

THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF DICTATORSHIP: THE FEATURES OF DICTATORIAL REGIMES, THEIR GOVERNANCE METHODS, AND CONTROL MECHANISMS*Mirzobek Abdullayev Norbek ugli**UzSWLU International Journalism Faculty**Political Science Major**@mirzoabdullayev5@gmail.com*

Abstract: Dictatorship is one of the political regimes widely used around the world and continues to be relevant today. The main characteristic of this political regime is that citizens' rights and freedoms are restricted under the rule of one or several individuals (dictators). Various forms of dictatorship, such as totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and militarism, exist, each with its own unique characteristics and differing impacts and socio-economic consequences.

Keywords: dictatorship, totalitarianism, authoritarianism, militarism, non-democratic, media, democratic, collectivization, corporatism, repression, sympathy, opposition.

Throughout human history, dictatorship has been the most dangerous political regime, causing numerous casualties. Dictatorship (from Latin: *dictatura* — unlimited power) refers to a system of government implemented through non-democratic means, characterized as either authoritarian or totalitarian. In a political regime based on dictatorship, power is centralized in the hands of one individual — the dictator — or a small group of individuals, where violence and terror in politics are heightened. The establishment of a dictatorship is marked by the lack of checks on dictatorial power, the violation of democratic rights and freedoms proclaimed by the constitution, and the restriction of the rights of representative bodies. Power relies directly on violence. This principle has led to the deaths of millions.

Historically, dictatorship has evolved over time, originating in Ancient Rome and transforming its characteristics over centuries. Particularly in the 20th century, this political regime took on one of the most dangerous forms in human history. Several dictators contributed to this. One notable example is Francisco Franco's dictatorship in Spain, which lasted from 1939 to 1975. Franco established his rule based on an ideology called "national-syndicalism," which included nationalism, Catholicism, and corporatism. Despite implementing numerous reforms, Franco's policies were often detrimental to citizens, leading to social inequality and repression.

Similar processes were observed in the dictatorships of I. Stalin, A. Hitler, and M. Szedun during the 20th century. These dictators sacrificed countless lives to maintain their power and implement reforms, leading scholars to classify them as classic dictators. In contrast, a new category of dictators emerged in the 21st century with entirely different characteristics. These so-called manipulative dictators employ new techniques centered around information manipulation, artificially creating sympathy among the populace, and superficially mimicking democracy.

The core reason for governing under these principles is that "people tend to believe in appearances rather than reality; a ruler does not need to possess all good qualities but must seem to have them." Manipulative dictators must convince the public and draw them to their side regardless of the means. This is the primary goal of manipulative dictators. The first of this type was Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, followed by manipulative dictators like V. Putin in Russia and N. Nazarbayev in Kazakhstan.

Due to globalization in our time, the 21st century has seen a shift towards this new form of dictatorship based on information manipulation, reaching its peak today. There are several regimes of dictatorship, each with its own unique characteristics. Among the most widely used are totalitarianism, authoritarianism, and militarism. Despite the common features of these regimes, there are also several differences. Totalitarianism is a political governance form characterized by centralized power that penetrates all spheres of social, economic, and spiritual life, bringing them under complete control.

One of the German scholars expressed the main characteristics of totalitarianism as follows:

The dominance of a totalitarian ideology;

The existence of a single party, usually led by an individual loyal to this ideology;

A well-developed secret police system; Complete control of the state over the media, all economic, social, and cultural institutions, and instruments of violence.

These characteristics of totalitarianism lead to the violation of human rights and the restriction of freedom of thought and expression. These governance systems often have a profound impact on people's lives and create an atmosphere of fear in society. Such processes were notably observed in I. Stalin's USSR and A. Hitler's Nazi Germany. The reason is that I. Stalin strengthened the autocratic regime and halted the New Economic Policy (NEP), which had started in 1921, in the mid-1920s, subsequently initiating a rapid industrialization and forced collectivization policy in agriculture. A. Hitler's primary goal of the totalitarian regime was to subjugate "inferior races" and prepare Germany for war to seize vast territories. Between 1936 and 1939, the German economy was entirely subordinated to war objectives, military expenditures increased tenfold, the size of the army was brought to that of the German army in 1914, and the naval fleet was reformed. In 1935, the law on universal military service came into effect. These introduced changes—namely, I. Stalin's management of the economy within a totalitarian regime and A. Hitler's military reforms—indicate the main characteristics of totalitarianism.

Authoritarianism is a regime where the government is strongly centralized, citizens' freedoms are restricted, but complete control is not established. Elections may be held in authoritarian regimes; however, these elections are often manipulated.

Authoritarianism also has its own key characteristics:

1) Centralized power: In authoritarian regimes, power is often controlled by one or a few individuals or groups, centralizing the process of political decision-making.

2) Restrictions on political freedoms: In authoritarianism, citizens' political freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly, are typically limited.

3) State control: State organs and security forces play a crucial role in monitoring citizens, leading to the suppression of dissenting opinions.

Moreover, there are various forms of authoritarianism, including military, party-based, and personalized authoritarianism. A clear example of authoritarianism can be seen in Benito Mussolini's dictatorship in Italy. Mussolini's authoritarianism generally encompasses a dictatorial regime that involves centralized government and restrictions on political freedoms. Militarism is a political system that relies on a military class and military power within society. In this system, a significant portion of state expenditures is directed toward military purposes. The strengthening of military power and making war or military preparedness an essential element of social and political development is the goal of militarism. This system has its own fundamental principles. Militarism: Key Characteristics:

Prioritizing Military Power: States view military power as the primary means to fully satisfy and protect their interests. As a result, war or military preparedness takes precedence over diplomacy or other peaceful methods.

Military Influence on Politics and Social Life: Once a military government is established, power is based on military dictatorship. This allows the government to exert significant influence over political and economic decisions. Such powers have been observed in the 20th century in countries like Argentina, Chile, and Iran, and can also be found in the 21st century in Thailand, Myanmar, and Egypt.

Military Preparedness and Army Development: Militarism focuses on the development of the military-industrial complex, strengthening the army, and producing a large number of weapons. This can lead to a significant portion of economic and social resources being allocated for military needs.

Preparation for War: Militarism particularly involves preparing for war and integrating this preparedness into national policy. We can observe these processes in Chile under the military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet. After coming to power, Pinochet's reforms exhibited several characteristics typical of militarism, such as the declaration of a state of siege, the abolition of the constitution, and the cancellation of nearly all democratic freedoms.

Thus, each system has its own unique characteristics. In general, totalitarianism entails complete state control over all areas, including personal life. Authoritarianism may allow for more political freedom and government activity, but opposition and political freedoms are still restricted. The main features of militarism are based on military power and combat readiness. Although these systems have distinct differences, they all strive to establish centralized authority in social governance. In our developed world, while we rarely see states employing these systems, we can observe their modern adaptations, and the characteristics of these systems continue to evolve with time and context.



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