Basic Regime Types (According to Western Comparative Politics & Julian's understanding)

NOTE that since the post-Cold War "Third Wave of Democratization," democracy is nearly universally recognized as "a good thing" and "the best" or even the only legitimate regime type, so virtually all modern regimes consider themselves (and declare themselves to be) democratic (consulting, responding to, and being accountable to citizens, with good governance "by and for the people"). Republics, voting, signing petitions, the title of "President," as well as other ostensibly democratic traits and practices are nearly universal in the 21st century. Western political scientists nonetheless set standards and judge the extent to which (or whether) popular political participation actually influences leadership and public policy decisions and how liberal or illiberal political institutions are. The sub-subfield of political development generally assumes a teleological march of progress towards (liberal) democracy, though the 21st century has cast doubt on its universal applicability. Your questions and objections are more than welcome!

"Socialism with Chinese Characteristics" Where does it fit, if anywhere? This handout withholds judgment and acknowledges the discomfort (at best) and wholesale rejection and condemnation of this typology as Euro-centric, inaccurate, and perpetuating the myth of the separability of politics and economics, the universality of Western labels and/or capitalism (at worst).

Regime Type

Leadership

Political Participation (of citizens)

Other

Totalitarian

(Likely charismatic) Dictator with (near) absolute power, cult of personality & multiple exalted titles

(may continue after death)

Role of Ideology Very Strong (can't be opposed)official, Utopian, revolutionary

> Mandatory/coerced. "mass movements" & campaigns require enthusiastic, active popular participation. **EVERYTHING** in life is political because it is politicized (related to the ideology).

Rare in the 21st century, considered unstable and unsustainable. Often used as a pejorative for any non-democratic regime ruled by a dictator.

<----Non-Democracies

Authoritarian

Usually a dictator, but also possibly rule "by committee" such as a "selectorate" of elites/oligarchs.

Ouch reduced or absent/insincere/ half-hearted lip service to it. Also personalism, nationalism, pragmatism, "restoring stability-ism" for GDP growth

Unnecessary or even discouraged. Society is de-politicized, Leaders say. "Just leave politics to us and go about your everyday lives apolitically." Passive subjects > active citizens Patriotism and nationalism in support of the regime/leader are tolerated and sometimes encouraged.

Sometimes post-totalitarian, sultanist, autocratic. Generally used as a synonym for "non-democratic" in 21st century, especially as threat for democracies to regress into or towards. as when an head of state abuses or just consolidates power. Increasingly modified by political science with labels such as "benevolent, popular, light, etc." Includes military juntas, especially those who seize power after a coup to "restore order" temporarily.

Democracies ---->

Illiberal Democracy

Elected president or Prime Mi ni ster

Unnecessary/ Vari ed

Voting is necessary for the system to function.

Criticized as "incomplete" or "imperfect democracy. Most likely lacks full freedoms (of press, speech, religion, etc.). Some political scientists still insist that only the liberal form is "real" democracy and will at most grudgprocedurally qualified.

Liberal (Western) Democracy

President or Prime Minister with limited powers, term limits, elected under conditions of Dahl's polyarchy. Executive

Branch co-equal w/ Legislative & Judicial

(Strong) Capitalism &/or "Socialist Democracy"

Voting is necessary for the system to function but should be optional. Peaceful protests are expressions of freedom and allowed or encouraged.

Criticized by Marxists & socialists as "bourgeois democracy". All countries in "The West" are included & the reason why Japan, S.Korea, etc. are "Western countries". Assumed to have high legitimacy even if the economy is weak or current leadership is unpopular. Divided further ingly admit these are into liberal and populist ideal types. Requires the provision of 2nd-order, "civil & political" human rights and freedoms.

On this side, regimes are considered democratic, their elections "free & fair"

On this side of the pink line regimes are considered non-democratic. Elections are a sham, a show, rigged, or otherwise illegitimate.