

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

- There are many kinds of **systems** - mechanical systems such as automobiles, ecological systems (ecosystems) where the plants and animals coexisting in a single habitat, or human body may be seen as a system.
- **All have interdependent parts and boundaries, core element and operate in interdependence.**
- Political systems are a particular type of social system—namely, one involved in the making of authoritative public decisions.
- **To put it slightly differently, the political system is a set of institutions, such as government, parliaments, bureaucracies, and courts, that formulate and implement the collective goals of a society or of groups within it**

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

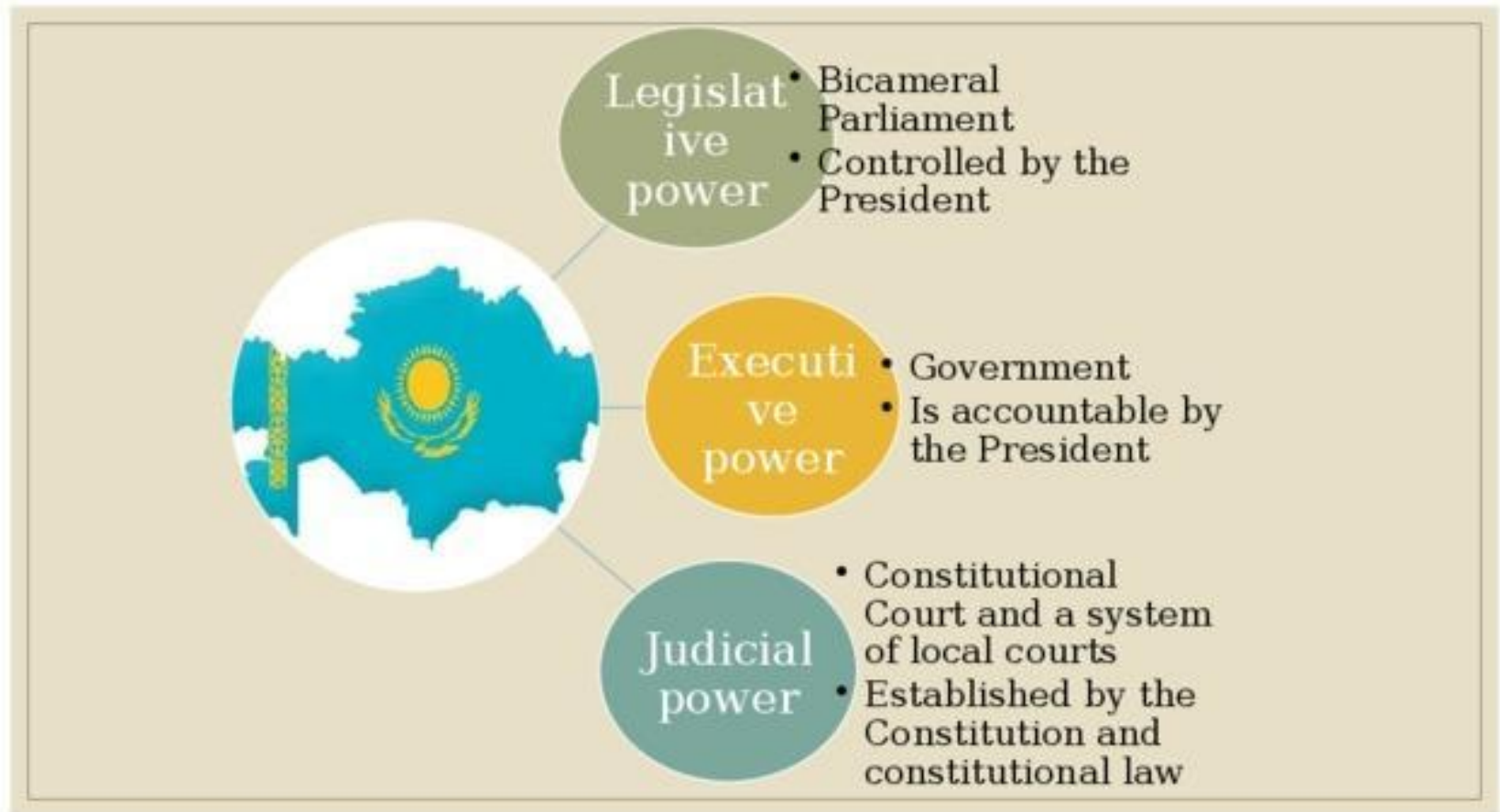
- Anything we call a system must necessarily have the properties:
  - (1) *it has a set of interdependent parts,*
  - *and (2) it has boundaries towards the environment with which it interacts.*
  - System has a core element (3)*
  - Also (4) the entire system could work as far as its parts do.*

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

There is no such thing as playing politics by itself. political decisions are *public and authoritative*. To say that politics has to do with **public decisions** is to say that *politics is inherently social*. Politics always involves and has *consequences for multiple human beings*.

Political decisions always take place within some community that we may call a *political system*.

