

# Module 1: Government Foundations

## Topic 2 Content: Distribution of Power

### Introduction



**Demi Tracy:** Welcome to another episode of WUSG News. On today's program, we will join our foreign correspondent, Emily Airheart, with her segment, *Global Guide*.

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### Global Guide Introduction

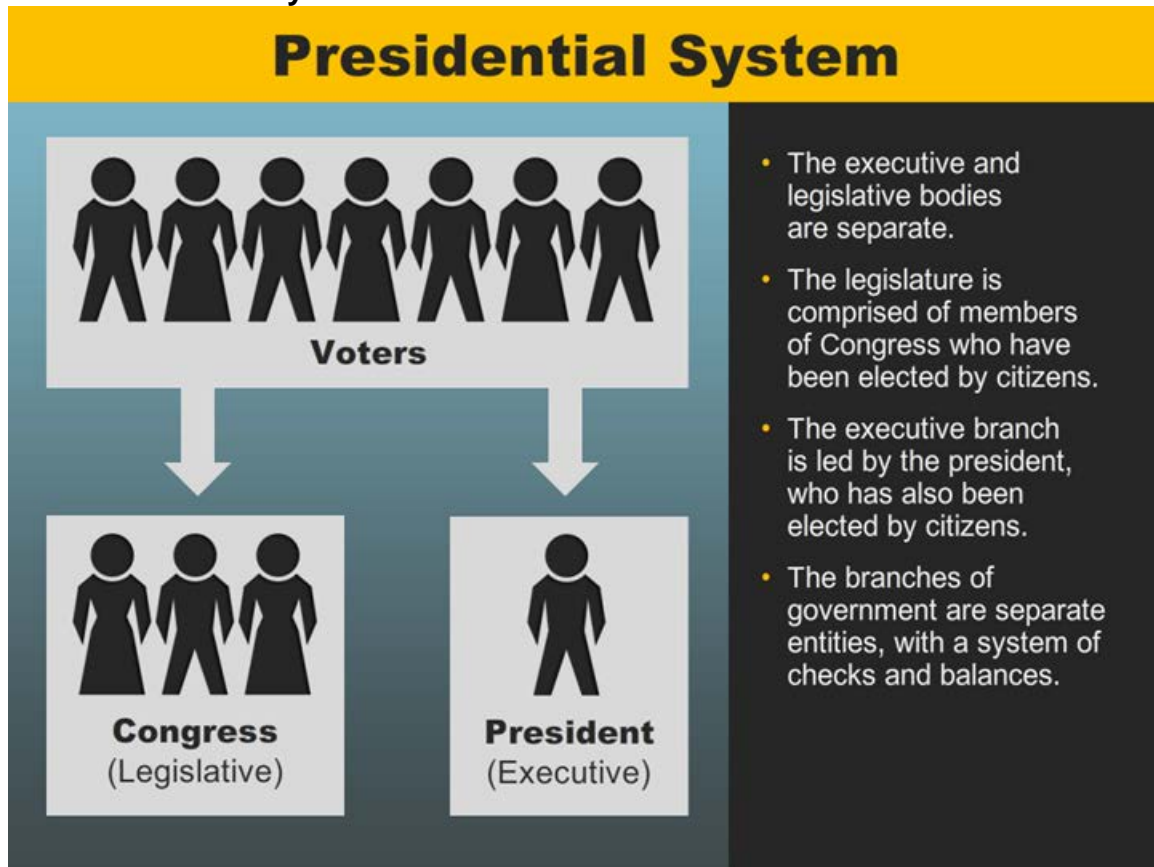


**Emily Airheart:** I'm Emily Airheart! Welcome to *Global Guide*. Throughout history, some governments have used their power to create and enforce harsh laws that oppressed members of their societies. The people, especially those in nations with social contracts, desired for power to be distributed between the bodies of government, in order to prevent misuse of power. Governments often use the following systems in order to meet this need.

