

Strand	Time, Continuity and Change
Sub strand	Government and Governance
Content Learning Outcome	Explore the different types of Government.

TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

Tradition and Democracy

Introduction

- Fiji is a unique nation with its own tradition and culture that governs the various chiefdoms ruling over villages, clans and sub-clans.
- The arrival of the European missionaries, traders and settlers brought a new government system.
- This eventually materialized when Fiji was ceded to Great Britain in **1874**, and made formal in the independence ceremony in **1970**.
- It marked the consolidation of democratic rule in Fiji and the practice of democratic values.
- On other hand, the traditional chiefdoms still exists and continue to be valued but its dominance has begun to subside.
- Today in Fiji it is still unique to see the co-existence of traditional governing system with democracy.
- At the same time this is a major cause of confusion, controversy and debate in the multiethnic society since people have to choose which to value more democracy or tradition.

<u>Types of Government</u>	
1. Democratic Government	The word "democracy" literally means "rule by the people." In a democracy, the people govern. The people choose their leader through an election.
2. Republic	A state not ruled by a monarch. The head of state is usually a president. All "democracies" are really republics.
3. Monarchy	A state ruled by a monarch. A monarchy consists of rule by a king or queen. Sometimes a king is called an "emperor," especially if there is a large empire, such as China before 1911. There are no large monarchies today.

4. Aristocracy	A state ruled by the aristocrats. Aristocrats became rulers through birth and family connections.
5. Dictatorship	A dictatorship consists of rule by one person or a group of people. Very few dictators admit they are dictators; they almost always claim to be leaders of democracies. The dictator may be one person, such as Fidel Castro in Cuba or Muammar Gaddafi in Libya.
6. Democratic republic	The term democratic republic is misleading. It is often not democratic and not a republic. For example the democratic republic of North Korea is not democratic.
7. Chiefdom	A traditional form of government. For example, Ratu Seru Cakobau was Chief of the Kubuna confederacy. Today there are paramount Chiefs who are leaders of their province. A Chiefdom is led by an individual known as a Chief.

Activity

1. Identify a country that was once under dictatorial rule.

2. Differentiate between democracy and Fiji’s traditional government.

3. Briefly discuss what type of government shown in the picture below and name one country that has this type of government.



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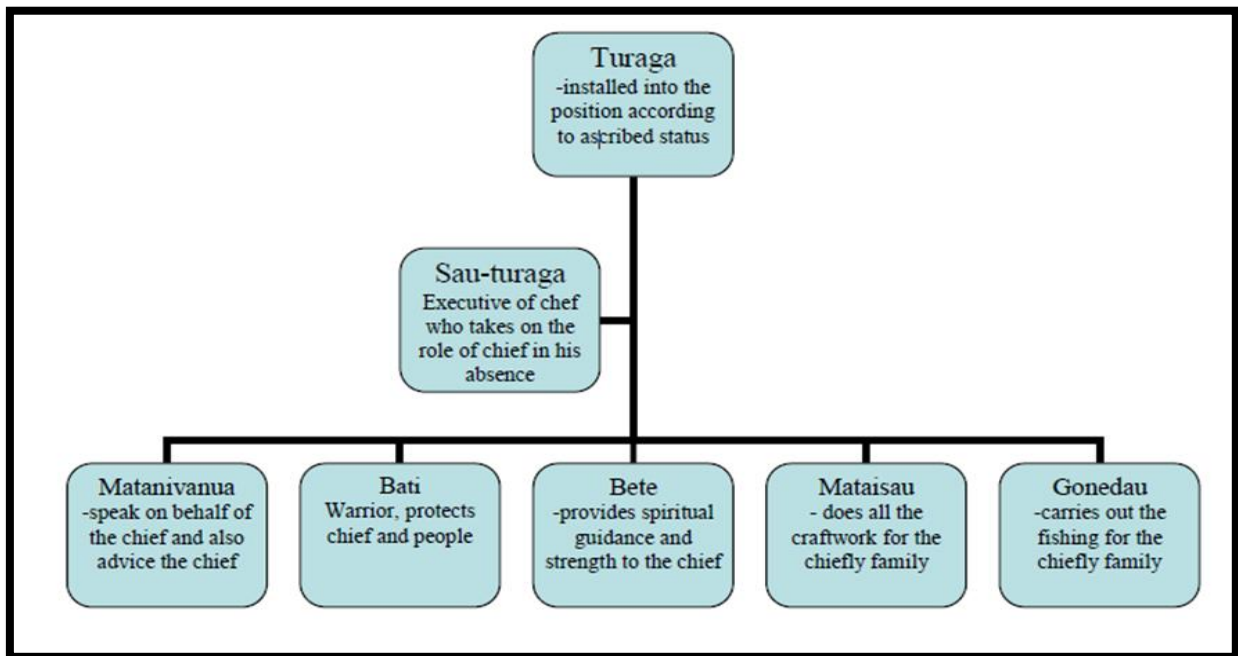
TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

