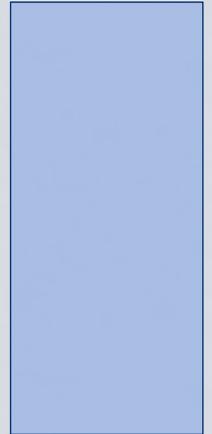


CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

FRANCE (FRENCH REPUBLIC)





HISTORY

Sudden change –
rather than gradual
mutation

FRENCH REVOLUTION

Sudden change –
rather than gradual
mutation

LIBERTY
EQUALITY
FRATERNITY



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

FRENCH REVOLUTION

Bourgeoisie

FREEDOM

Traditional
Colour of
Paris

Clergy

EQUALITY

Nobility

FRATERNITY

Traditional
Colour of
Paris

FRANCE

- nation-states / Europe
 - *le Roi-Soleil* - Sun King
 - *Louis the Great* (1643-1715)
- French Revolution : establishment of a constitutional monarchy in 1791 (the First Republic)



FRENCH REPUBLIC

- 5 Republics & 2 Empires
- **First Republic** (1792 - 1803): was ended by Napoleon's First Empire
 - popular sovereignty
 - declaration of the Rights of Man
 - inauguration of more secular power

Declaration of the Rights of Man



FRENCH REPUBLIC

- 5 Republics & 2 Empires
- **Second Republic (1848-1852)** was ended by Napoleon III's Second Empire
 - universal male suffrage
 - election of President by popular vote

FRENCH REPUBLIC

- 5 Republics & 2 Empires
- **Third Republic** (1875-1940): was ended (1940) by German occupation
 - WWII deeply divided France
 - Charles de Gaulle
 - executive made responsible to Parliament

FRENCH REPUBLIC

- Fourth Republic (1946-1958)
 - 24 governments in 12 years

FIFTH REPUBLIC (1958 -)

- Charles de Gaulle
- submitted new constitution for public approval
 - power of the executive offices
 - president and prime minister
 - constraints on Parliament

