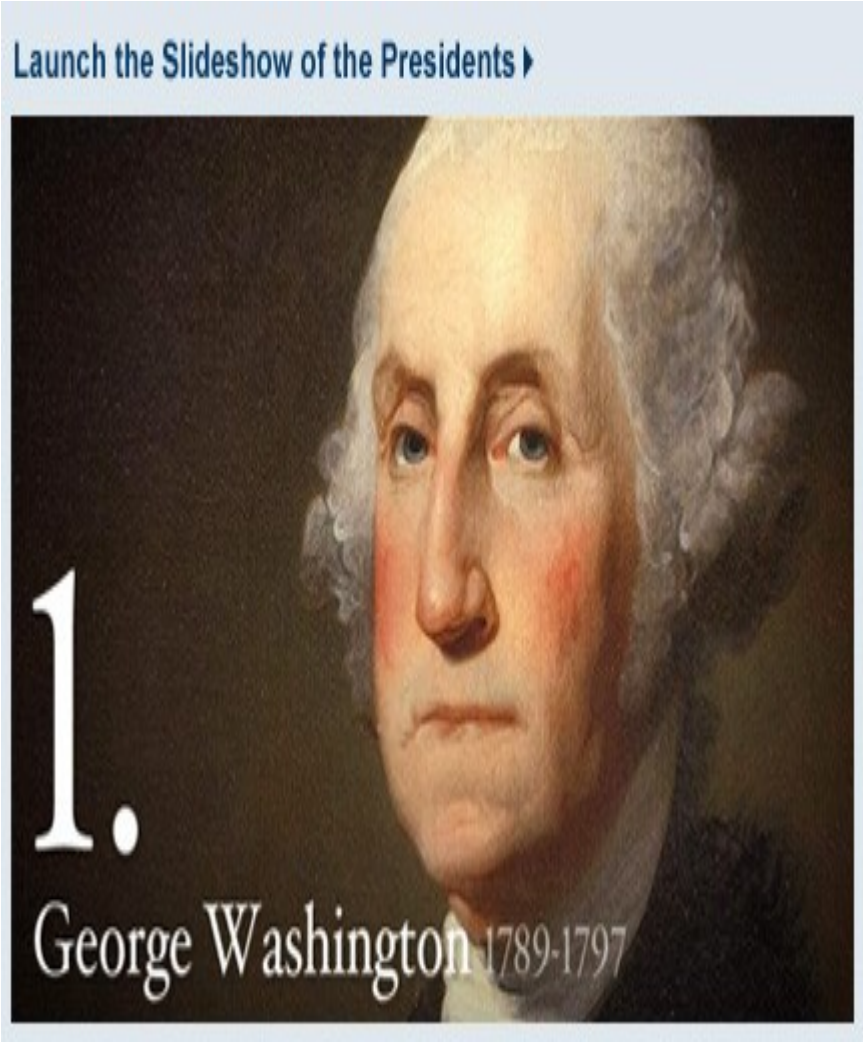
The Electoral Processes and Functions of Governments in other parts of the World

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US 1ST PRESIDENT



CURRENT PRESIDENT



THE WHITE HOUSE



USA

Electoral Process in the USA

- It involves the convening of elections at the
  A. Presidential
  B. Congressional
  C. State
  D. Local government levels

The process begins with the

a. Registration of voters (who meet voting requirements)
b. Nomination of candidates through the party platform
c. Candidates embark on election campaigns after nomination. Campaigns are conducted through
   - ✓Television
   - ✓Advertisements
   - ✓Endorsements and
   - ✓canvassing
d. The campaigns are funded through
   - ✓Public and
   - ✓Private funding

e. Voting takes place at designated polling stations
f. After voting the election officials count the votes
g. In the case of presidential elections, a process of indirect popular election is used, through the electoral college
h. Finally, the independent election monitoring officers announce the winners.

Levels of Elections

1. Elections to the House of Representatives, every two years
2. Elections for governors held on a 4-year basis
3. Elections for the senate, convened every 6 years

Conditions necessary for Candidature

House of Representatives

1. One must be at least 25 years old
2. Citizen of the USA (for not less than 7 years)
3. A resident of the state one wants to represent.

Senators

4. Citizen of the USA for at least 9 years
5. 30 years of age and above

Presidential elections

1. Citizen of USA by birth
2. 35 years of age and above
3. Must have resided in the US for at least 14 years

Elections are based on universal suffrage.

