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**MINISRRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ABDELHAMIDE IBN BADIS -MOSTAGNEM**  
**FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUGAES**  
**FILIERE ENGLISH**



**MASTER**  
**LITERATEUR & CIVILICATION ANGLO -SAXONN**

**Political System of the United Kingdom vs. the United States**  
**(2010-2015)**

Dissertation Submitted of the Department of foreign Language  
In Practical Fulfillment of the Master in English

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**2016-2017**

## **Dedication**

- ❖ I dedicate my dissertation work to my family.
- ❖ Special feeling of gratitude goes to my loving parent Touti and bleakebAouda.
- ❖ To my second mother my sister kheira and me small brother yossef.
- ❖ To my sister Fatima, Naima and her respectively husband lazrageand of course for their sons, Ishak, salsabil, Anes.
- ❖ To my brothers, Ali, Mohamed, Abedrahman and his wife and their children Soufine, Mohamed, Malake.
- ❖ I also dedicate this dissertation to my grandfather BelakebAlhaj, for invaluable prayers for me.
- ❖ Finally, this work is dedicated to all those who believed in the richness of learning.

## **Acknowledgement**

First, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to Allah, the almighty for the completion of my study. In this opportunity I would like to give my thanks to my supervisor Miss Ghermaou, for her enthusiasm supports as well as her invaluable guidance as well as encouragement , indispensable suggestion and advice , which assumed determining factors in the completion of my research paper .

Finally, I wish my express to my love and gratitude to my beloved family for their understanding and endless love throughout my studies.

## **Abstract**

The political system of the United Kingdom and the United States is the largest and the most attractive by other countries. Therefore politicians have different beliefs about the political system of these two states. Some claim that there are differences between this government but some believe that each country has a special history of political system. On the other hand, there are similarities and differences between the United States and British political system, a main difference is that the USA is a Federal constitution republic while Britain is a constitution monarchy. On the other side, Britain and USA are both qualified as liberal democracy. This study attempts to explain the differences and the similarities between the United Kingdom and United States political system, by using books, articles. This work is divided into three chapters that go beyond the borders of the two countries to show the gap between these powerful nations.

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## **General introduction**

Nation's type of government refer to how that state executive, legislature, and judicial organs organized, all nations need some sort of government to avoid anarchy. Therefore, the American system was designed for 'the new world' and the thirteen independent states appeared after the American Revolution in 1776. While the British system had evolved over centuries earning the nickname 'the mother of parliament'. Prior to independence, America was a British colony and one of the ideas of breaking free from old European ties, was to create a political system that distanced itself from the models in 'the old world'. The relationship between Britain and America is often referred to as the special relationship indicating long historical relation dating back to pre-US independence time's. many people from the British Isles immigrated to America, and the cultural, social, religious and political exchanges have been many over the centuries. After world II, the nature of the relationship changed as a result of the new world order emerging after the war. Britain, that used to be senior partner, was overtaken by America's new global position and to adapt to being America's junior brother. This was much to dismay of the imperial power, Britain that used to rule the waves of the world. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, UK has come to term with the nature of the relationship and often operates as America's most important ally.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain is a sovereign country in Western Europe. It was the first world's first industrial country and the world's foremost power during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The UK remains a great power with considerable economic, cultural, military, scientific and political influence internationally, it is a recognized nuclear, weapons state and is seventh military expenditure in the world. Britain is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy. Moreover United States emerged from the British colonization of America, starring waves of British immigrant who founded in the XVII and XVIII centuries thirteen colonies on the Atlantic coast of the North America continent. The name United States of America was proposed by Thomas Paine, and was first officially used in the declaration of independence, adopted on 4 July 1776. Besides, the United States is a federal constitutional republic comprising fifty states and a federal district.

As someone who intensely interest in politics generally and British and America most especially and from the point of interest and the curiosity to know about the UK and US

politic system .it is the curiosity that laded to write this research to depict the differences and the similarities between this powerful nations in policy.

This research is comparative study which means United Kingdom policy vs. United States, the aimed is to capture both differences and similarities between the UK and US political system and answering the following problematic to what extent the UK political system differs from the USA one. Moreover my hypothesis claim that there is great depth between these two nations, Britain and America considers as powerful countries because of their government and political system. Both have old constitution, the one being the oldest in the world, the other being the oldest written constitution in the world.

In the other side, this research paper divided into three chapters, the first chapter named the British political system that gives a short introduction of royal system in general and Britain with its political system passing by its most important structure of government and introducing the political parties and how they work in brief in the end.

While the second chapter, discuss the USA political system as the more likely sample of republican from government which includes the USA governess. Moreover the third chapter, deal with both similarities and differences between the two former system.

To study and understand fully any country's political system, one need to understanding of their history .this especially true of the United Kingdom and United States.

# Chapter One Royal System (British Political System)



## **Introduction**

A monarchy is a government system that has one person as the permanent head of the state until he or she dies or gives up his or her position. Typically, the position of monarch is hereditary, as is the case with famous monarchies like that of the United Kingdom.

This chapter will discuss the structure of British government and the functioning of British politics in practice. It will also give broad overview of the main institution and players in the British system and the royal system in general.

The first chapter will first give a short introduction of royal system in general and Britain with its political system passing its most important structures of government and introducing the political parties of it and how they work in brief in the end .

### **1- 1Royal system (Monarchy)**

The word monarch derives from Greek Monarchy from Monarhkos which means monarch, is a political system based the ultimate power or rule of a single person. The term applies to state in which supreme authority is vested in the monarch, an individual ruler who achieves his position through heredity to function as the head of the state. Succession usually passes from father to son, or follows other arrangement within the family or the royal dynasty .A monarch, such as queen or king, rules a kingdom or empire. Moreover the royal system has types that can be distinguished. (Watts, British government and politics.)

#### **1-2Types of Monarchy**

##### **1-2-1 *Absolute monarchy***

A state in which an individual monarch has an absolute and unlimited power over his government .these monarchies are often hereditary, such as: Qatar (Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Althani ),Saudi Arabia (Abdullah bin Abdulaziz) and Vatican city ( Pop Francis) Absolutism was underpinned by a written constitution for the first time in Europe in the 1665 kongeloven (king's law) of Denmark-Norway, who ordered that the monarch shall from this day forth be considered for the most perfect and supreme person on the earth by all his subject, standing above all human laws and having no judge above his person, except God alone.

Some historians such as Perry Anderson argued that quite a few monarchs achieved levels of absolutist control over their states, while others such as Roger Mettam dispute the very concept of absolutism.

### **1-2-2 Constitutional monarchy**

This form of government differs from absolute monarchy, because the monarch is effectively restricted by constitutional constraint, as Thomas Macaulay has “defined it a sovereign who reigns but does not rule “A constitutional monarch is head of the executive branch and quite a powerful figure, even though his or her power was limited by the constitution or the elected parliament such as (UAE, Spain, UK) .Moreover the monarch is on the top of the political and social hierarchy and the democratically elected parliament and their leader the prime minister exercise power with his/her servant of the people reflecting the egalitarian position . (Watts 37)

### **2-1 The Royal system in the United Kingdom (Background history)**

The single most important fact in understanding the nature of the British political system is the fundamental continuity of that system. Britain has not had a revolution of the kind experienced by many other countries and Britain not invaded or occupied or almost 11 more years, and the last successful invasion was in 1066 by Normans .

