

# Why Government?

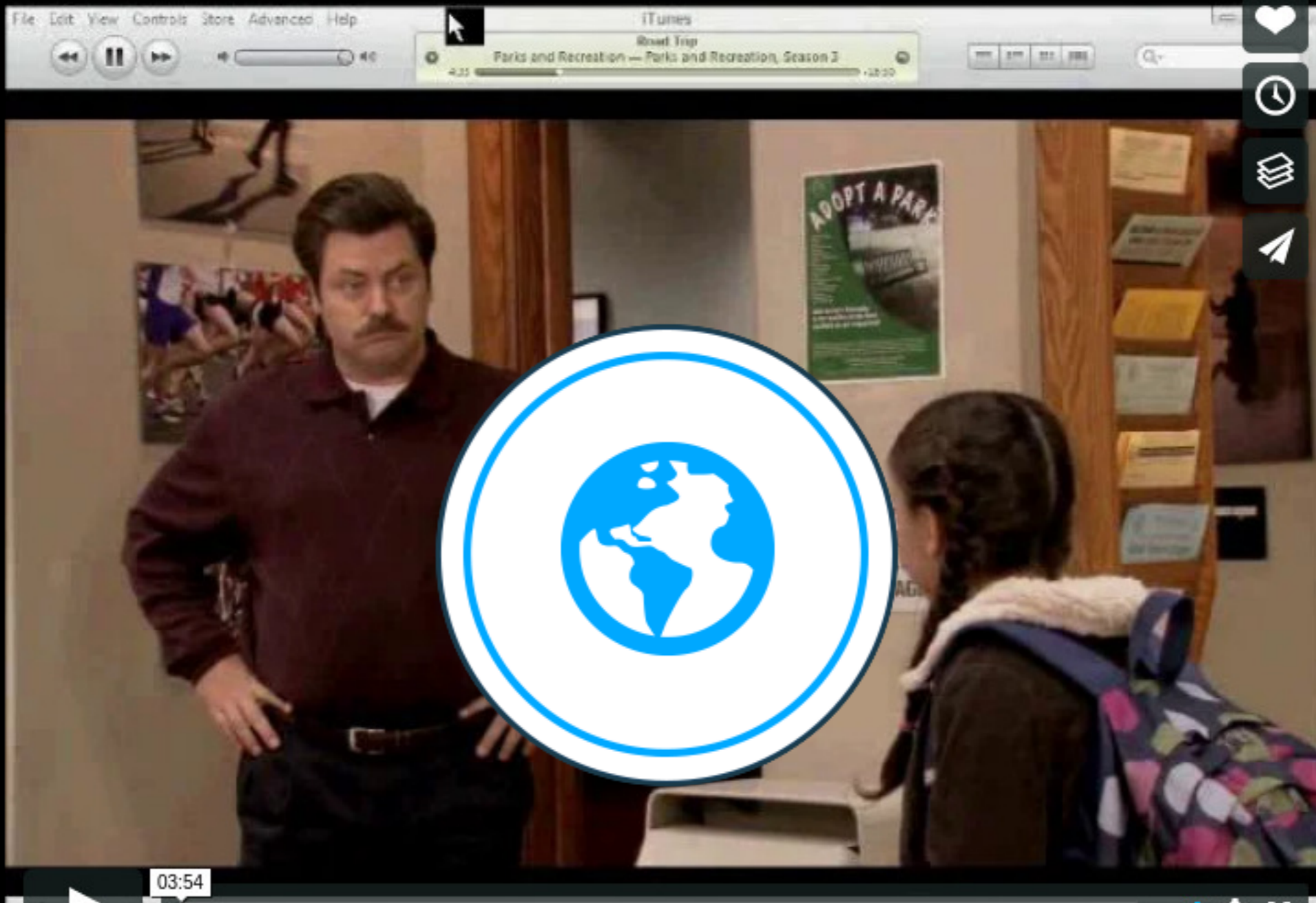
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PLSC 1

# Road map

- Why do we have government?
- What does it do?
- How do we structure it?
- Why engage?



<https://vimeo.com/24554205>

# Ron Swanson explains taxes

8 years ago



pedro babiak

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Why do we have government?

**Collaborate!**

**Why do we have government?**



What does government do?