Main National Political Parties in the USA

1. The Republican Party
2. The Democratic Party
3. Green Party of the United States
4. Libertarian Party.

Functions of Political Parties in the USA

1) Assist in fund-raising campaigns.
2) Party labels assist voters in their choice of candidates
3) Avenues through which candidates can seek for political office
4) For purposes of accountability with regard to performance of duty
5) The electorate can channel their wishes and opinions through parties
6) Citizens can air their views and opinions of nominees through the parties

Procedure for Presidential Nominations and Elections

1. The elections are convened every 4 years
2. The presidency is limited to 2-4 year terms of office
3. Party primaries i.e. choosing of delegates to the national convention and formulation of party policies between February and June of election year
4. Parties nominate and sponsor their

5. After being cleared by his/her party, the presidential nominee picks a vice-presidential running mate subject to approval by party delegates
6. Selection of president by an electoral college (states that comprise the Union are allotted specific electoral votes). The winner should have at least 270 votes.
7. Election results are announced
8. Swearing in of the president in January the following year.

Functions of the US Government

A. Federal Government

1) Levying and collecting taxes
2) Paying the debts of the government
3) Providing common Defence
4) Declaring war or peace
5) Maintaining the armed forces
6) Regulating commerce
7) Making and regulating and issuing currency
8) In charge of foreign affairs
9) Formulating federal laws
10) Establishing federal courts

12) Allowing new states to join the union
13) Establishing the federal postal system
14) Dismissing federal government officers including the president
15) Amending the federal constitution
16) Mediating disputes between different states
17) Giving grants to member states and monitoring their use
18) Making laws on naturalization and

B. State or Republican Government

1. Authorizing the establishment of local governments
2. Formulation of republican laws
3. Running their own internal affairs in provision of health, education and public welfare
4. Raise revenue locally from local income sales and exercise taxes, property e.t.c.
5. Maintain law and order in the states
6. Regulating commerce within the states
7. Providing for state militia

How the USA Government Operates

Federal Government

The Legislature

(Bicameral or 2 chamber house i.e. the Senate and House of Representatives, collectively known as congress).

Functions

1. Making laws
2. Amending the constitution, with state approval
3. Controlling government revenue and expenditure (in charge of the federal budget)
4. In charge of foreign relations e.g. making trea ties with foreign nations

5. In charge of senior civil service appointments
6. Confirming ministers (secretaries) and scrutinizing their conduct
7. Monitoring the conduct of the president, vice-president and other high ranking government officials
8. Appointing commissions of inquiry to look into serious national issues or crises
9. Representing their constituencies.

The Executive Functions

1. Headed by a president who is the head of the federal republic
2. The president appoints his cabinet and senior government officials but who have to be confirmed by congress
3. Chairs the cabinet
4. The president is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces
5. Liaises with congress to determine and control foreign relations

6. Executes laws and policies passed by congress
7. The president is the head of the party
8. The president is the head of state
9. Appoints supreme court judges
10. Can grant clemency to those convicted of breaking federal laws.

How the Powers of the US President are checked

1. Appointees of the president have to be approved by congress (senate)
2. The president can be impeached by congress
3. The president cannot appropriate federal revenue without authority
4. The president cannot dissolve

5. The president cannot ratify foreign treaties without the approval of congress
6. The president serves for a maximum of two-four year term of office
7. The president is closely monitored by the media
8. The president pays heed to opinion polls
9. Economic aid and any form of aid to foreign nations is subject to

Examples of US Presidents in the 20th & 21st Century

Name of president	Tenure of office	Political party
Theodore Roosevelt	1901 - 1909	Republican
William H. Taft	1909- 1912	Republican
Woodrow Wilson	1912-1921	Democrat
Warren Harding	1921 - 1923	Republican
Calving Coolidge	1923- 1929	Republican
Herbert C. Hoover	1929- 1933	Republican
Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933 - 1945	Democrat
Harry Truman	1945- 1953	Democrat
Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953 - 1961	Republican
John F. Kennedy	1961 - 1963	Democrat
Lyndon B. Johnson	1963- 1969	Democrat
Richard Nixon	1969- 1974	Republican
Gerald Ford	1974- 1977	Republican
Jimmy Carter	1977- 1981	Democrat
Ronald Reagan	1981 - 1989	Republican
George Bush	1989- 1993	Republican
Bill Clinton	1993-2000	Democrat
George W. Bush Junior	2000-2008	Republican
Barack Obama	2009-	Democrat

Judicature

- The federal judicature comprises of a hierarchy of courts, headed by the Supreme Court. Others include circuit courts, court of appeal; district courts e.t.c
- The judges are appointed by the president.

