

TYPES OF PARTY SYSTEM

There are mainly three categories of Party system:

One-Party System

The one-party system or single party system is ruled by only one party; there is

no opposition. This authoritarian principle was first found in monarchies and later in a dictatorship, and now this system exists in a few democratic countries.

However, elections are conducted even in such regimes only to show the façade

of popular support, the voter's choice is limited to only one candidate. The essential function of the one-party system is not to elicit decisions from the mass

electorate on the issues concerning people, but to ensure discipline and obedience

among them. In a system ruled by single party, the governance is marked the

system totalitarian and that curtails democratic rights:the hand of the ruling party

or king. In many cases, this system involves the abolition of the freedom of speech and expression, press and associations. In this system, there is no opposition, in terms of opposition party or other means of opposing voice against

the ruling government. China has a One-party System.

Two-Party System

A two-party system is one where only two parties, despite the presence of other

parties, have substantial support of the electorate. One of them is ruling party,

another opposition. It depends on which party gets majority in elections. The

United States and the United Kingdom are examples of the two-party system. In

the US, the Democratic and Republican parties are main parties, and in the UK,

are the Labour Party and the Conservative Party are two main parties.

Multi-Party System

Multi-party system indicates existence of several parties in a political system.

India and many European countries have a multi-party system. In a multi-party

system, several parties come together to form a coalition government and adopt

a common minimum programme for governance. The multi-party system is of

two types: unstable and working. The unstable party system does not provide

stability, and the best example of this system can be seen in India during 1996-

98. The working multi-party system behaves like a two-party system and thereby

tends to provide stability to the government, even though they have more than

two major political parties. The multiparty system promotes the coalition government, and since the 1990s India has been governed by the coalition governments. The drawback of this system is that the members of the Council of

Ministers instead of working under the leadership of the Prime Minister seek

guidance from their party heads, and even a single Member of Parliament tries to

blackmail or manipulate government by threatening to withdraw its support.

Government instability is a major problem in this kind of party system.