Some might argue that the English civil war (1642-1652) was the nation’s revolution but the main constitutional consequences the abolition of the monarchy of the monarchy. In addition only lasted 11 years and the restoration of the monarchy have so far lasts 350 years (although it is now a very different monarchy).

The origins of constitutional monarchy in Britain go back a long way until the end of the seventeenth century. Britain monarchs were executive monarchs, which means that they had the right to make and pass legislation .But even in the early times there, were occasions when the sovereign had to act in accordance with the law and take into account the will of this people, with the signing of the Magna Chart in 1215, for example, the leading noblemen of England succeeded in forcing king John to accept that they and other freemen had rights against the crown. In the seventeenth century, the Stuart kings propagated the theory of the divine right of kings, claiming that the sovereign was subject only to God and not to law. Widespread unrest against their rule led to civil war in the second half of the seventeenth century. In 1688-9 parliaments drew up a bill of rights , which established basic concepts as

the supremacy of parliament .The bill of right act 1689 set out the foundation of constitutional monarchy and the right that obtained by parliament included the freedom from Royal interference with the law, freedom from taxation by Royal prerogative, freedom petition the king and Freedom to elect members of the parliament without interference from the Sovereign

So the British never had anything equivalent to the American Revolution or the French revolution. They have not been colonized in a millennium but rather been the greatest colonizers in history, and in neither of the world wars were they invaded or occupied because almost uniquely in the world, Britain has no written constitution and the political system is not neat or logical or always fully democratic or particularly efficient .Moreover change has been very gradual and pragmatic and built on consensuses.

To simplify British political history, it has essentially been a struggle to shift political power and accountability from the all powerful king who claimed that he obtained his right to rule from God to a nation parliament that was increasingly representative of ordinary people this long and trouble road to rule democracy , a key date in this evolution was 1215 when king John was forced to sign the Magna Charta which involved him sharing power with the barons .this is regarded as the first statement of citizen in the world .

The constitutional monarchy we know today really developed in the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries as a day –to-day power came to be exercised by Minister in cabinet , and by parliament elected by a steadily –widening electorate .Alongside the constitutional monarchy system , the UK is also a parliamentary democracy. This is a situation where there is an established monarch (currently queen Elizabeth), who remains politically impartial and with limited powers. One of the most important writers on the subject of constitutional monarchy was a Victorian economist and writer called Walter Bagehot (1826-77). (Darlington,2)

## **2.2 Government**

The government is the body with power to make and enforce laws to control the country; it is viewed as the ruling political power. The government is in charge of managing the country and it has different departments that have responsibility for separate areas of business for example the department of health, department of education, transport ...etc. Led by the prime minister, the UK government is formed by the political party (or coalition of parties) with the greatest representation in the House of Commons.

In the other side, in Scotland , Wales and Northern Ireland ,devolved administration are responsible for many domestic policy issues and their parliament /Assemblies have law making powers for those areas. Areas the Scottish government, Welsh government and the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for include health, education, culture, environment and transport.

In addition, local government councils make and carry out decision on local services. Many parts of England have two tiers of local government which means country councils and district, borough or city councils. In some parts of the country, here is just one tier of local government providing all the functions, known as a unitary authority. This can be a city, borough or country council or it may just be called council. As well as these, many areas also have parish or town councils. (Darlington, 14)

### **2-1-1 Government department and agencies**

Departments and their agencies are responsible for putting government policy into practice, and they are 25 Ministerial departments, 23 Non –ministerial department and more than 300agencies &other public bodies. Moreover there is 01 prime minster +21cabient ministers +99 other ministers =121

### **2-1-2 Government department**

Some departments like the ministry of defense cover the whole UK but other don't. The department for work and pension does not cover Northern Ireland. This is because some aspects of government are devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Non-ministerial departments are headed by senior civil servants and not minister. They usually have or inspection functions like the charity commission. (Darlington ,15)

### **2-2-1 Executive agencies**

These are part of government department and usually provide government services rather than decide policy which done by the department that oversees the agency for example, the drive and vehicle licensing Agency (overseen by the department for transport)

### **2-2-2 Other public bodies**

These have varying degrees of independence but are directly accountable to minster, and there are 4 types of non – department public bodies (NDPBs). Firstly, executive NDPBs

do work for the government in specific areas for example, the Environment agency. Secondly advisory NDPBs provide independent, expert advice to minister for example, the committee on standards in public life. Moreover, tribunal NDPBs are part of the justice and have jurisdiction over specific area of law for example, the competition Appeal Tribunal. Furthermore Independence monitoring boards are responsible for the running of prison and treatment of prisoners for example, her majesty's inspectors of prisons.

### **3-1 the Monarch**

The monarch is the head of the state as For the United Kingdom there is the queen Elizabeth II. Moreover Queen Elizabeth<sup>1</sup> of England is only monarch who is also head of state of more than one independent nation. Since the British monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy, it means that the Queen has the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected parliament besides the prime minister.

### **3-2Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister is head of the UK government. He is the principle government figure in the House of Commons, ultimately responsible of all politics and decisions. He oversees the operation of the civil Service and government agencies in addition to appointing members of the government

In the other hand, there is relationship between the prime minister and the monarch The Queen has a special relationship with the<sup>1</sup> prime mister, the senior political figure in the British government regardless their political party. Although she is a constitutional monarch who remains politically neutral, the Queen

The Queen, retains the ability to give regular audience to a Prime Minister during his or her term of office, and plays a role in the mechanics of calling a general election. The queen gives a weekly audience to the Prime Minister at which she has a right and duty to express her views on government matters. These meetings, as with all communication between the Queen and her government, remain strictly confidential. Having expressed her views, the Queen accepts the advice of her ministers.

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<sup>1</sup> Queen Elizabeth of England was born in 1926 , during the war , Queen Elizabeth of England ( who was then tenge princes)

She also plays part in the calling of general election. The Prime Minister of the day may request the Sovereign to grant a dissolution of Parliament at any time, and in normal circumstances, when a single party government enjoys a majority in the House of Commons, the sovereign would not refuse for the government would then resign and the sovereign would be unable to find an alternative capable of commanding the confidence of the commons. After a general election, the appointment of prime minister is also the prerogative of the sovereign. In appointing a prime minister, the sovereign is guided by constitutional convention. The main requirement is to find someone who can command the confidence of the House of Commons.