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### The Presidential System



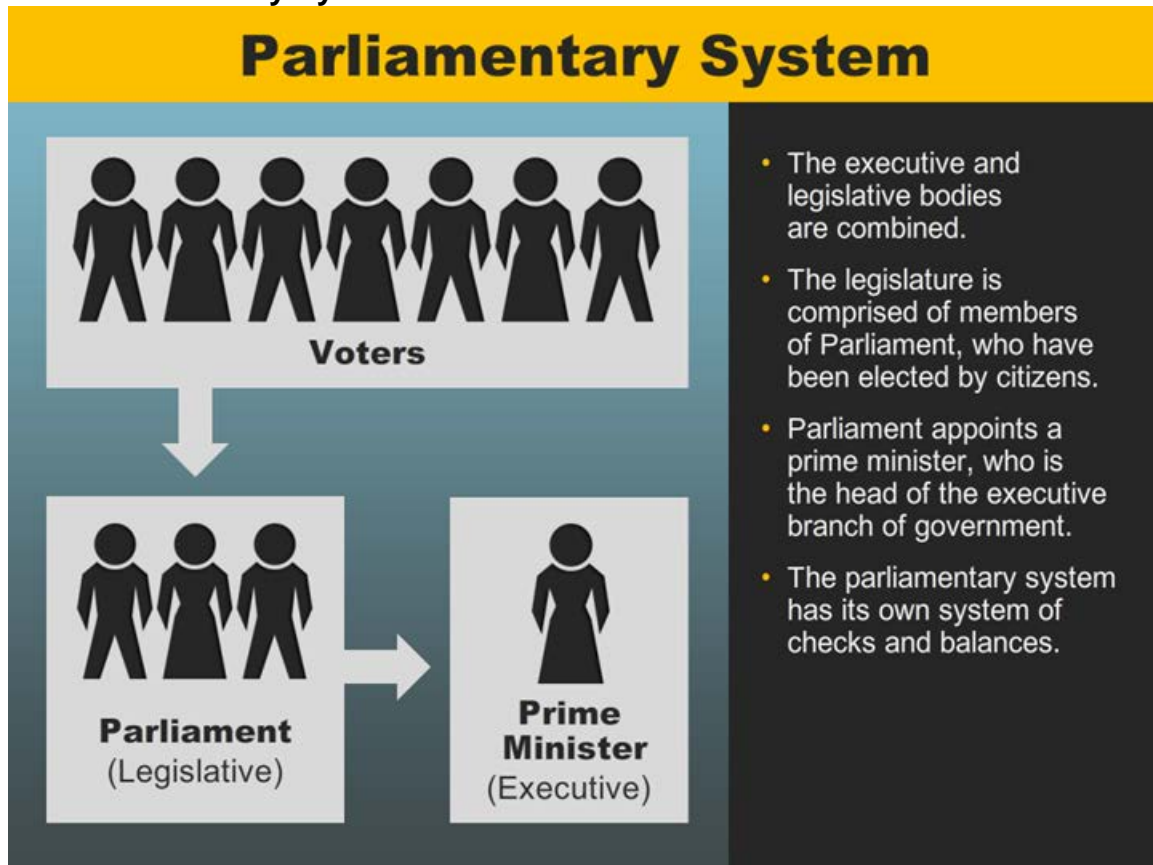
**Emily Airheart:** In a presidential system, the legislative and executive bodies are separate. In the United States for example, the people elect Congress, the legislative branch of government. The executive branch is led by the president, who has also been elected by the people. These separate entities have different powers in government, in an effort to ensure that neither branch retains too much authority.

Along with the distribution of powers, a system of checks and balances is used to prevent the abuse of power. For example, Congress has the power to create laws, but presidents have the power to veto laws. Presidents can appoint members of their cabinets, but Congress must approve those appointments.

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### The Parliamentary System



**Emily Airheart:** In a parliamentary system, the legislative and executive bodies are combined. For example, in the United Kingdom, the people elect the members of legislature, known as Parliament. The people, however, do not elect the prime minister, who is the leader of the executive branch of government. Parliament appoints one of its own members to serve as prime minister.

The U.K. also uses a system of checks and balances in order to distribute power between the legislative and executive bodies. For example, the prime minister has the authority to disband Parliament and call for elections of new members, but Parliament can vote to remove the prime minister, who will be forced to resign, along with all of his or her appointed cabinet members.

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### Global Guide Conclusion



**Emily Airheart:** In this episode, we were able to see how governments distribute their power among their branches. Whether a nation distributes its power using a presidential system, like the U.S., or a parliamentary system, like the U.K., checks and balances can always be used to prevent abuse of power. Thank you for joining me on *Global Guide*. Back to you, Glover and Demi.

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**Ending of the Episode**



**Glover Mint:** Thank you for joining us for this episode of WUSG News. I'm Glover Mint with Demi Tracy. See you next time!