**Collaborate!**

**What does government do?**

# Goals of Collective Action

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

# Politics

“Gaining and exercising control (power) within a government for the purpose of setting and achieving particular goals, especially those related to the division of resources within a nation” (Krutz, 10)



How could we organize the government?

**Collaborate!**

**How could we organize government?**



# Types of Government

- Direct Democracy
- Representative Democracy
- Oligarchy
- Monarchy
- Totalitarian State

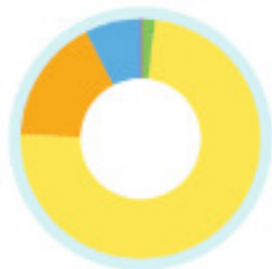
# Poll

## Which of the following is the BEST form of government?

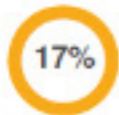
- Direct democracy
- Representative democracy
- Oligarchy
- Monarchy
- Totalitarian regime

# Type of Government

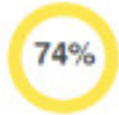
Poll Stats



No Answer



Direct democracy



Representative democracy



Oligarchy



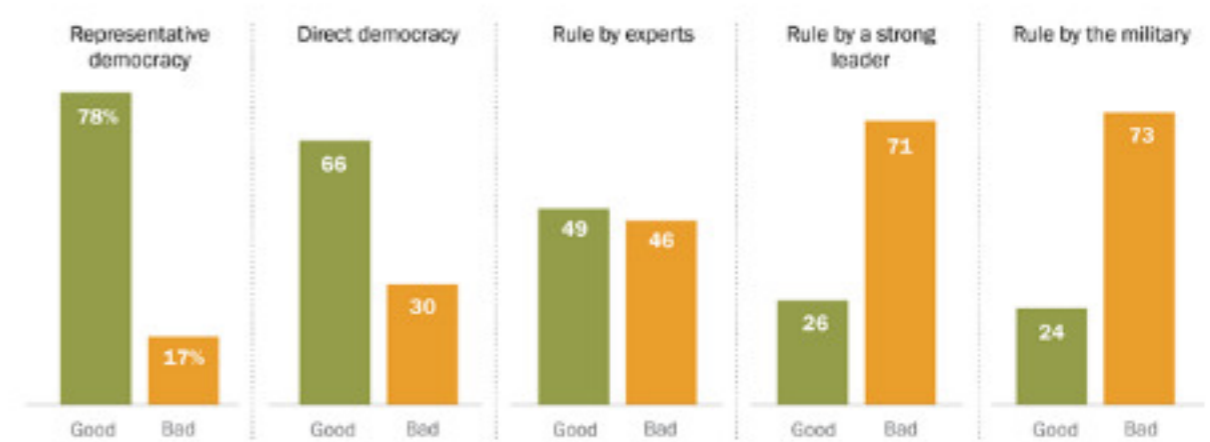
Monarchy



Totalitarian regime

## Widespread support for representative and direct democracy, but many are also open to nondemocratic alternatives

Would \_\_\_ be a good or bad way of governing our country?



Note: Percentages are global medians based on 38 countries. Full question wordings for political systems: Representative democracy, "A democratic system where representatives elected by citizens decide what becomes law"; Direct democracy, "A democratic system where citizens, not elected officials, vote directly on major national issues to decide what becomes law"; Rule by experts, "Experts, not elected officials, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country"; Rule by a strong leader, "A system in which a strong leader can make decisions without interference from parliament or the courts"; Rule by the military, "The military rules the country."

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# Govt-Economy

Government and economic systems are not the same, though there may be overlapping principles

## Capitalism

Private ownership of the means of production and profits

## Socialism

Public ownership of the means of production and redistribution of profits

# Govt-Economy

The two are, however, interconnected

## Private Goods



## Public Goods



# How Do We Distinguish Public-Private?



Source: John L. Mikesell. 2014. *Fiscal Administration: Analysis and Applications for the Public Sector*, 9th ed. Boston: Wadsworth.