Functions

1. Interpreting the constitution
2. Handling cases arising under the national con stitution
3. Arbitrating in cases between the USA and other foreign states
4. Adjudicating disputes between the president and the congress
5. Settling disputes between the federal and

Republican Government Features

- Each state functions as a republic/autonomous
- All the states are legally equal
- Each state has its own written constitution for internal affairs
- State legislatures:
- Bi-cameral (made up of senate and House of Representatives).

State executive:

Led by an elected governor.

State Judicatures:

Each state comprises courts of several grades whose jurisdiction is restricted to individual states. Judges are elected by the people.

Merits of a Federal Government

1. Enables several states to work in solidarity as a political unit
2. Promotes interaction of people between different states
3. States can solve common problems jointly
4. Interests of small states are protected
5. Enhances trade within the federation through elimination of customs barriers and establishment of common currencies
6. Provides an enlarged market for goods produced in the various member states
7. Enables various states to come together, yet retaining their identities.
8. Providing a system of checks and balances since the government operates on division of powers between

Demerits of a Federal Government

Threat of secession by some states due to disparities in levels of wealth.

Electoral Process in Britain

- Elections affect members of the House of Commons
- Two types of elections are held
  - General elections
  - By-elections
- Elections are organized by the Election Commission (EC)
- The electoral process starts with voter registration in all the constituencies (Britain has about 650 constituencies).
- This is followed by nomination of parliamentary candidates, who meet the required qualifications
- Candidates for local authorities are also nominated
- Political parties play a key role in elections and thus, candidates are sponsored by political parties

- A month prior to the polling day, the Prime Minister announces the date of election
- Within this short duration of time, candidates conduct their election campaigns, both at the local and national levels
- Election expenses are controlled by a statutory limit (candidates cannot exceed the permitted amount)
- 17 working days after the dissolution of parliament, voting takes place through the secret ballot
- Once voting is over, the sealed ballot boxes are taken to a central place (town hall), where the counting takes place
- Counting is supervised by the returning officers, who also announces the results
- The party that wins majority seats in the house of commons is declared the election winner
- The leader of the party with majority seats becomes the

Main Political Parties in Britain

1. Conservative party
2. Labour party
3. Liberal party
4. Social Democratic party.
5. Types of elections held in Britain
6. General elections
7. By-elections.

People who are disqualified from voting in Britain

1. Clergymen
2. Members of the House of Lords
3. Foreigners
4. Those who hold certain offices e.g. civil servants, members of armed forces, judges, e.t.c
5. Mentally unsound persons
6. Bankrupt persons
7. Persons convicted of election malpractices

Characteristics of the Electoral Process

1) Voting is conducted by local authorities who also maintain a register of voters
2) Voting is carried out for members of the House of Commons
3) Voting is based on the principle of 'one person one vote'
4) Voting is also based on universal adult suf frage
5) Britain has 650 constituencies
6) Election campaigns are done within a short duration
7) The polling date is announced by the prime minister

Conditions necessary for Voters

1. Aged 18 years and above
2. British citizen/ citizen of other commonwealth countries/ citizens of the Irish republic who reside in Britain
3. One must appear on the voters roll.

Conditions necessary for Parliamentary Candidates

4. 21 years of age and above
5. Have not been disqualified from voting due to:
6. Bankruptcy ,
7. Being given a jail term of more than 1 year
8. Being a public servant, holding a judicial office, being a member of the armed forces or police
9. Being a clergymen.

Stages in the Electoral Process

1. Registration of voters
2. Nomination of candidates
3. Election campaigns
4. Voting
5. Announcement of results.

Role of Political Parties

6. Popularizing the parties
7. Sensitizing and mobilizing the electorate to vote
8. Recruiting new members
9. Publishing party manifestos.

Conditions necessary for Civic Elections

1. British citizen
2. Age 21 years and above
3. Registered as a local elector in the area one wants to contest and has resided there for at least 1 year prior to the date of elections.