Tradition and Democracy

Traditional Government – Fiji

- The early Fijian society has its own unique governing system referred to as **chiefdoms**.
- The leader is not elected nor can be voted out since he or she has **ascribed** right to the position.
- The hierarchical structure of the traditional Fijian society entails the governing machinery.
- Chiefdom has an authoritarian governing system where the chief directs all the welfare of the chiefdom.

Below is a skeleton structure of the Chiefdom.



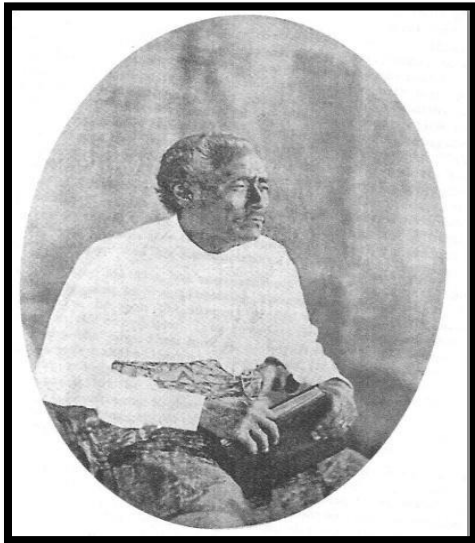
- The social structure outlined above actually puts the chiefs’ command in to actions.
- Failure to carry out commands of the chief resulted **in severe punishment such as exile, banishments or even death.**

The arrival of Explorers, Traders, Whaler, Missionaries and Early European Settlers.

1. Chiefs were empowered with guns and became affluent with modern materials.

2. One chiefdom was the Vanua o Bau (Kingdom of Bau) which had rivalry with Enele Ma'afu of Tonga whose dominance was extended from Northern Lau to Vanua Levu. These two chiefs aspired to dominate Fiji. The status of all chiefs was recognized in the colonial administration.
3. The process of transition from traditional chiefdom to democratic government took place in the **1800s and eventually materialized in 1874.**
4. **On 10th March, 1874 an interim colonial government was set up pending negotiations for the ceding of Fiji to Great Britain.**
5. Fiji was ceded to Great Britain on **10th October, 1874 at Nasova in Levuka.**
6. Since 1874 Fiji had been governed through **indirect colonial rule with representative government mostly dominated by Europeans.**
7. The natives were governed through the Fijian Administration but were represented by Europeans in the representative government. **In this government there was an executive council and a legislative council whose members are nominated by the Governor.**