When a potential Prime Minister is called Buckingham, the Queen will ask him or her whether he or she will form government. If this question, two responses are realistically possible, The most usual in acceptance. If the situation is uncertain , as it was with sir Alec Douglas home in 1963, a potential Prime Minister can accept an exploratory commission returning later to report either failure or as occurred in1963, success. After a new Prime Minister has been appointed, the court circular will record that the Prime Minister kissed hands on Appointment. This is not literally the case in fact; the actual kissing of hands will take place later in council. (Darlington, 11- 15)

### **3-3 Parliament**

Parliament is made up of the House of Commons and House of lord, commonly known as the UK parliament or the British parliament. It is the supreme legislative body in the Unites Kingdom, British crown dependencies and British overseas territories. It is responsible for making laws, deciding taxes and examining the government, it possesses a legislative supremacy and thereby ultimate power over all other political bodies in the UK and its territories. Its head is the sovereign of the United Kingdom (currently Queen Elizabeth) and its seat is the place of Westminster in Westminster, London. (Darlington ,5)

### **4-1 House of Commons**

The House of Commons is the popularly elected component of parliament, consisting of 308 members of the government sit in, and are answerable to the House of common .Most major government legislation is introduced in the House. The house of common alone is constitutionally authorized to introduce legislation concerned with the raising or spending of

funds. The house is also a place where MPs hold the government to account, discuss national issues, and department constituent views. (Darlington , 5-7)

#### **4-2 House of lord**

The house of lord is a non-elective upper chamber of British parliament and a largely appointive body. It is made up hereditary and life peers and peeresses, two archbishops and 24 bishop of the Church of England. Its main function in law making, a committee of specially qualified members of the House of Lords, appointed as the ultimate judicial appeal court of England and Wales. (Darlington ,8)

#### **5-1 The cabinet**

The Cabinet is the committee at the center of the British political system and the supreme decision making body in government .the British Prime Minister has traditionally been referred to as primus inter pares, which means first among equals and demonstrates that he or she is a member of the collective decision, making body of the cabinet rather than an individual who has powers in their own right .He is first among equals simply in recognition of the responsibility held for appointing and dismissing all the other cabinet members .

The cabinet is made up of the senior members of government .Every Tuesday during parliament, member of the cabinet (secretaries of state from all departments and some other minister) meet to discuss what the most important issues for the government are.

Cabinet ministers are the highest –ranking ministers in the government, and most government departments have one cabinet minister (or more).Most cabinet ministers are titled Sectary of state although some have traditional titles , such as the Chancellor of the Exchequer chief Whip.(Ingle 59)

#### **What is a policy?**

A policy is a statement of what the government is trying to achieve and why. Government policy is the sum of all the individual polices, as a whole they help to define where the government stands on broad political issues.

## **6-1. Legislation or (Statutory law)**

Is law which has been promulgated (or enacted) by a legislature or other governing body or the process of making it. (another source of law is judge-made law or case law). Before an item of legislation becomes law it may be known as a bill, and may be broadly referred to as legislation, while it remains under consideration to distinguish it from other business. Legislation can have many purposes: to regulate, to authorize, to proscribe, and to provide (funds), to sanction, to grant, to declare or to restrict. It may be contrast with a non-legislative act which is adopted by an executive or administrative body under the authority of a legislative act or for implementing a legislative act. Under the Westminster system, an item of primary legislation is known as an act of parliament after enactment.

Legislation is usually proposed by a member of the legislature (e.g. a member of congress or parliament), or by executive, where upon it is debated by members of the legislature and is often amended before passage. Most large legislative enact only small fraction of the bills proposed in a given session. Whether a given bill will be proposed and is generally a matter of the legislative priorities of government.

Legislation is regarded as one of three main function of government, which is often distinguished under the doctrine of the separation of powers. Those who have the formal power to create legislation are known as legislators; a judicial branch of government will have the formal power to interpret legislation. (Watts ,106)

## **6-2 Types of Legislation**

There are two main types of legislation in the UK, primary legislation – act of parliament or statues, secondary legislation – statutory instruments (Sis, which are often called codes , order regulation , rules).there are also quasi legislation and European community legislation

### **6-2-1 Primary legislation**

There are two types of primary legislation

**Public general acts**, there are usually 25to 50 new public acts each year. Since1999, most public general acts is accompanied b Explanatory notes, which explain in clear English what the acts sets out to achieve and place its effect in context.

**Local and personal acts**, these act affect a particular locality, person or body .there have been less than five per year in recent times, but the Victorian era these acts were used in relation to boroughs, railways, canal and companies and enclosed land .personal acts were also one important method of obtaining a divorce before it become available in the secular courts in 1857.

### **6-2-2 Secondary Legislation**

Statutory Instrument (SI) is a generic term used for order, regulation, rules, and codes etc. They are also referred to as subordinate, subsidiary or delegated legislation. They are generally made by Government Ministers under power delegated by parliament.

#### Quasi legislation

This broad category of legislation is difficult to classify .it includes Government circulars (often available government web sites), Rule books (produced by the body concerned) and codes (codes of practice under police and criminal evidence act, Highway Code etc). (Watts,106 -107)

### **7 -1 Political Parties**

There are two main parties in the United Kingdom, the conservative party and the Labour party. There is also a significant third party, the liberal democrats. The modern conservative party was founded in 1934 and is an outgrowth of the Tory movement or party, which began in 1678.Today it is still colloquially referred to as the Tory party its member as Tories.

In addition, the liberal democrats were formed in 1988 by a merger of the liberal party and the social democrat party (SDP), a labour breakaway formed in 1981.the liberals and SDP had contested elections together as the SDP liberal Alliance for the seven years before.

The modern liberal party had been founded in 1859 as an outgrowth of the Whig movement or party (which began at the same time as the Tory party and was its historical rival) as well as the radical and perlite tendencies. the liberal party was one of the two dominate parti( along with the conservatives ) from its funding until the 1920s, when it rapidly declined and was supplanted on the left by the labour party , which was founded in 1900 and formed its first government in 1924.( Darlington ,12)

## **Conclusion**

The United Kingdom is governed within the framework of a constitutional monarchy, in which the Monarch is the head of the state and the prime minister is the head of government, Executive power is exercised by her Majesty's Government, on behalf of and by the consent of the monarch, as well as by the devolved government of Scotland and Wales, and the Executive of Northern Ireland.

Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the parliament of the United Kingdom, the House of Commons and House of Lords, as well as in Scottish parliament and Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies. The UK parliament is the supreme legislative body in the supreme legislative body in the United Kingdom (i.e., there is parliamentary sovereignty), and Government is drawn from and answerable to it. The judiciary is independent of the Executive and the legislature. The highest national court is the supreme court of the United Kingdom.

# Chapter two Republican Systems (American Political System)



## **Introduction**

People have different opinions whether their political system or the political system of another country allows too much individual freedom or provides too little public order .they have also different belief about what government should doing. Therefore, politics is actually more likely to be about the role of government, the purpose and uses of the government power.

This chapter, then concerns with what is a Republican form of Government .It concerns with US political System as the more likely sample of republican form of government which includes the US governs.

### **1-1 Republic System**

Many people think that the republic form government is a particularly strong and effective form of government.

#### **1 -2 what is republic system**

A republic is form of government in which power resides in the people, and government is ruled by elected leaders run according to law. Amongst classical Latin, the term Republic can be used in general way to refer to any regime, or in a specific way to refer to government which works for the Public good.