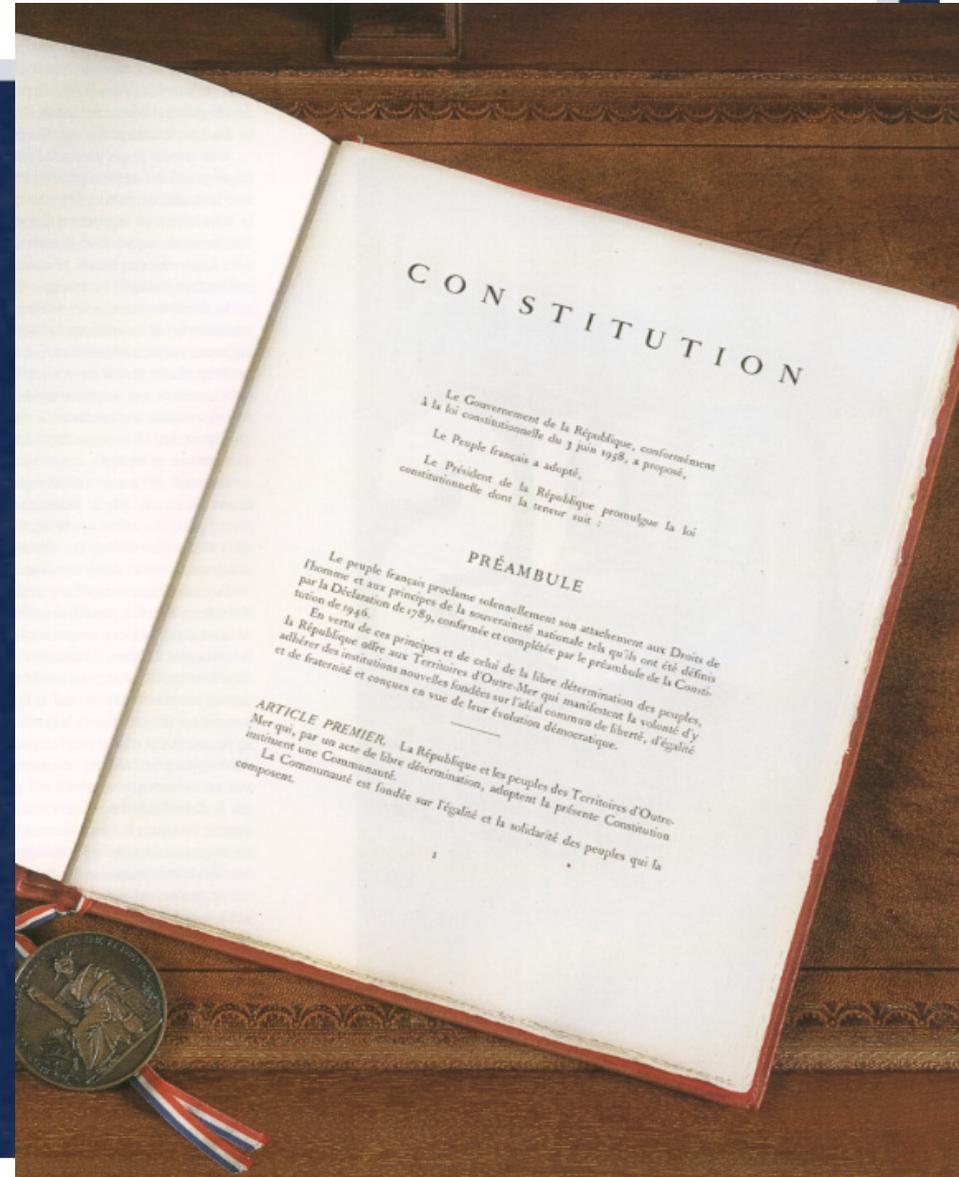


1958 CONSTITUTION

- Passed referendum



Le Général de Gaulle



POLITICAL SYSTEM

- The President
- The Prime Minister

- Parliament
- The National Assembly
- The Senate

POLITICAL SYSTEM

- * Unitary Republic (22 regions)
- * Semi-presidential System
- * Popularly Elected President
- * Popularly Elected Parliament
- * Prime Minister and Government appointed by president
 - They are formally responsible to National Assembly and informally responsible to president.

STATE

- * Unitary
- * Democratic
- * Republic
- * Elected President
- * Strong executive
- * Traditionally centralised administration

PRESIDENT'S POWER

- **Head of state**
- * appoints prime minister
- * appoints ministers
- * dissolves the National Assembly
- * submits legislation to referendum
 - on proposal of government or Parliament
- * emergency power (up to 6 months)
- * Commander-in-chief of the armed forces



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

- elected by absolute majority of votes
 - no presidential candidate has obtained the absolute majority on the first ballot
- if no candidate wins majority in first ballot
 - the top two candidates stand for election in a second runoff ballot

PRESIDENT & PRIME MINISTER

- * President appoints and chooses prime minister and other ministers
- * President chairs the Council of Ministers

PRESIDENT & PRIME MINISTER

- When president and majority of Parliament (thus prime minister) are from the same political party
 - prime minister is subordinate to president
- Cohabitation!!!
 - president and prime minister from different political parties
 - 1986 - 1988, 1993 - 1995, 1997 - 2002

LEGISLATURE

- Power of parliament was restricted by the 1958 Constitution of the Fifth Republic
- Two houses (Bicameral)
 - National Assembly (Lower House)
 - 577
 - Senate (Upper House)
 - 321



PARLIAMENT

- incompatibility clause
 - members of parliament have to give up their seats once appointed to a cabinet
- bloc (blocked) vote
 - National Assembly have to vote either for or against the government's draft as a whole
 - can not offer any amendments to the bill