Queen Elizabeth II









Functions of the British Government

Monarchy

Functions

1) Inviting the leader of the party with majority votes in the house of commons to form a government (the prime minister)
2) Summoning and opening the new parliament
3) Royal assent is needed before a bill becomes a law
4) Commander-in-chief of the armed forces
5) Legal head of state and symbol of

8) Nominates members to the House of Lords (creates peers)
9) Represent the country in international forums
10) Appoints the Archbishop of the Church of England
11) Grants honours to deserving persons
12) Exercises a prerogative of mercy and pardons convicted criminals
13) Symbolic head of commonwealth
14) Focus of loyalty and embodiment of

The Legislature

Bicameral - Consists of 2 houses i.e. House of Commons and House of Lords.

Ways of becoming a Member of Parliament

1. Through elections to the Hose of Commons
2. Through nomination by the monarch, to the House of Lords
3. By virtue of holding hereditary peerage in the House of Lords
4. Holding senior positions within the church of England e.g. Archbishop of Canterbury and some judges
5. Appointment to the House of Lords due to an

Privileges enjoyed by British Members of Parliament

1. Freedom of speech
2. They are protected against arrest for civil offences, forty days prior to and 40 days after a session of parliament
3. They cannot be harassed within the precincts of parliament.

House of Commons Chambers







The British Parliament Building

House of Commons

Membership: 650 constituency Members of Parliament.

Functions

1. Making and amending laws
2. Controls government revenue and expenditure
3. Deliberates on various issues through debates and questions
4. Directing government policy
5. Checks on the excesses of the executive
6. Can pass a vote of no confidence.

House of Lords Chambers









House of Lords

1. Membership
2. 800 hereditary nobles
3. 26 clergymen (Bishops, Archbishops of the Church of England)
4. Over 200 life peers
5. 15 judges.

Functions

6. Initiating routine or non-controversial bills
7. Examining bills as they pass through the house of commons in order to prevent hasty legislation
8. Can sit as a court of appeal for criminal cases

4. Tapping talents of people who may not win in a general election
5. Providing continuity in the operation of parliament. Peers retain their seats for life and can therefore guide the upcoming politicians
6. Enhancing unity in the country
7. Debating general policy issues
8. Assisting the house of commons in keeping a check on the powers of the executive.

Doctrine of Parliamentary Supremacy

It means :-

- parliament which is supreme and has the highest authority
- powers of parliament override those of the Head of State and other organizations.

Application of the Doctrine of Parliamentary Supremacy in Britain

1) Parliament is paramount. All other organs of government derive their power from it.
2) Empowered to make, amend, and abolish laws
3) Has terminative power and can remove an unpopular government from power
4) Parliamentary decisions are binding to all and cannot be overruled or nullified, even by a court of law
5) Parliament is empowered to approve the bud

Factors that may limit the Supremacy of Parliament

1. The moral values of the society
2. Public opinion
3. Local authorities are empowered to make bylaws without consulting parliament
4. Important institutions e.g. the church are taken into account before laws are made
5. A law made by one parliament can be altered by a future parliament

David Cameron
Incumbent British Prime Minister since 2007





Tony Blair

Former Prime Minister 1997-2007

The Executive

Headed by the Prime Minister

Functions of the Prime Minister

1) Can appoint and dismiss ministers
2) Settling inter-departmental disputes
3) Presiding over cabinet meetings
4) Leader of the House of Commons
5) Leader of his/her party
6) Overseeing the implementation of cabinet decisions
7) Recommends to the monarch suitable candi dates for appointment e.g. judges, lords, those deserving honours e.t.c.

Functions of the Cabinet

1. Implement government policy
2. Decide government policy
3. Initiating legislation
4. Coordination of government departments and delimiting their authority.

Principles that guide the operations of the Cabinet

1) Collective responsibility
2) Members are drawn from the same political party which has the most members in the House of Commons
3) Members are drawn from the two houses of parliament
4) A government which is defeated on a major issue should resign
5) Cabinet members are bound to

Civil Service Functions

1) Advise the cabinet on policy formulation and decision making
2) Executing government policy
3) They provide continuity in government
4) Maintain government records
5) Carrying out day to day administrative duties.

The Judiciary

Functions

Apply the law before the courts

Factors that ensure the independence of the Judiciary

1) Salaries of judges are not subject to discussion in parliament
2) Judges can only be dismissed through a resolution from both houses
3) Judges retire at the age of 75 years.

Advantages of a Parliamentary Government

1. Prevents dictators from assuming power
2. Avails a forum for the discussion of proposed legislation
3. The electorate can evaluate their representatives and vote them out in the next election if not satisfied
4. Since parliament controls public finance it enables a government to account publicly on its expenditure.

