**Comparing Presidential, Parliamentary and Hybrid Systems**

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|  | **Presidential** | **Parliamentary** (sometimes called “the Westminster System) | **Hybrid** |
| definition | Regime has a President who is **directly elected** by the citizens for a **specified term**, and the regime (system) illustrates the concept of separation of power; it is **possible** in this system that the executive and the legislature are dominated by different political parties; president has no authority to remove members of the legislature; ex’s – U.S. & Mexico & Nigeria | Regime has an executive (**Prime Minister**) that is **elected from among the members of the legislature;** general elections must be held within certain specified periods of time BUT the majority party can call elections at an earlier time if desired; PM and the majority party in the legislature are the one and the same; majority party gets to select the PM; in this system the PM can be removed by (1) by a vote of “**no confidence**” and (2) or by party **caucus** (a vote INSIDE the majority political party); es’s – U.K. & China; Thailand & most of W. Eur. | Regime with Both a **directly-elected** (by the citizens for a specified term) **President** and a **Prime Minister** in which the President selects the Prime Minister and can also remove the PM BUT where the President and the PM share power; two types – semi-presidential (focus of authority is on the President) & semi-parliamentary(focus of authority is n the PM and the parliament); President typically does major law enforcement (treaties, commander-in-chief of armed forces, etc) whereas the PM typically does the day-to-day running of the country; President & PM are often from the same party but this is not a requirement – sometimes a President SHOULD choose a PM from the oppose  tion party |
| term | President elected for certain set amount of time completely separate from the legislature | Term of Parliament happens between every General Election; PM’s term depends on votes of confidence in the legislature | President elected for certain set amount of time completely separate from the legislature  +  Term of Parliament happens between every General Election; PM’s term depends on votes of confidence in the legislature |
| removing the executive? | Can only be removed from office if SUCCESSFULLY impeached; impeachment proceedings are commonly heard by the legislature | PM can be removed under two circumstances: PM can be removed by (1) by a vote of “**no confidence**” and (2) or by party **caucus** (a vote INSIDE the majority political party) | President Can only be removed from office if SUCCESSFULLY impeached; impeachment proceedings are commonly heard by the legislature  +  President can remove a PM OR PM can be removed by (1) by a **“motion of censure”** and (2) or by party **caucus** (a vote INSIDE the majority political party) |
| dissolving the legislature? | **No**, president has no authority to remove members of the legislature | No, PMs cannot do this, only the legislature can call for new electiosn and hence “dissolve” itself | President has power to dissolve the LOWER HOUSE of a **bi-cameral** legislature |