In other words, a republic system is a type of government in which the citizens of a country have an active role in the affairs of the government, and the government is not headed by a hereditary ruler such as king. Presently, the term republic commonly means a system of government which derives its power from the people than from another basis, such as heredity (monarchy) or divine right .this remains the primary definition of republic in most contexts. (Mauck and Oathkland ,107).

#### **1-2-1 Basic Concepts**

The republican form is based on the foundation that people are supreme and governments are instituted to help secure their right to life, liberty and property.

## **What is a republican government?**

A republic government is one which the power of government is held by the people. The people give power to leaders they elect to represent and serve their interests<sup>1</sup>. Moreover the representatives<sup>2</sup> are responsible for helping all the people in the country, not just a few people.

### **1-3 what is the advantage of republic system?**

The founders thought a republic government was the best kind of government they could choose for themselves. Therefore, the advantages of republic government were /are Fairness; law made by the representative they elected would be fair. Common welfar<sup>3</sup>, the laws would help everyone instead of one person or a few favored people. In addition Freedom and prosperity, people would have greater freedom and be able to live well.

There are lots of ways to set up and administer a republic form of government. The important thing to remember is that such a government is not necessary a democracy. It should be noted that there is a distinct between the term republic as a system and the term democrat as a concept.

### **1-4 Republic VS Democrat**

A Republic, on the other hand, has very different purpose and entirely different form, or system of government .in republic the sovereignty is each in each individual person but in democracy the sovereignty is the group. Unlike republic the democrat from government form of government, in which the powers of sovereignty are vested in the whole body of free citizen, individuals retain sovereign prerogative over their private property right (absolute ownership) of their person, labour and <sup>2</sup>property.

There are lots different types of republic .Some are governed by a constitution , for example , in which case they are known as the constitutional republic ; these government are often headed by president .parliamentary republics have a separate head of state and head of government who share powers with each other with a parliament .Islamic republic are run according to Islamic law, which other republics are collective of numerous states , as in the case of the United State of America , these are known as federal republics.

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<sup>2</sup> **Interests:** those things which are to person's benefit.

<sup>2</sup> **representatives:** people elected to act for other.

<sup>3</sup> **Common welfare:** is what for everyone in the country, not just few people.

## **2- 1The American political system (Background)**

The United States had just fought and won a bloody war of independence from Britain and it was determined to create a political system that was totally different from other nation and monarchical system .the United States was already a large country with problems of communication and population of varied background and education .it was the creation of the 13 colonies (states), each of which valued its tradition and powers.

The United States was a country of both civilized cities built on commerce and industry, and primitive frontiers where the rule of law was often ignored .it was a society that loved freedom but permitted slavery .the constitution held all these different parts tighter .The strains, however, were growing .the united came of age in the decades following the civil war, the frontier gradually vanished, a rural republic becomes an urban nation. Great factories, steel mills and transcontinental railroads were built. Cities grew quickly and millions of people arrived from other countries to begin new lives in a land of opportunity.

Form its origins as a group of obscure colonies hugging the coast the Atlantic Ocean; the United States has undergone a remarkable transformation. One political analyst has called it the first universal nation. Their populations of 300 people represent almost every nationality and ethic group of earth. It is a nation where the pace and extent of change economic, technological, culture, demographic, and social is increasing ... Yet the United States also maintains a sense of continuity. It possesses core values that can be traced to its founding as a nation in the late 1700s .these include a faith in individual freedom and democratic government, and commitment to economic opportunity and progress for all. They are the legacy of rich and turbulent history.

The continuing task of the United States is to ensure that its values of freedom, democracy are protected and opportunity are protected. But its political system is in many important respects unlike any other in the world. These papers then written to inform as to how the American political system works. (Darlington, 2)

## **2-2The American republic system**

I know of no safe deposit of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves.  
*Thomas Jefferson, 1820.*

The term Republic is a state that has government indirectly controlled by the people .this meaning was widely in adopted early in the history of the United States.

Republic does not appear in the declaration of independence, but appears in article IV of the constitution which guarantees to every state in this union a republic form of government, it is not synonymous with the republican form. The republican form is a form in which the powers of sovereignty are vested in the people and are exercised by the people, either directly, or though representatives chosen by the people are specially delegated.

## **2-2The Basic of the American Republic**

### **2-2-1 Constitution**

A constitution intended to endure for ages to come, and consequently, to be adapted to the various crises of human affairs. John Marshall, Maryland, 1819.

The US constitution is the central instrument of American government and supreme law of the land .for 200years, it has guided the evolution of government institutions and has provided the basis for political stability, individual freedom, economic growth and social progress .the American Constitution is the world's oldest written constitution in force, one that has served as the model for a number of other constitutions around the world.

The constitution owes its staying power to its simplicity and flexibility .originally designed to provide a framework for governing four million people in 13 very different colonies along the Atlantic coast, its basic provision were so soundly conceived that, with only amendments, it now serves the needs of more than 240million people in 50 even more diverse states that stretch from the Atlantic to the pacific ocean. The constitution departed originally from the articles of confederation in that it established a strong central or federal government with broad powers to regulate relation between the states, and with sole responsibility in such areas as foreign affairs and defense. Moreover the primary aim of the constitution was to create a strong elected government, directly responsive to will of the people.(Darlington ,3)

## 2-2-2The constitution as Supreme law

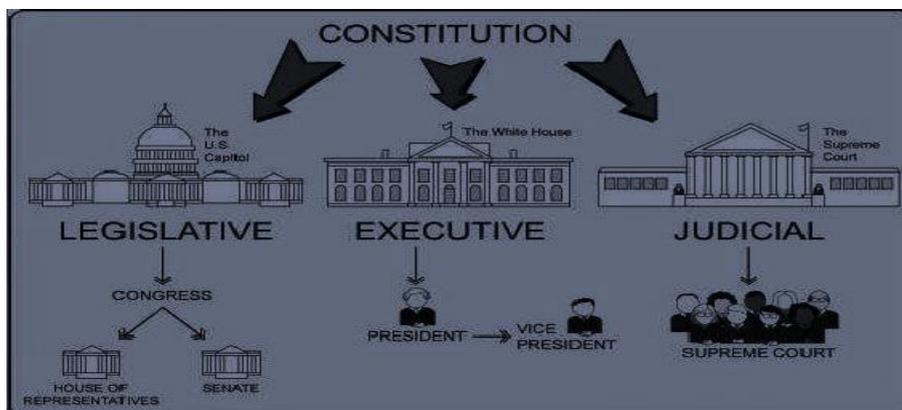
The US constitution calls itself the supreme law of the land .this clause is taken to mean that when constitutions or law passed by state legislatures or the national Congress are found to conflict with the federal constitution, they have no force .decision handed down by the Supreme court over the course of two centuries have confirmed and strengthened of constitutional supremacy.

### 3-1 the Federal Government

US have different system which is federalism; it is a system of shared between two or more government with authority over the same people and geographic area. The federal government is made up of three distinct branches, each with clearly defined Constitutional power and responsibilities. In the other hand word US political system is divided into three principle powers .these are the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch.