SENATE

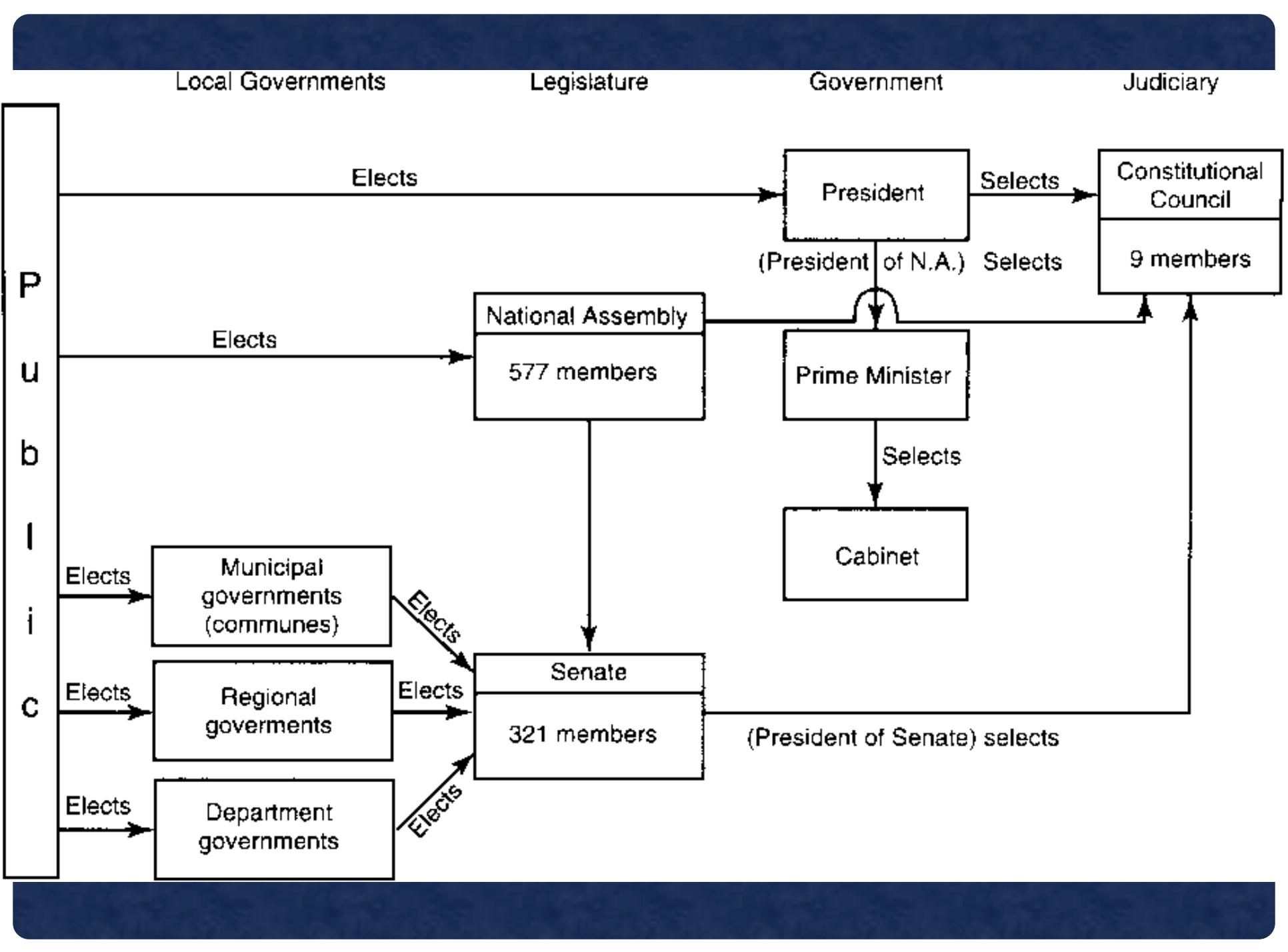
- Senators are indirectly elected by an electoral college
 - less than 50,000 people
 - municipal, departmental, and regional councils
 - rural constituencies are over-represented
- Senate can initiate legislation



SENATE

- Senate must consider all bills adopted by the National Assembly
- if the two houses disagree
 - government can appoint a joint committee to try to resolve the differences
 - government can re-submit the bill to the National Assembly for a definitive vote





NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

- Single-member district
 - 577 districts
- two-ballot system
 - if no candidate wins a majority, a second ballot is held one week later
 - any candidate winning at least 12.5% of the vote on the first ballot can run on the second
 - incentives for parties to develop electoral alliances

EXECUTIVE

- Dual Executive
 - President
 - Prime Minister
- Cohabitation
- Powerful
- Assisted by powerful and prestigious bureaucratic élite

POLITICAL CULTURE

- **Étatisme** - state centrality
- **Dirigisme** - state managed capitalism

Under de Gaulle's leadership, the state financed favored industrial sectors and firms, encouraged establishment of large companies