Disadvantages of a Parliamentary

India

It is a federation of 28 states centrally administered territories.

Shri Pranab Mukhrjee
The President of India









Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of

The Electoral Process

- The procedures that govern elections are laid down in the constitution of India under the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1950 and 1951
- Elections are organized and monitored by the Electoral Commission of India (ECI)
- Two types of elections are held in India i.e.
- General election - To chose members for the national parliament and state Legislative Assembly
- Civic elections - To choose members of Local Authorities
- The electoral process starts with voter

NB:

- One may also stand as an independent candi date Some seats (22%) are reserved for minority groups e.g. lower castes.
- Election campaigns occur within a statutory three week period. This is done in various ways
  - ✓The print media
  - ✓Public speeches
  - ✓Private and implicit appeals
- Voting then takes place in voting stations iden tified before the election date
- The Electoral Commission of India (ECI) counts the votes, once the votes are cast
- The ECI also announces the results.

Electoral Characteristics

1. There is an electoral commission that conducts elections
2. Prospective candidates are required to file nomination papers
3. Election materials include ballot papers and boxes
4. Election wise, the country is divided into single member districts, some districts are reserved for minority groups
5. Election campaigns take place within a short period
6. The candidate who gets the largest number

Functions of the Electoral Commission of India

1) Preparing a register or votes
2) Drawing the boundaries of constituencies
3) Compiling a list of parties to participate in elections
4) Establishing polling dates
5) Allocation of symbols to parties
6) Receiving nomination papers from prospective candidates
7) Counting of votes
8) Announcing the results.

Conditions necessary for a voter

1) Citizen of India
2) Aged 18 years and above
3) One has to be of sound mind
4) Has not been convicted of a serious criminal offence
5) Not corrupt/does not engage in illegal practices.

Conditions necessary for Parliamentary Candidates

1. Indian citizen
2. Aged 25 and above for the House of People and not less than 30 years for the Council of States
3. To provide personal details in one's nomination papers (one's criminal records if any, cases pending in court, assets, liabilities and government dues and one's educational qualifications).

Conditions necessary for Presidential Candidates

1. Citizen of India
2. Aged 35 years and above.

Campaign Methods

1) Use of print media
2) Use of .electronic media
3) Public speeches
4) Canvassing.

Main Political Parties in India

a) The Congress Party/ Indian National Congress
b) The Bharatiya Janata Party
c) The Communist party of India
d) Regional Parties e.g. India Anna DMK, the National Conference, the Telegn Desam.

The Parliament of India



President of India





RAJYA SABHA
(Council of Sates)



LOK SABHA
(House of the People)

Functions of the Indian Government Union government

The legislature

Bi-cameral i.e.

- Upper House/ Council of states (Rajya Sabha)
- Lower chamber/ House of the People (Lok Sabha) with 545 members.

- Languages used in the house are English and Hindu.

Functions

1. Initiating amendments to the constitution
2. Scrutinizing bills before they become law
3. Passing the budget
4. Debating on national and international matters
5. Can impeach the president
6. Oversee the administration of the country.

The Executive

The President is the head of the executive.

Powers of the President

1) Veto power e.g. can assent or veto a bill
2) Commander-in-chief of the armed forces
3) Appoints state governors and supreme court judges
4) Appoints the prime minister, with the advice of parliament
5) Symbol of national unity
6) Can declare an emergency and rule by decree

7) Can summon parliament
8) Empowered to dissolve parliament
9) Can prorogue parliament
10) Pardon offenders
11) Can grant clemency
12) Appoint the prime minister and other senior government officials.

The Cabinet

1) Headed by the Prime Minister. Functions of Cabinet
2) Collectively responsible for all decisions of parliament
3) Formulation and coordination of government policies
4) Recommending major appointments
5) Settling interdepartmental disputes
6) Coordinating the activities of various government departments
7) Overseeing the execution of government

The Judiciary

- At the apex is a supreme court, headed by a chief justice and 17 other judges
- These are appointed by the president.

Functions of the Supreme Court

1. Settling disputes between the Union Government and the States
2. It interprets and guards the constitution
3. Advises the government on issues of public importance.

State Governments

Sate legislature:

Either bicameral or unicameral.

Powers and Functions

1. Making laws for the individual states
2. In charge of state finances
3. Empowered to make money bills.

State Executive:

Led by the governor.