Constitution		
Legislative	Executive	Judicial
The senate	The president	Supreme court
House of representative	Vice _president	Other federal court

(Table 01: federal institution)



(Fisher,17)

### **3-2-1 The legislative Branch**

The legislative branch in US congress makes the law .the legislative branch of federal government comprised of two chambers of the congress the US senate and the US house of representative. Legislation must pass both houses it is presented to the president to be signed into law. (Mauk and Oak land ,114).

### **3 -2-2 the senate**

Considered the upper chamber, it is considered more deliberative than the house .comprised of 100 senators (two for each state). Moreover senators serve six year term, with no limited on the number of term they may serve, and for election purpose, senators are divided into three classes, one class stands for election every two years. This ensures that there are always experienced legislators serving in Congress. Vacancies in the senate are generally filled by the governor of the state where the vacancy exists.

In the other hand, the vice president of the United States serves as the president of the Senate, voting only in cases of tie .while sharing broad legislative power with the house of representative, the senate has several unique powers to itself. In addition, the senate must confirm presidential appointment to the Supreme Court, lower federal court, and key positions within the executive branch before the appointees can take office. The senate approves or rejects international treaties negotiated by the president. In case of impeachment of the president or a member of the Supreme Court, the full senate conducts the trial and acts as jury. (Mauk and Oak land ,113 )

### **3-2-3 The House of Representatives**

Considered house of the people .it is the lower chamber in the legislative known collectively as congress. Comprised of 435 representatives, apportioned among the states according to population .all representative serve two years terms with no limit on the terms they may serve, and all are elected at the same time. Each representative is elected from to define geographic area within a state called a congressional district. Vacancies in the house of representative are filled only by a special election or in a general election. The number of the house elects a speaker of the house, who is the leading officer of the chamber and in practice is a member of the majority party.

Special power and responsibilities of the house not shared with the senate include all bills for raising revenue must originate in the house. The house selects the president in cases where no presidential receives a majority of electoral votes. In such cases, each state delegation has one vote.

### **3-2-4 The executive branch**

The Executive branch is by far the largest branch of the federal government, at its head is the president, who serves a four term year term. The vice president is elected at the same time, and is first in line to assume the presidency should the president die, become incapacitated, or be removed from office upon impeachment and conviction .although the executive branch shares powers co- equally with the other two branches of government, the president is the most powerful individual in the government. (Mauk and Oakland ,121)

## **4-1 The Presidency**

### **4-1-1 What is president?**

The president is the head of the executive branch of federal government of the United States; he so far, the position has always been held by a man, is both the head of state and the head of government, as well as the military commander in chief and chief diplomat .he presides over the executive branch of government, a vast organization numbering about four million people active duty military personal. (Dargaton ,5)

### **4-1-2 Who is eligible to become a president?**

To be president, one has to be natural born citizen of the United States and be at least 35 years old, have lived in the US for 14 on maximum. The president is elected for fixed term of four years and may serve at least two terms. Originally there was no constitution limit on the number of terms that a president could serve in office and the first president Georg Washington set the precedent of serving simply tow term. (Daegaton ,5-6)

### **4-1-3 The power of president**

Among the power and the roles of the president are appoints Supreme Court justices and lower federal court judges, all of whom must be confirmed by senate , he appoints a cabinet of department secretaries and agency heads who must be confirmed by senate ,he act

as commander in chief of the military , acting as titular head of state . In addition to these constitutional powers, the president in practice has other powers that are either informal or not expressly provided for in the constitution. First and foremost, the president may issue executive orders which are directives that have the force of law.

On the other hand, executive orders are commission to promote used for purpose such as establishing new programs, offices, or commission to promote or carry out the president's political agenda. Creating policies that affect how legislation passed by Congress is to be carried out or enforced, the president has the authority to appoint cabinet members, Supreme Court justices. Federal judges and ambassadors but only with the 'advice and consent' of the senate, which can be problematic especially when the senate is controlled by a different political party to that of the president.

The president has the power to pardon criminals convicted of offences against the federal government and most controversially President Gerald Ford used this power to pardon his predecessor Richard Nixon.(Dargaton ,7)

#### **4 -1-4 The vice president**

The vice president is elected on the same ticket as that of the president and has the same four years term of office .the vice president is often described as a 'heartbeat away from the presidency' since, in the event of death or incapacity of the president, the vice president assume the office .in practice, however, a vice president candidate is chosen by the presidential candidate to balance the ticket in the presidential election which represent e different geographical or gender or ethic constituency and for all practice purposes , the position only carries the power accorded to it by the president . the official duties of the vice president are to sit as a member of the cabinet and as member of the national security council and the act as ex office president of the house . (watt , 103)

#### **5-1 The judicial branch**

The judicial branch is responsible for passing judgment on legal cases that challenger or required interpretation of act of congress and for trying criminal cases in which the defendant is accused of violating federal law .the judicial branch consist of supreme court and the lower federal courts, including the court appeal (also called as circuit court or appellate courts), federal district court, bankruptcy, and court of federal claims. The courts of the federal judiciary hear both civil and criminal cases appealed from state courts. Their

original jurisdiction covers cases relating to patent, trademarks, claims against the federal government, bankruptcy, financial securities law, and international claims. (Mauk and Oakland , 133)

### **5-2 The supreme court**

The supreme court is the highest court in the land .Originally it had five members but over time this number has increased .since 1869, it has consist of nine justices the chief of the United Sates and eight associate justices .they have equal weight when voting on a case and the chief justice has no casting vote or power to instruct colleagues. Decisions are made by a simple majority moreover all Supreme Court judges are appointed for life. (Mauk and Oakland, 134)

### **5-3 Checks and balances**

The system of checks and balances, established by the constitution, prevent any branch from having too much power, each branch has certain controls over other branches. It is also known as the separation of power which make sure that each branch is not too powerful .Each branch is restrained by other two branches, the executive branch can veto laws made by the legislative power. In addition, the legislative branch can reject judicial nomination, and the judicial branch can declare actions of the executive branch unconstitutional. (Mauk and Oakland , 109).

### **6-1 Political Parties**

The United States has only two major political parties, the Democrats and the Republican .these parties have a duopoly, meaning that they share almost all the political power in the country. These two parties have won every United States presidential election since 1852 and have controlled the Unites States congress sine 1856.the democratic party generally position itself as left of center in America politics and support a modern America liberal platform , while the republican party generally position itself as right of center and support a modern America conservative platform. The republic party also known as the GOP (Grand old party) created as 3<sup>rd</sup> opposing slavery in the 1850's symbolized by the elephant while the democrat's by symbolized by the donkey. (Mauk and Oakland , 110).

## **Conclusion**

That government of, the people, and for the people, shall not vanish from this earth.  
*President Abraham Lincoln .Gettysburg address, 1863.*

The US is the oldest continuous democracy in the world, it was established in 1789, although not all feature of the system were as democratic as they are now. The US is a federal system this means that power is divided between a central and national government and the states .more over the national government is referred to as the federal Government which divided into three branches (legislative, executive, and judiciary) each branch has limits on its power, there is a system of checks and balances that allows each branch to checks on the other. The United States is a democracy, this means that power belongs to the people.