# POLITICAL SYSTEM of RK



# POLITICAL SYSTEM

Before we'll study the Political System, we need to fix up some points that will be taught at the next classes:

- **A state** is a formal group that is sovereign over its members and occupies a well-defined territory. It is the **formal apparatus of authoritative roles and law norms** through which that sovereignty is exercised.

- The state, however, should not be confused with a specific balance of powers as a particular status quo, which is a role of **a government**.

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**So, political system** is the set of formal legal institutions that constitute a “government” or a “state.”

**A state is a** political organization of society, or, more narrowly, the **institutions of government**. The state is a form of human association distinguished from other social groups by its purpose, the establishment of order and security; its methods, the laws and their enforcement; its territory, the area of jurisdiction or geographic boundaries; and finally by its sovereignty.

The state consists, most broadly, of the agreement of the individuals on the means whereby disputes are settled in the form of laws

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- Even in stateless societies which had no developed formal **central institutions** were seen having some kind of **decision-making and rule-making processes** which were **dominated** by some members.
- As societies become wealthier and more complex, **political systems develop** and grow more powerful.
- Governments may effect massive change in laws and roles while the state remains the same.

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

- The political system of a state must be distinguished from the state itself.
- A state through its lifetime may have different political systems ( for example, China, Russia, Germany, etc)
- A political system consists of the formal and informal structures which manifest the state's sovereignty over a territory and people.



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- **The Five Most Common Political Systems Around the World**
- Democracy.
- Republic.
- Monarchy.
- Communism.
- Dictatorship.

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

- Then there is a whole host of institutions beginning with the family and including communities, churches, schools, universities, corporations, foundations, and think-tanks, **which influence** political attitudes and public policy
- The term *political system* refers to this whole collection of related, interacting institutions and agencies.

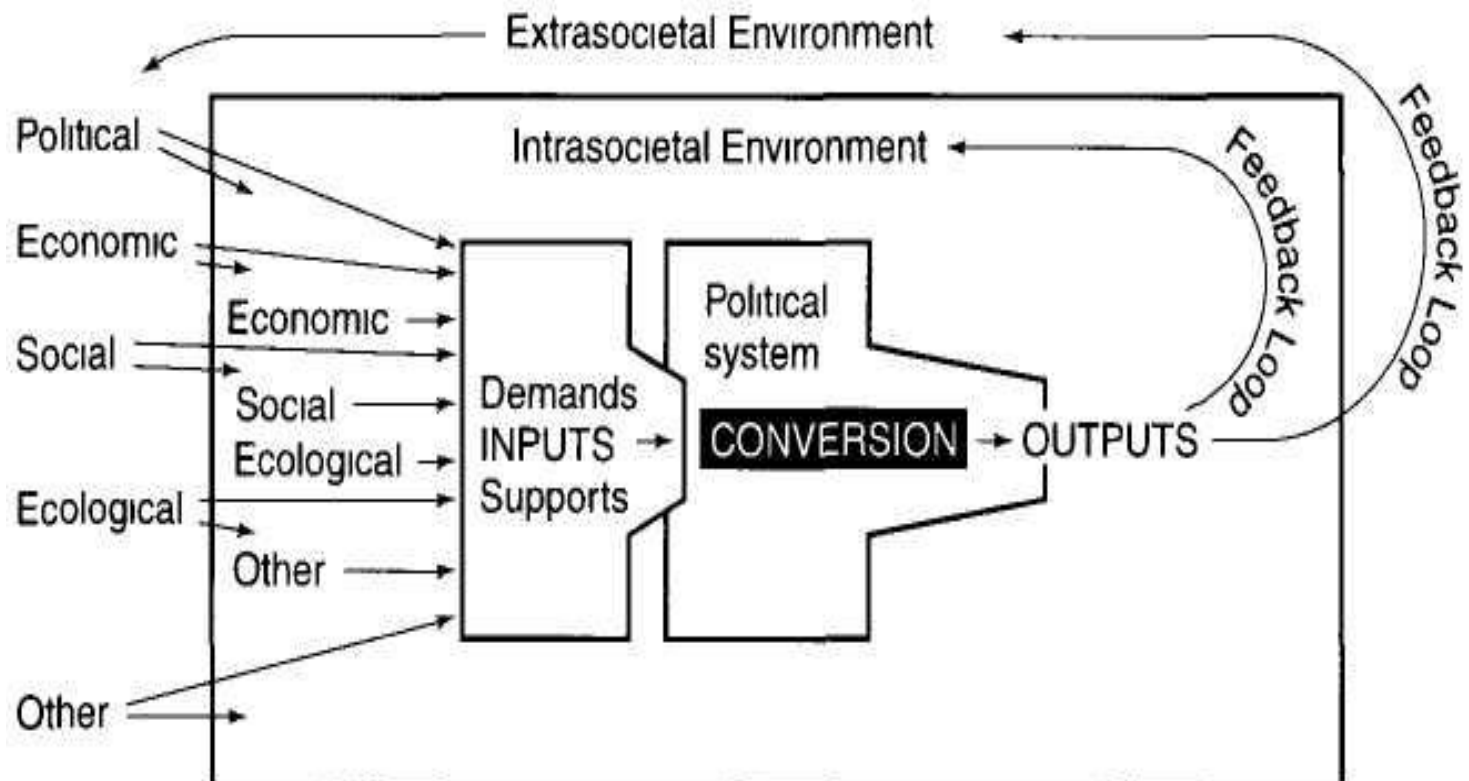
## Структура политической системы (компоненты)