**Figure 1.3** One can distinguish between different types of goods by considering who has access to the goods (excludable/non-excludable) and how many people can access the good at the same time (rivalrous/non-rivalrous).<sup>2</sup>

# Who Has Power?

## Elitism

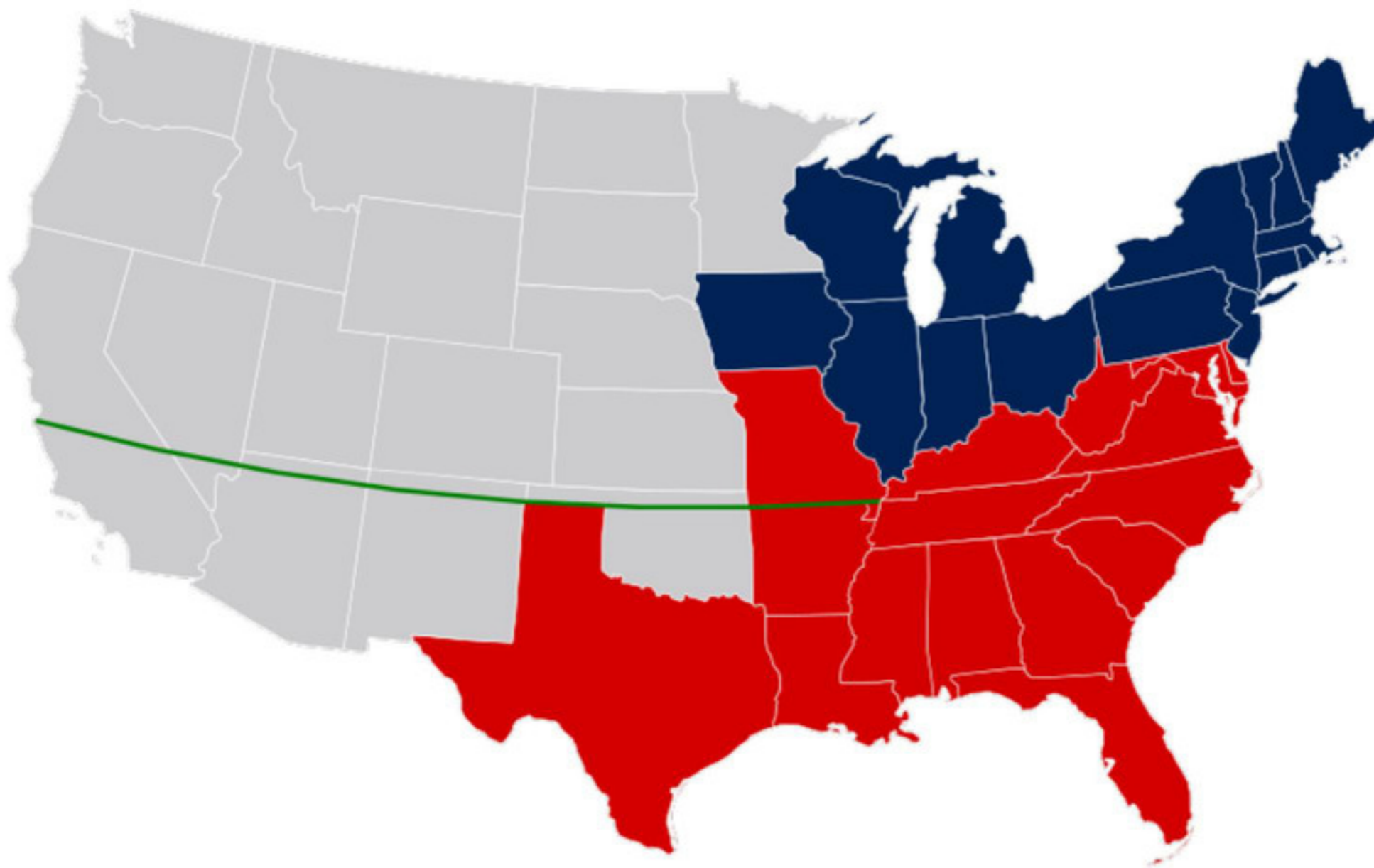
Elites have the power and use it to their advantage at the expense of non-elites

## Pluralism

Political power is distributed throughout society, interests compete, elites responsive to retain office



# Compromise



# Open Ended Question

**Is civic engagement necessary for a successful democracy? Why or why not?**

# Civic Engagement

- Voting
- Protest
- Donations
- Campaigning
- Contacting Officials
- Op-Eds
- Volunteering

# Questions?



**Figure:** Q&A by [Libby Levi](#), CC BY-SA 2.0