# Chapter Three UK vs. USA Political System



**VS**



## **Introduction**

The two previous chapters talked about the most important institution of United Kingdom's government (chapter 01) and United States government chapter ( 02 )

While this chapter will deal with both similarities and differences between the two former systems from the different principle sides; constitution, legislative and judiciary. Its aim is about whether government (UK/USA) is too strong or too weak, too big or too small, doing too much or too little.

It goes further to political parties and examines their relevance in Britain and America emphasis in the competition between the two main parties in either country.

### **1- 1The Constitution**

Britain and the United States both have old constitutions, the one being the oldest in the world, the other being the oldest written constitution in the world .in both countries , constitutional development has been continuous and largely unbroken.

The most fundamental difference between the American and British political system is the constitution or the lack of one. The United States has written constitution as does the vast majority of the United States, the UK does not have single document called the constitution but instead its constitution provisions are separate over various acts of parliament. ( Watts,28)

### **1-2Written VS Unwritten Constitution**

Most constitutions are written down and embodied in a formal document. The American one is much briefer than many, having some 7000 words, expressed in seven long articles, and a mere ten page. It established underlying principles, a broad framework for government .few democratic countries today have unwritten constitutions. Apart from the United Kingdom, only New Zealand lack formal documents. Even among those countries usually classified as 'undemocratic' it is usual for three to be a clear statement of constitutional provisions.

It is probably more useful to distinguish between codified constitutions such as that of the United States, in which all the main provisions are brought together in a single authoritative document and uncodified constitutions such as that of the United Kingdom ,which exist

where there are constitutional rules many of which are written down but have not been collated.

The American constitution is hard to change as for equal rights amendments which sought to provide equal right for women-filed and there has been no successful amendments of the US constitution except for one technical measure since 1971. What for practical purposes constitutes the British constitution various acts of parliament can be changed by simple majority in the legislature. For instance, the current coalition government introduced fixed term for the House of Commons by passing the necessary legislation. A defining feature of the American constitution is the strict separation of the power of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The British political system has no such formal separation of the powers indeed until recently one person was a member of all three arms of government, since the Lord Chancellor was a member of the Cabinet (the executive), a member of the House of Lords (the legislature) and the head of the legal system (the Judiciary).

In the United States, because of the separation of the power, no Cabinet member is allowed to be a member of the congress. In Britain, every Government Minister must be a member of one of the Houses of Parliament and, if he or she is not already in the Parliament, he or she is made a peer.

The British constitution historically put Parliament as supreme and sovereign so the law made by parliament is the supreme law of Britain this is constitution as stated in the bill of rights 1686. The US constitution is described by the American Government website as “a federal Government in which each branch operates independently of the other (Separation of powers) but the power of each (branch) not restricted by others or not concentrated in any one branch(checks and balance).”

As Britain does not have a constitution which is entrenched, parliament has the power to amend to constitution by a simple Act of parliament. Britain therefore can be seen to have a flexible constitution easy to change with the changes in society which is ever changing. But is it not also worrying that parliament can do as it pleases and that as it is sovereign and all powerful, citizen can do nothing to change that. Also citizen cannot look at one single document to identify what parliament's role is and what or cannot do, which is the same with the Government. (ibid p 29)

## **2- 1Parliamentary VS. Presidential government, a fusion or a separation of powers**

A part from the respective arrangement affecting the relationship between the center and the regions and localities in the two countries, there are also significant difference in the relationship between the different branches of government in Britain and America. The British have a system of parliamentary government, in which the Executive is chosen from the legislature and is dependent upon it for support. Thus the Cabinet is chosen from the House of Commons and responsible to it. The Americans have presidential government, in which the Executive is separately elected and in theory to equal to the legislature.

Presidential government does not refer to fact that American has a president rather than a monarch as head of state. As Heywood explains; a presidential system is characterized by a constitutional and political separation of power: Executive the branch of government responsible for implementing or carrying out public policy and the law of state. The Executive is today much involved in formulating policy and the laws. Legislature, The branch of government that makes law through the formal enactment of legislation, between the legislative and executive branches of government. (Understanding US/UK Government and politics , ( Watts ,37)

A presidential system is one in which the Executive is elected separately from the legislature, is outside of and in theory equal to it. The president is chosen by the people rather than from the legislative branch, and acts as Head of the Government as well as ceremonial Head of State.

In America there is a separation of powers, in Britain there is a fusion of power .in America, heads of departments and other executive bodies do not sit in congress, and neither can congressmen possess executive office .In Britain, government ministers always sit in parliament , the majority of them in the elected House of commons via the principle of ministerial responsibility , both individually as heads of their departments and collectively as a member of the Cabinet, they are answerable to the house .of course , the key member of the executive in America the president is answerable as well, but in his case his responsibility is directly to the people rather than to the legislature .

American constitutional arrangements have resulted in a diffusion of authority. It was always intended that no part of the constitution should developed excessive powers at the expense of the other. In Britain, constitutional sovereignty lay in theory with parliament, but there has

been a significant drift of power from the legislature to the executive, resulting in a concentration rather than a diffusion of power.

### **3 - 1 The sovereignty of Parliament vs. the sovereignty of people**

If the British constitution provides for the sovereignty of parliament, the American one stresses the sovereignty of the people-popular of sovereignty. The opening words of the American document establish this clearly 'we the people of the United States ... do ordain and establish this constitution'. They echo the ideas associated with the French writer and philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau , who argued that the best form of government was one that reflected the general will of the people, which was the sum total of those interests that all citizens had in common.

What matters more than whether a constitution is embodied in a single document or not is whether it works effectively? The mere presence of written constitution is no guarantee that the power of government is appropriately constrained. At any one time, a dozen or so of the world's written constitutions are in full suspension; in many others their provisions are systematically ignored. In both Britain and the United States, there is a basic consensus about how governing should take place .When that consensus is absent, no system of government, whatever the nature of its constitution, is likely to endure.

### **4 -1 The Executive**

From previous studies, the most obvious of differences between British and American political system is that the UK is a parliamentary system , with the Prime Minister holding office and power only so long as he or she commands a majority of votes in the House of Commons. Whereas the USA is a presidential system, with the apex of power in a directly elected president.

In theory then, the American president has much more power than British Prime Minister he is the commander in chief and has power to issue executive orders which have the full force of law. However, the constitutional system of 'checks and balance' seriously circumscribes the power of the US president who often finds it really difficult to push legislation through congress. By contrast, a prime minister usually heads a government with a majority of seats in the House of Commons and the ability to pass almost any legislation that he wishes.

In the United States, the president each year gives a high profile 'state of the Union Address'. In Britain, there is no equivalent occasion, the nearest event being the prime minister's introduction to the government's legislative intentions for the next year or so after the state opening of parliament each session.

In Britain, the prime Minister appoints around 100 member of the government and members of the Cabinet each appoint a couple of special advisers, so the total number of political appointments is around 150. In the United States, the incoming President and his aides make a total of around 7,000 political appointments.

In Britain, the political head of each Government Department is called Secretary of State and so almost every member of the Cabinet is a secretary of state. While in the USA, the Secretary of State is (arguably) the most senior member of the cabinet and in many countries would be known as the foreign Secretary.