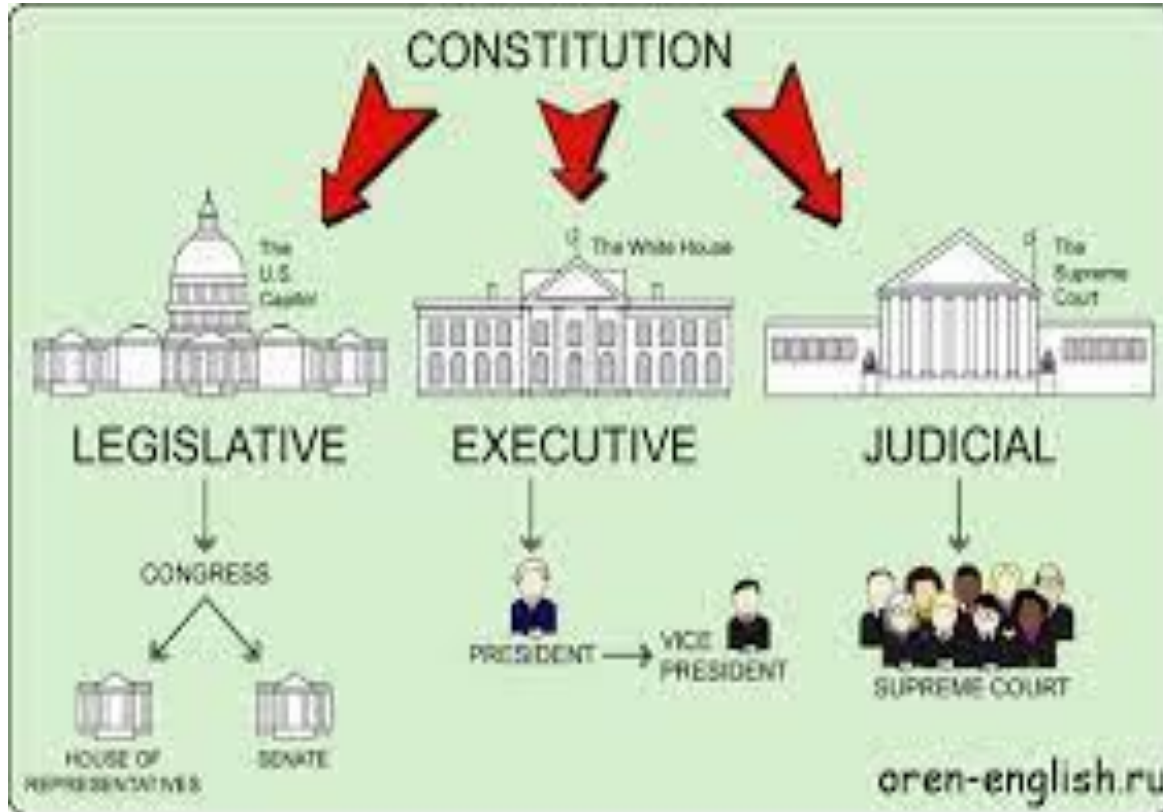
# POLITICAL SYSTEM

- Famous Western scholars Almond and Coleman (1960) have described the following **three main functions of a political system**:
  - 1. To maintain **integration of society** by determining norms.
  - 2. To adapt and change elements of social, economic, religious systems **necessary for achieving collective (political) goals**.
  - 3. **To protect** the integrity of the political system from outside threats.
- They have grouped these functions into two categories**:
  - (1) **Input functions**—political socialization, interest articulation, interest aggregation, and political communication; and
  - (2) **output functions**—rule making, rule application and rule adjudication.

# POLITICAL SYSTEM



# USA POLITICAL SYSTEM



# POLITICAL SYSTEM

The legitimacy of the American system was high just after World War II; it declined substantially during and after the Vietnam War but has since then recovered at least somewhat.

Policy failures in turn can cause declining legitimacy.

The Soviet system collapsed in 1991 **after its legitimacy had been undermined** by a failed and costly war in Afghanistan, a nuclear power disaster in Chernobyl, corruption, and declining economic productivity.

# POLITICAL SYSTEM

1. What is **set of institutions that forms** a political system of society?
2. What are the characteristics of the structure and function of political systems?
3. Is **political system** a network of relationships through which government generates 'outputs' (policies) in response to 'inputs' (demand or support) from the general public? Give your samples
4. Explain how did G.Almond view political system **as a set of inputs, outputs and conversion?**