Enele Ma'afu



Rt. Seru Cakobau



Source: Government and Governance pg 9

Activity

1. Define the term ascribed.

2. What were the two bodies of Fijian Administration and who elected its members?

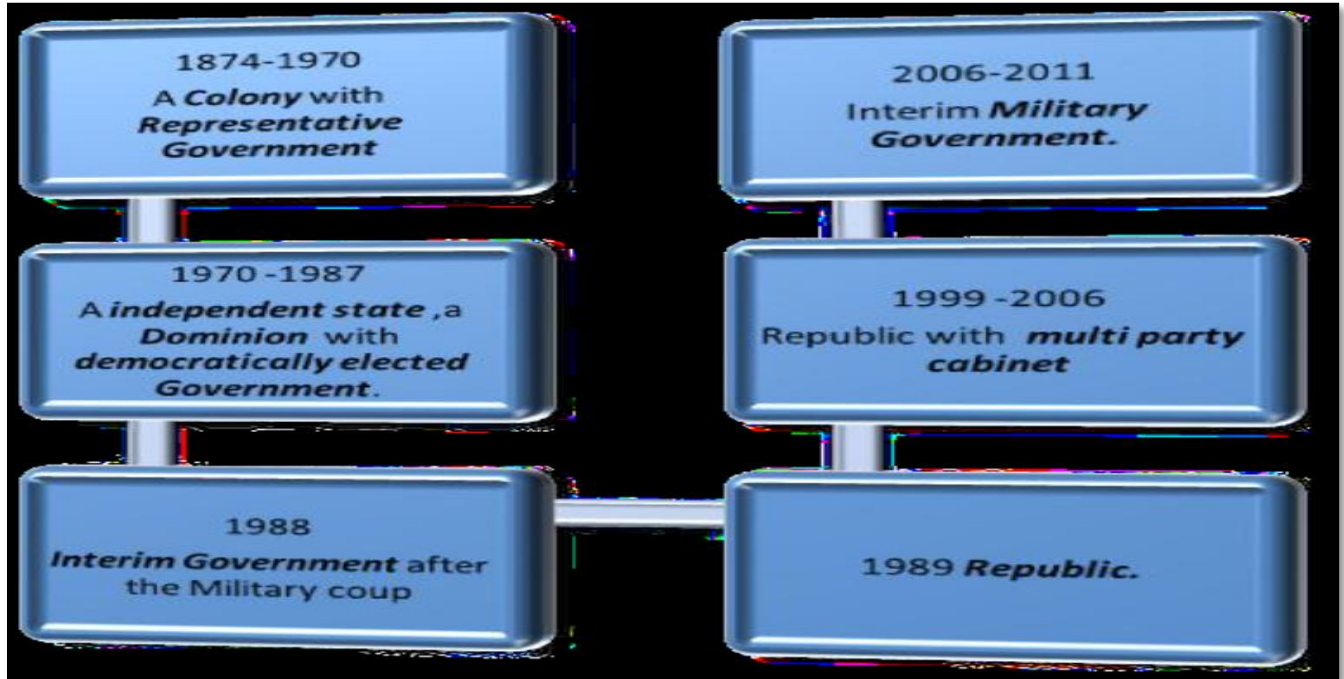
3. What would happen to the people, if they failed to carry out the chief's commands?

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TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

Democratic Government in Fiji

Political changes that took place from 1874-1970



1987

- The 1987 election was won by the **National Federation Party-Fiji Labour Party Coalition**, and they were able to form a government through the leadership of **Doctor Timoci Bavadra**, who was sworn in as Prime Minister on the **13th of April 1987**.
- Just past a month later, on the **14th of May 1987**, the Coalition government came to an end through the coups that were led by Major Sitiveni Rabuka.
- After another coup in September, an **interim government was set up**.

Political Changes

Year	Political Changes
1904	Constitutional changes which resulted in governor becoming the commander in chief with enlargement of the legislative council. Legislative Council -1904 had 6 elected members (Elected by voters who are engaged in Agriculture, producing sugar and earns more than £120/year) and 2 Fijian (iTaukei) members (Nominated by the Council of Chiefs).
1910	3 electoral divisions were set up for the Legislative Council.
1914	Official member of the Legislative Council raised to 11 and 7 elected members.
1916	Legislative Council was enlarged to 12 nominated officials of whom one was an Indian. However both Indian and native do not have the right to
	vote. This was a source of grievance for the Indians who strongly felt that their democratic rights needed to be recognized because of their significant population.
1929	Indians were finally allowed to vote with an enlarged Legislative Council. 13 nominated members, 6 elected European members, 3 Fijian members and 3 Indian Elected members. The Indian members began to pursue election based on common roll .
1937	Enlargement of the Legislative Council to a size that remained until 1936. Sixteen official members, five European member, five Fijian member still chosen by Great Council of Chiefs, and five Indian members (2 elected, 3 nominated). In 1937. The colonial government began to expand its role in providing better service. From the sixteen official members three were drafted automatically in important Government position to ensure good governance – a Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary and Attorney General.
1954	The appointment of Speaker to the legislative council, a role used to be carried out by the Governor General. This was the appointment of Rt. Sir Lala Sukuna as the first speaker of the legislative council.
1963	The Legislative council was enlarged again. There were 19 Official members and 18 unofficial members. The 18 unofficial members included 4 elected Fijians, 4 elected Europeans, 4 elected Indians (who were elected based on common roll). In addition to that were nominees, 2 Indian, 2 European, and 2 Fijians nominated by GCC

Note: **communal roll** - vote for a candidate of their own respective ethnic groups.

Common roll - vote for any candidate regardless of race.

Activity

1. What is a Legislative Council and name the first Speaker of the Legislative Council in Fiji?
2. When did the Indian community of Fiji gain their right to elect members of the Legislative Council?
3. What major constitutional changes happened to the Legislative Council in 1963?