



Comparing Asian Governments

India, China, & Japan



Republic of India

Democratic Federal Republic

Sansad Bhavan – India's Parliament Building



Executive Branch

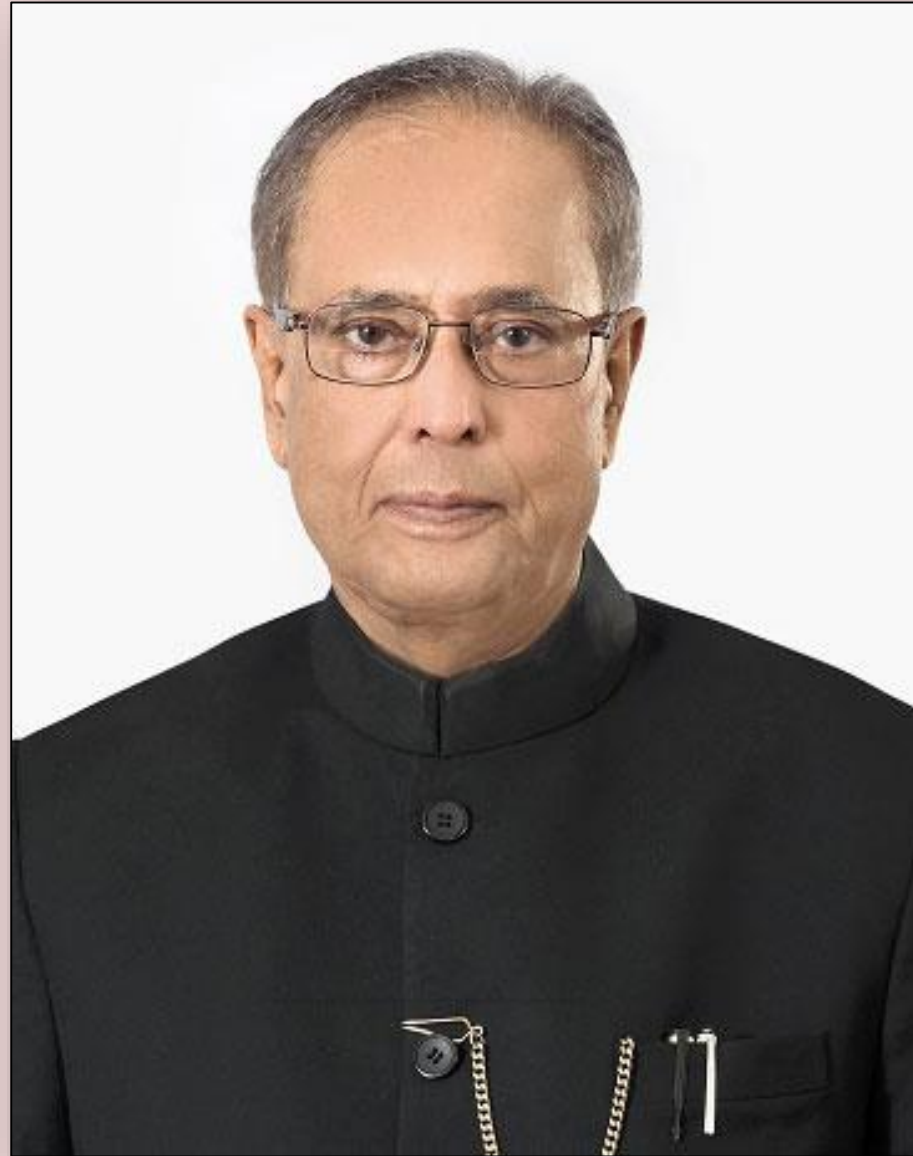
1. **Prime Minister:** holds the most political power; the prime minister is the head of government.
2. **President:** is the chief of state; mostly performs ceremonial duties (holds no real political power).

Manmohan Singh



India's Prime Minister

Pranab Mukherjee



India's President

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Prime Minister:** is the leader of the majority party in India's Parliament; indirectly elected by the Indian people.
- **President:** elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of Parliament and the legislatures of the states for a five-year term.

