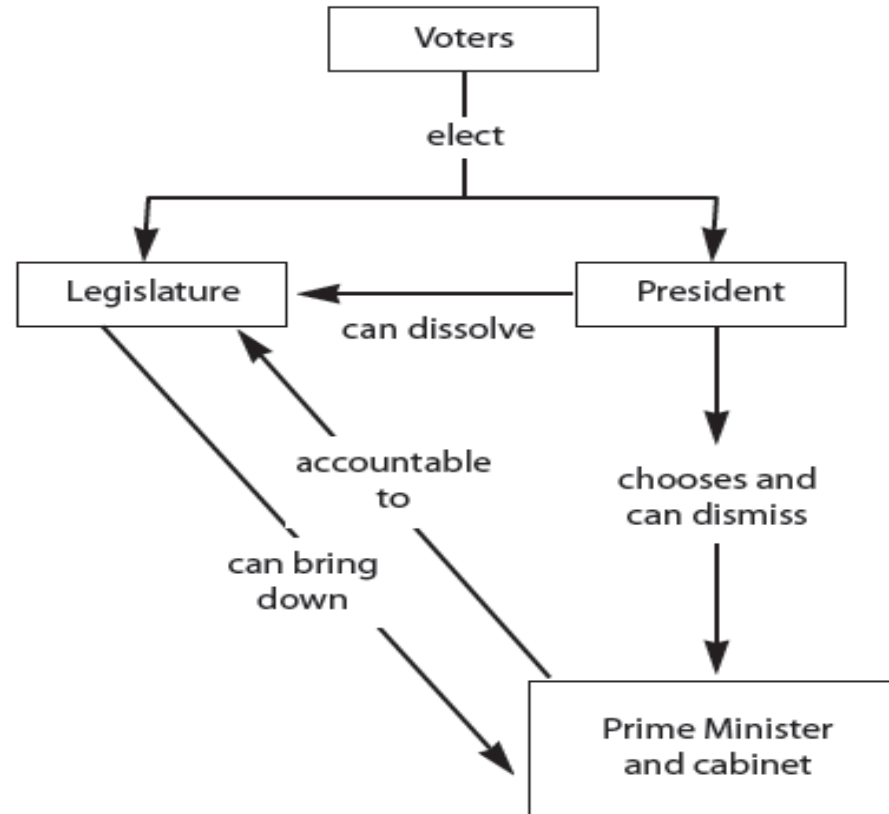
Presidential system vs. Parliamentary System



Semi-presidentialism

Semi-presidential government, sometimes called the dual executive or premier-presidentialism, combines an elected president performing political tasks with a prime minister who heads a cabinet accountable to parliament. The prime minister, usually appointed by the president, is responsible for day-to-day domestic government but the president retains an oversight role, responsibility for foreign affairs and can usually take emergency powers. The Fifth French Republic is the leading example (Shugart and Carey, 1992).

Presidential system vs. Parliamentary System



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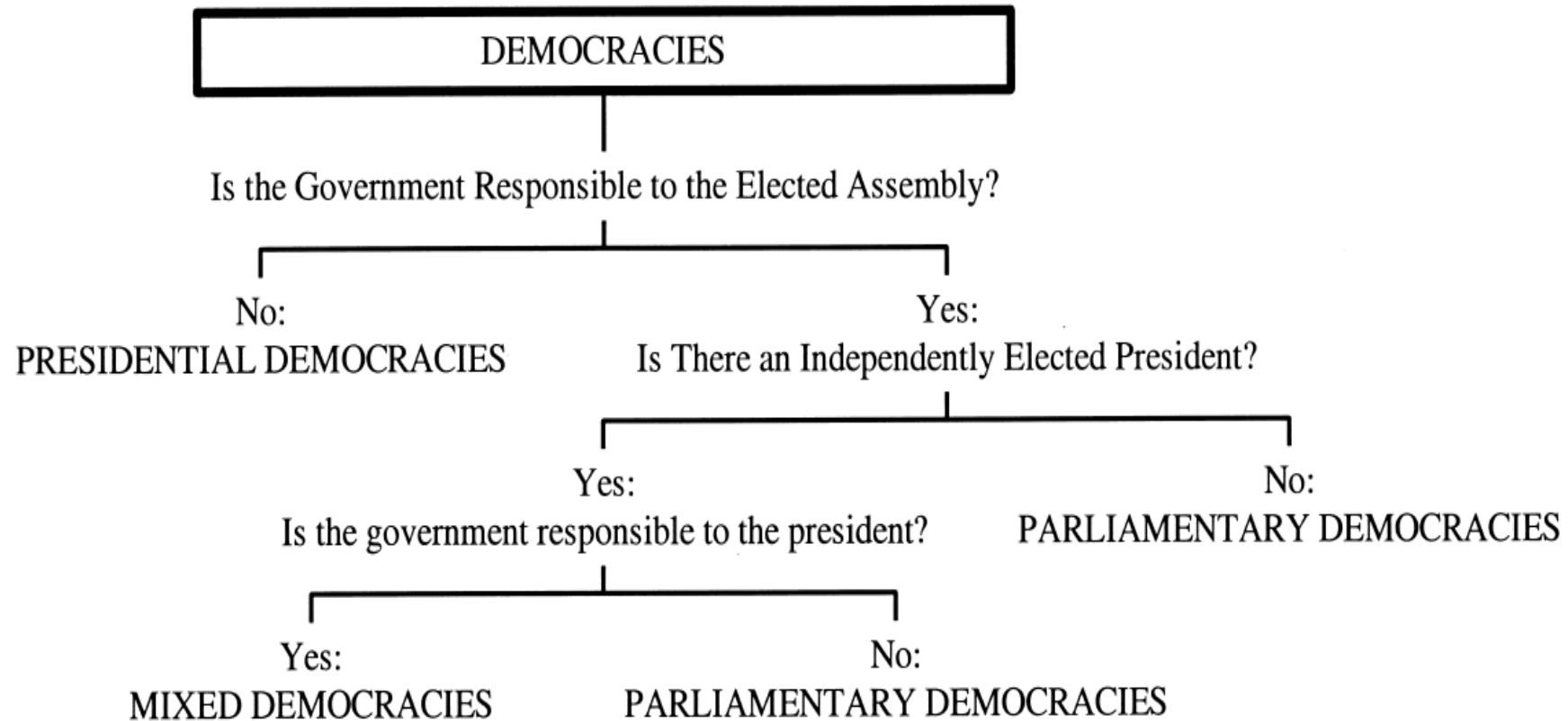


Figure 2.1 Classifying Forms of Democratic Government.

Presidential system vs. Parliamentary System

	Presidential	Parliamentary
Plurality Elections	United States Philippines	United Kingdom Old Commonwealth India Malaysia Jamaica
Proportional Representation	Latin America	Western Europe