In Britain, the new Prime Minister simply sets out his or her vision for the country in a speech to the House of Commons on the subject of the Queen's Speech which opens the new session of Parliament. In the United States, the incoming President's inaugural address is highly public and prestigious affair.

In the UK, government is normally equal partisan with all Ministers coming from the governing party but in 2010, exceptionally the Conservatives were required to go into a Coalition with the liberal Democrats and grant them 17 ministerial positions. In the US, government is highly partisan with the President appointing to the executive colleagues who are almost exclusively from within his own party.

In Britain, there is no particular method of challenging the appointment of a particular Minister although, in theory, the opposition could move a vote of no confidence in the appropriate House of Parliament. In the United States, all the most senior appointments are subject to confirmation hearings and votes in the Senate.

#### **4-2 The legislature**

Britain and America both have bicameral system, having a lower chamber (in both cases called the house of Representative in the USA and Commons in the UK) and an upper one, the Senate and House of Lords respectively. In Britain, as in many other large democracies, a second chamber is widely considered necessary as a check upon the lower

house, the government dominated House of Commons. In America, apart from its law making and other roles, the second chamber provides territorial representation, with each state however large or small being represented by two members.

In America legislation is sometimes introduced into the two chambers at the same time, in whichever house of being its existence, it must ultimately pass both of them in the same wording. Most of the work is done in standing committees which, unlike the British equivalents, are specialist bodies, comprising members who may have served for some years on the committee dealing with agriculture, education and labour or public works and transportation.

In the UK, the House of Commons is directly elected, but the House of lords is largely appointed (making it unique in the democratic world). While in the USA, both houses of the legislature .the Senate and the house of Representative are directly elected.

In the States, as a consequence of the separation of the power, all legislature is introduced by a member of Congress, so even the signature legislation attributed to president on healthcare reform was actually introduced by a Congress (Democratic member of the House of Representative). In total contrast , almost all legislation in Britain is introduced by the Government with only a very small number of Bills, usually on social issues with minimal implications for the public purse introduced by individual Member of parliament( they are called private Member's Bills).

Senate rules permit what is called a filibuster when a senator, or a series of senators, can speak for as long as they wish on any topic they choose, unless a supermajority of three – fifth of the senate (60 Senators, if all 100 seats are filled) bring debate to close by invoking what is called cloture (taken from the French term for closure).there is no such filibustering provision in either House of the British Parliament.

In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the majority party chairs all committees which have considerable power. In the two chambers of the British legislature, committee chair per ships are allocated between the different parties , roughly in proportion to the size of the party in the House , and the committees are much less powerful than in the US Congress.

In the House of Representative, the speaker chosen by the members of the largest party has considerable power and acts in a highly partisan fashion. In the House of Commons, the

speaker chosen by the whole house only has procedural responsibilities and acts in non-partisan manner (usually he is not opposed in a General Election ).

In liberal democracies, governments have often succeeded in muzzling parliamentary powers, and Britain is no exception, for the reason described. Yet legislatures are not without influence, and can still play an important role. They may not have the power to initiate, lacking as they do the necessary technical competence. But they can play a part in starting up a great debate on policy issues which can be taken up elsewhere, particularly in the media. The experience of America is rather different .it is the most influential legislature in the world, even if at times there has been an ebb and flow in the power relationship it has with the presidency .If the white House and Congress are under the control of different parties , then elected representative may be particularly keen to curb presidential aspiration.

Legislature in Britain and the United States		
	<b>Britain</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Size</b>	House of commons 659 House of lord 687	Representatives435 Senate100
<b>Method of selection</b>	Common: direct election Lord :many appointment	Representative and senate: direct election
<b>Nature of membership</b>	Both unrepresentative: too few women and minorities.	Both unrepresentative: too few women and minorities.
Status of chambers	Common : significant Lord :secondary role	Theoretically equal , but Senate has higher prestige
<b>Type and role of committees</b>	Standing( non – specialist) for legislation: Select for security.	Standing specialist for legislation and scrutiny: select for special enquiries.
<b>Law –making</b>	Common has main role ,Lords does not work of revision: most bills pass and impact of process limited	Key legislative role for both Houses , Though

**Table legislatures in the UK and USA (ibid p134)**

### 4 –3 The Judiciary

In America, the Supreme Court interprets not only the law, but also the Constitution. Britain has no provision for judicial review. No court can declare unconstitutional any law that has been lawfully passed by the British parliament, which is the sovereign law – making body, a principle that has never been challenged.

In both Britain and America, there is provision for decision of the courts to be overridden .In Britain, this requires only the passage of an act of parliament, although in cases involving law emanating from European Union this takes precedence over British law and cannot be so change .In America, on many issues Congress can pass a law to deal with court decisions it dislike and ensure that future ruling are different. If the matter is a constitutional one, the arrangements for amending the Constitution are more complicated.

US Supreme Court judge normally serve for every long period, their appointment being initially made for their life even if they decide to retire after several years of service. Although theoretically they may be removed by impeachment before congress if they commit serious offence , this provision has never successfully been employed .In Britain , judge are hard to remove , and those who function in superior courts are only liable to dismissal on grounds of misbehavior , and this only after a vote of both Houses of Parliament.

The judiciary of Britain and the United States		
	Britain	The United States
<b>Liberal democracies based on rule of law?</b>	Liberal democracies based on rule of law.	Liberal democratic based on rule of law.
<b>Approach to judicial review</b>	Modest from judicial review of executive actions.	Strong version of judicial review ,courts able to strike down laws or other official acts as <b>‘unconstitutional’</b>
<b>Selection of judges</b>	Judicial appointment made by Lord Chancellor’s office.	President appoints Supreme Court justices and federal judges ( election of judges in state judicial systems)

<b>Security of judges</b>	Judges very hard to remove	Appointment normally mad for life, though in theory possibility of impeachment.
<b>Background of judge</b>	Chosen from narrow social base, often seen as white mile and middle class, and deeply conservative .few women and ethnic minority member on bench.	Presidential appointees vary , Democrat presidents more likely to appointed women and member of ethnic minorities. E.g. Clinton's Willingness to diversity composition.
<b>Judicial activism vs. judicial restraint?</b>	Judges traditionally confine Themselves to interpretation Of law, shunned political involvement or controversy. Influenced by European experience, many now more willing to take on ministers, criticizing their policies and reviewing their action.	Republican Presidents tend to prefer judge who adopt a more passive approach to their role and seek only to interpret the Constitution. Many Democrats favor judges who take a more activist approach and who see courts as having a key role in shaping policy.

Table 3 the judiciaries of the UK and USA (Ibid p 152)

As a broad trend, the role of judges in the political system has increased in liberal democracies but also even in authoritarian societies. Fifty years ago, politicians paid relatively little attention to decision of the court .Since then, judge have been more willing to enter into areas that would once have been left to national government and parliament, striking down laws and religions passed by those elected to public office. The process has been aided by the increased use of international convention in the post –war world .there has also been a proliferation of international or transnational courts to enforce them, Ranging from the European court of Human Right to the European Court of justice, from the world trade organization panels to the North American free trade Agreement panels .they test national law against some other body of law, usually treated as being superior. In some cases, these

agreements or conventions have involved members of the Bench in any member country ruling against the decisions of the party in power.