Inside Lok Sabha



Parliamentary Democracy

- Whichever political party has the most members in the legislature selects the Prime Minister.
- **This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!**
 - Parliamentary Democracy – legislature (Parliament) chooses Head of Government (Executive Leader)
- Citizens vote for members of Parliament, members choose the Prime Minister.

Role of the Citizen

- The Indian Constitution of 1950 granted many rights and personal freedoms to Indian citizens.
 - All Indians over the age of 18 are guaranteed the right to vote.
 - Indians also have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly.
 - They are also given the right to conserve their language and culture.

Voting lines in Delhi– December 2013





Japan

Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

Japan's Diet Building in Tokyo



Executive Branch

- **Emperor:** ceremonial position; holds no political power—power was limited by the constitution .
- **Prime Minister:** holds the most political power; the prime minister is the head of government.

Emperor Akihito



Shinzo Abe



Japan's Prime Minister

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Emperor:** hereditary position.
- **Prime Minister:** is the leader of the majority party in Japan's Diet (parliament); indirectly elected by the Japanese people.



議長席

議長席

大隈席

事務局長席

事務局長席

議長席

事務局長席

演壇

速記者席

Parliamentary Democracy

- Japan has a parliamentary democracy.
- Japanese citizens elect members of the House of Representatives.
 - The leader of the majority party of the House of Representatives becomes the Prime Minister.
 - The citizens indirectly elect the leader.

Role of the Citizen

- Japanese citizens can vote after age 20.
- Japan's constitution of 1947 established rights and personal freedoms for Japan's citizens, including freedom of speech and religion, equal rights for women, and equal education for all.

Voting in Japan – 2013





People's
Republic of
China

Communist State

Great Hall of the People in Beijing



Executive Branch

- **President:** head of state; largely a ceremonial office that holds little political power.
- **Premier:** head of government – highest ranking administrative official in China's government.

Xi Jinping



China's President

Li Keqiang



China's Premier

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected* by National People's Congress for a five-year term.
- **Premier:** nominated by the president and confirmed by the National People's Congress.
- *Chinese Communist Party is the only legal party, and officially sanctioned candidates run unopposed.

Great Hall of the People (National People's Congress Resides Here)



Oligarchy

- Oligarchy means “government by the few”.
 - A political party or group takes over a government and makes all decisions.
 - This type of government is similar to an autocracy.
- China’s government could be considered an oligarchic government because the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party control most of what goes on in the country.

Role of the Citizen

- China's communist government has a history of violating the personal freedoms of Chinese citizens by denying them basic rights such as freedom of speech and religion.
- Even though the constitution gives every person over 18 the right to vote, these rights are mostly meaningless because they are only allowed to vote for members of the Chinese Communist Party.
 - The government chooses the candidates and then dictates what they do once they are "elected".

Voting in China - 2012



South Korea

(Republic
Of Korea)

Presidential Democracy

Korean National Assembly Hall



Executive Branch

- **President:** Moon Jae-in
- **Prime Minister:** Lee Nak-yeon
- And their cabinet officers.

Moon Jae- in



South Korean President

Lee Nak-yoen



South Korean Prime Minister

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **President:** elected directly by citizens for one term of 5 years.
- **Prime Minister:** is appointed by the president and approved by the legislative branch

South Korean National Assembly



Role of the Citizen

- Citizens 19 and older can vote in presidential and legislative elections.



Voting in South Korea



North Korea

("Democratic" People's Republic
Of Korea)

Communist State

Central Committee of the Worker's Party



Executive Branch

- **Premier:** Pak Pong-ju
- **Supreme Leader:** Kim Jung Un

Kim Jung Un



North Korean Supreme Leader

Pak Pong-ju



North Korean Premier

How Leaders Are Chosen

- **Citizens have no voice, or vote, in selecting the country's leader. Leadership has passed from father to son for three generations. North Korea has a constitution that outlines the rights of its citizens, but this document is ignored.**
- **Elections are held in North Korea, but in March 2014 when Kim Jong-un was elected to power, there was no one running against him.**

South Korean National Assembly



Role of the Citizen

- Citizens have no voice, or vote, in selecting the country's leader.
- If people speak out against their government their lives may be in danger.

Voting in North Korea