- **Nationalism**

Political Organization

Political System	Unitary republic. Semipresidential system; popularly elected president, popularly elected parliament, and prime minister and government appointed by president and responsible to National Assembly (as well as informally responsible to president).
Regime History	Frequent regime changes since the French Revolution of 1789. Most recently, a dictatorial regime based on Vichy collaborated with the Nazis during World War II; the Fourth Republic existed from 1946–1958; and the Fifth Republic, originating in 1958, has become universally accepted.
Administrative Structure	Unitary, with 22 regions and 100 departments.
Executive	Dual executive: president (five-year term); PM appointed by president, generally leader of majority coalition in National Assembly, and responsible to National Assembly (as well as informally responsible to president).
Legislature	Bicameral. Senate (upper house) has power to delay legislation passed by lower house and to veto proposed constitutional amendments. National Assembly (lower house) can pass legislation and force government to resign by passing a censure motion.
Judiciary	A system of administrative, criminal, and civil courts. At the top, a nine-member independent Constitutional Council named for nonrenewable nine-year terms; president of republic names three members, president of each house of parliament names three. The Constitutional Council exercises right of judicial review.
Party System	Multiparty. Principal parties: Socialist Party (PS); Union for a Popular Movement (UMP); minor parties: National Front (FN); Communist Party (PCF); Green Party; Mouvement Démocratique; and many others throughout the political spectrum.

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL - HYBRID SYSTEM

- The term *hybrid* generally refers to a system with a separately elected President who shares executive power with the Prime Minister.
 - The President usually has the constitutional power to select the Prime Minister.
 - If the constitution and/or political circumstances tend to place the emphasis on the powers of the President, it is sometimes termed a **semi-presidential** system.
 - If, on the other hand, the Prime Minister and the legislative leaders enjoy more power than the President does, it may be referred to as a **semi-parliamentary** system.

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL - HYBRID SYSTEM

- For political reasons, Presidents generally appoint leaders of the ruling coalition to the post of Prime Minister, although they are not required to do so constitutionally.
- The Prime Minister may or may not be a member of the President's political party, depending upon what party or coalition of parties maintains the majority in the legislature.

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL - HYBRID SYSTEM

- In the French system, the President has broad powers.
 - For example, the President nominates the Prime Minister and selects his own cabinet, over which he presides. The President, his cabinet and attending bureaucracy initiate and draft most legislation.
- The French President, like some others in hybrid systems, has some areas where his power is well defined, such as in the conduct of foreign affairs.
 - **The day to day running of the government is, however, left to the Prime Minister and Cabinet.**

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL - HYBRID SYSTEM

- Unlike in a parliamentary system, the legislature in France cannot force the resignation of the President.
- Rather, the President may dissolve the parliament's Lower House, the National Assembly (but not the upper house, Senate).
- Further, the President appoints, and can remove the Prime Minister, who is effectively the head of the cabinet and legislature.
- Similar to the parliamentary model, the National Assembly can also force the government (the Prime Minister and legislative leaders) to resign by passing a motion of censure.

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL - HYBRID SYSTEM

- Thus, in the French model, while the Prime Minister is vulnerable to removal from both the legislature and the President, the President cannot be removed prior to the end of his/her electoral term.

	UK – Westminster parliamentary	French Hybrid
<i>Who makes up the Executive Branch?</i>	Prime Minister ; PM and Cabinet elected by the majority party in the legislature. The Cabinet, or Ministers, are members of the legislature. A Hereditary Monarch is head of state (mostly ceremonial).	Separately elected President with strong powers chooses a Cabinet and Prime Minister who presides over the legislature. (The President resides over the Cabinet, who cannot be members of the legislature.)
<i>Can the legislature remove the executive, and vice-versa?</i>	The legislature dissolves the chief executive and cabinet through a vote of no confidence, forcing new parliamentary elections.	The legislature cannot remove the President, but can dissolve parliament, removing the Prime Minister and cabinet. The President can dissolve the lower house.
<i>Bodies involved in the legislative process?</i>	Upper: House of Lords Lower: House of Commons The government (Prime Minister, cabinet and bureaucracy) Occasionally bills referred to select committees for consultation.	Upper: Senate Lower: National Assembly President; Prime Minister and cabinet appointed by PM who sits in the legislature (can be MPs).
<i>Who Initiates Legislation?</i>	Executive and Both Houses, but MPs can't introduce bills that affect govt. spending or taxation. Can only amend on technical grounds. Executive-initiated bills take precedence over member bills.	Executive and both Houses, Appointed bodies, such as the Economic and Social commission make recommendations on drafting legislation. MPs cannot introduce any bill that raises or reduces expenditures. Executive-initiated bills take precedence over member bills.