

Essential Question: How is a federal-republican system different from a dictatorship?

Standard:

SS6CG2a. Compare the federal-republican systems of the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil) and the United Mexican States (Mexico) to the dictatorship of the Republic of Cuba (Cuba).

Governments of Latin America

Before we begin our studies of specific governments of Latin America, let's review some important concepts.

Form of Leadership

Head of State:

Leader of a country who represents the state at official and ceremonial functions, but who may not be involved with the day-to-day activities of the government.

Head of Government:

A country's top administrative leader who is designated to manage the day-to-day activities of the government.

Form of Leadership

Head of State



Head of Government



Governments of Latin America

What is the Legislature?

The Law making body of government. For the U.S., it is Congress [House of Representatives and the Senate].

Governments of Latin America

**Brazil and Mexico both have
Presidential Democracies**



Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil)

Form of Leadership in Brazil

- ☞ Brazil has a **President** who is both the head of state and head of government
- ☞ The President is elected by **popular vote**
- ☞ The Bicameral National Congress (legislature with two houses) members are also elected.

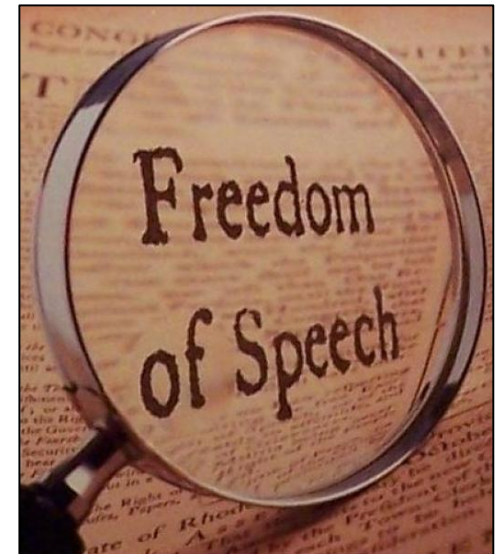
Role of Citizens in Brazil

☞ Citizens vote to elect both the President and the members of the Legislature

☞ Voting is mandatory between the ages of 18-70 (voluntary between the ages of 16-18 and over 70).

Personal Freedoms in Brazil

- ☞ People can work where they want or start a business [free trade and free enterprise].
- ☞ Citizens enjoy personal freedoms like freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.



**United Mexican
States (Mexico)**

Form of Leadership in Mexico

- ☞ Mexico has a **President who is both the head of state and head of government**
- ☞ The President is elected by **popular vote**
- ☞ The Bicameral National Congress (legislature with two houses) members are also elected.

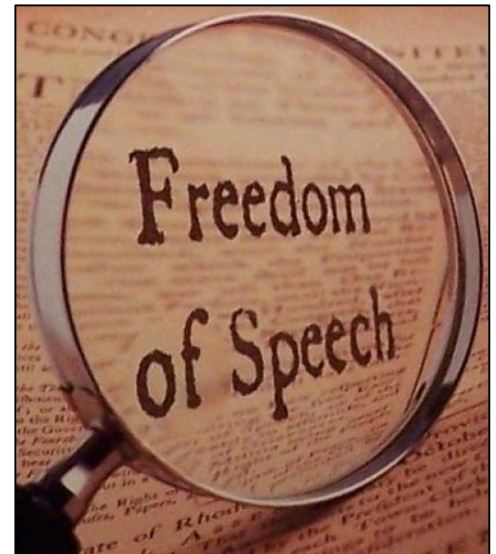
Role of Citizens in Mexico

☞ Citizens vote to elect both the President and the members of the Legislature

☞ Voting is mandatory for citizens over the age of 18 (but it is not enforced)

Personal Freedoms in Mexico

- ☞ People can work where they want or start a business [free trade and free enterprise].
- ☞ Citizens enjoy personal freedoms like freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.



Republic of Cuba (Cuba)

Governments of Latin America

Cuba is a dictatorship in which the ruler has absolute power (not restricted by a constitution of laws). It is an autocracy!

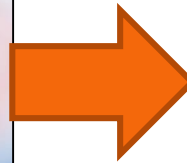


Form of Leadership in Cuba

- ∞ Cuba says they hold elections but they are rigged
- ∞ Cuba has a President who is both the chief of state and head of government.
- ∞ The President (dictator) is technically elected by the Unicameral National Assembly (legislature with one house). The last election was held in 2008.

Form of Leadership in Cuba

Fidel Castro ruled Cuba from 1959 to 2008. When he stepped down his brother Raul became ruler. Raul passed the power to Miguel Díaz-Canel in 2019.



Form of Leadership in Cuba

Cuba's official name is the Republic of Cuba. Why is this misleading?



Form of Leadership in Cuba

☞ The members of the Legislature are those officially sanctioned (approved) by **Cuba's Communist Party.** They run for office unopposed (no one runs against them)

Role of Citizens in Cuba

- ☞ Citizens can “vote” at the age of 16 for members of the Legislature.
- ☞ However, citizens can only vote for candidates selected by the Communist Party.

Personal Freedoms in Cuba

- ✎ Cuba's citizens **do not have personal freedoms** like freedom of speech.
- ✎ They can be **put in jail for criticizing the Communist Party** or the president.
- ✎ People cannot just work where they want to work or open their own business.

Think about...how has Cuba's
current government
contradicted the purpose of the
Cuban Revolution???

Use this summarizer/ fill in the blank to summarize your government understanding

Governments of Latin America Summarizer

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Based on my knowledge of the governments of Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba, I would MOST prefer to live in _____ because [include forms of leadership and the role of the citizen in your explanation] _____

Based on my knowledge of the governments of Brazil, Mexico, and Cuba, I would LEAST prefer to live in _____ because [include forms of leadership and the role of the citizen in your explanation] _____

In which country would you prefer to be a leader? Why? _____

In which country is it worse to be citizen? Why? _____

Access to forms for summary

[Forms link click HERE 😊](#)