## **5 - 1 Political Parties**

The competition of parties was not always regarded as inevitable or desirable. In the American constitution there is no provision for party government. The constitution federal in character and characterized by competitive institutions actually makes the operation of parties more difficult. The founding Fathers did not want party government and within a few years of the completion of their task President Washington was still speaking of the 'baneful effects of the spirit of party.'

Parties have contrasting significance in different democracies. In Britain and rest of Western Europe they are much stronger than in the USA, where they are noticeably weak. In much of Western Europe, they have a large but declining dues paying membership, a reasonably coherent ideology a high degree of discipline among members of parliament. In the USA, none of these factors apply. In parts of the country, they hardly seem to exist between elections.

Britain has party government, at election time, a party seeks capture the reins of power and win a mandate to govern. To do this, it requires a majority of seats in the House of Commons. If it obtains a working majority, it can then expect to control the machinery of government until the next election called is called. Having control of the executive branch and being in a position to dominate the legislature, it will be able to carry out its manifesto. Its leaders know that they can normally count on the backing of their MP's to ensure that their legislative programme passed through parliament. As Shaw puts it 'The government will have its way, and the opposition will have its say'. (M. Shaw, Anglo American Democracy, Rutledge and Kegan, 1968)

The American experience is not straightforward. The system allows one party to capture the white house (the presidency) and the other to dominate on Capitol Hill (the legislature, so that a British – style divide between government and opposition is absent.

Both Britain and America have two major parties, and have with rare exception done so since national party competition began. In neither case does such a system preclude the existence of

other parties and as we shall see , in both countries many minor parties have run candidates .If anything , the dominance of two parties has been more apparent in America than Britain .

However, there are key differences between parties in the two countries, of which two are most important. In Britain, parties are centralized and highly disciplined, enabling the government party to bend Parliament to its will. Not so in the United States, where although American parties can exert some influence they are weaker, have less party discipline and markedly less-developed national headquarters.

In the United States, the two parties are closer together on ideological spectrum than in Britain than in Britain .America is the only industrial liberal democracy which has never developed a significant socialist party, and although the Democrats are the more left-wing or progressive party, in ideological terms they are nearer to the liberal Democrats and new labour than to the labour party which existed in Britain for most of the last century.

<b>Two party in Britain and the United States</b>		
	<b>BRITAIN</b>	<b>United STATES</b>
<b>Similarities</b>	<p>One more progressive (labour) and one more conservative(Conservative) party .Both parties have different wings and wide appeal : Conservatives have recently had more problems with ideological differences , moderates have lost much of their former influence .dominance of two parties in votes in post – war election to 1970s but not so apparent now .still dominate House of Commons.</p>	<p>One more progressive (Democratic) and one more conservative (Republican) party. Both parties have different wings and wide appeal : Republican Moderates have been squeezed out in recent years; partly because of the influence of the Christian coalition on moral issues two parties usually dominate presidential elections. In some states. There is regular ,one party domination in elections for Congress. Hardly any independents sit in congress</p>

<p>Differences</p>	<p>Two party systems, but every significant third party representation: four parties in Scotland and Wales, big role for parties in election, including choosing candidate. Traditionally more importance attached to ideology, with fairly clear left –right differences. Strong party unity: sense of party loyalty in voting lobbies and important role of Whips .key role of head quarters in party organization, especially in labour Party: centralized parties.</p>	<p>Two party system or 51systems? No significant third party success. More supportive role for candidate. America choosing a president more than party. Less ideological parties, more catch all in character; greater role of religion, especially in Republican party. Loose party discipline, never same emphasis on party voting in congress. Decentralized parties, with traditionally weak role of national party organization: growing importance of head quarters in campaigning.</p>
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**Table 3; two party system in Britain and the Unites states** (Understanding US/UK government and politics , Duncan watts 2003p216)

## **Conclusion**

This forgoing chapter was aimed to capture both differences and similarities between the two political systems (constitution monarchy and constitutional republic).

Britain has a unitary system, whereas the United States has a federal one. Federal has been beneficial of the United States in many ways , its advantages to Americans including it provides opportunities for political involvement to many citizens at state and local level , state government provide thousands of elective offices for which citizens can vote or run .citizens can identify strongly with their state as well as with their country.

The unitary system has worked relatively well because there is a widely held preference for strong, effective government .In a relatively small country lacking substantial regional differences, federalism would be hard to implement, not least because of the population dominance of England over other parts of the United Kingdom.

## **General Conclusion**

While the U.S. political system is partly inspired by the British example, it differs in many important respects. Most significantly, the British have a democratic parliamentary government, headed by monarch and prime minister. The U.S. on the other hand, is a federal constitutional republic with three governmental branches sharing power. Beyond these differences the two have much in common, such as dual house national legislature and parliament parties.

The US and UK political system differ at the highest level. In the UK, the head of state and head of government are different roles .the reigning monarch .Queen Elizabeth II, as of 2014 is the head state responsible primarily for ceremonial duties. She orders the lowering of the Union Jack to half –staff when appropriate, delivers the speech from the Throne and speaks to British people during major crisis. The head of government...the person responsible for day to day management of government...Is the prime mister. In the United States, the president assumes both position, and carries out responsibilities similar to the combined duties of the queen and prime minister .The constitution ...panned in 1787 in Philadelphia and ratified by 1790 ...is the supreme law of the United States .the UK has no formally written constitution. Instead, what may be referred to as its constitution is the enter body of its law and principles that deal with regulating the populace and running the government.

The U.S has a congress, with a senate and a House of Representatives that are completely separate from executive and judicial branches of government .In the US system, each of the three branches of government acts as a check and balance on the others. Both the House and the senate are elected bodies, and their powers are out lined in the constitution. The British have a parliament, with the upper house of lord and the lower House of Commons. Member of the House of Commons are elected by their constituencies, and the leader of the dominate party in commons is appointed by the queen to be prime minister. The House of Lords is an unelected body of peers that can check the power of the commons by reviewing and amending bills.

While the US has two major political parties that dominate the country's politics, British politics has a multitude of parties representing diverse constituencies. Election in the two countries also vary, with most US federal elections happening on a regular schedule; the president is elected every four years, Senate every six, and congressional member every two. General election in Britain were not fixed. When parliament is dissolved every seat in the House of Commons becomes vacant and a general election is held. Each constituency in the UK elects one Member of Parliament (MP) to a seat in the House of Commons. Usually the political party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons forms the government.

At the end, this comparative study finds out that neither British or American democracy might seem very healthy. There are flaws in both countries, but several of the points made against the health of democracy could be challenged. Few countries can claim to have a perfect system meanwhile; democracy should not be taken for granted. At least British and USA citizens live in countries which have evolved by peaceful change, rather than through violent upheaval. Both also have a long attachment to freedom. Britain and USA do both qualify as liberal democratic states. Indeed, some would go further and say that they qualify as the foremost democratic states, so that Hacker felt inspired to describe them as *the world's two leading democracies*.

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