

The Government of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy based on Islam. The government is headed by the King, who is also the commander in chief of the military. The King appoints a Crown Prince to help him with his duties. The Crown Prince is second in line to the throne.

The King governs with the help of the Council of Ministers, also called the Cabinet. There are 22 government ministries that are part of the Cabinet. Each ministry specializes in a different part of the government, such as foreign affairs, education and finance.



The King is also advised by a legislative body called the Consultative Council (Majlis Al-Shura). The Council proposes new laws and amends existing ones. It consists of 150 members who are appointed by the King for four-year terms that can be renewed.

Because Saudi Arabia is an Islamic state, its judicial system is based on Islamic law (Shari'ah). The King is at the top of the legal system. He acts as the final court of appeal and can issue pardons. There are also courts in the Kingdom. The largest are the Shari'ah Courts, which hear most cases in the Saudi legal system. [Sharia Law Video](#)

Executive Branch	Legislative Branch	Judicial Branch

Who holds the power in the government? Who is sovereign?	
How do leaders get or keep power?	
What limits are there on power?	
To what extent do citizens have rights?	

Kim Jong-Un 'Wins' Re-Election

Kim Jong-Un has been 're-elected' as leader of North Korea having executed his politically powerful uncle last year and successfully disposed of 11 high-ranking government officials over the weekend.

North Koreans cast ballots in a pre-determined election where all of the candidates stood unopposed. The state- controlled Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) described the election as 'the great jubilee in the nation's history' and told how parliament cheered as the result was announced.

After the predetermined vote, in which no-one else was allowed to run, Kim was reaffirmed as First Chairman of the powerful National Defence Commission (NDC) by the country's new rubber-stamp parliament, the Supreme People's Assembly. In the shadowy world of North Korean politics the NDC is widely seen as the nation's highest decision- making body.



Kim's uncle and political mentor Jang Song-thaek, who was executed as a traitor in December last year before reportedly being fed to a pack of hungry dogs, had previously served as vice chairman of the NDC.

Yesterday it was reported that one of Jang's closest associates, O Sang-hon was executed with a flamethrower after being branded an 'enemy of the state'.

Mr. O is thought to be the latest of 11 senior Workers Party figures to have been executed this year over their links to Mr. Jang, with South Korean media reporting that Kim Jong-un has plans to execute or imprison hundreds more of his supporters and extended family members.

Mr. O had been Mr. Jang's deputy at North Korea's ministry of public security. The ministry has since been closed, with all 11 of the most senior officials said to have been either executed or sent to one of Kim Jong-un's concentration camps. [North Korea Election Video](#)

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1.) What is the best name for the government type of Saudi Arabia? For North Korea?

2.) How are the governments of Saudi Arabia and North Korea similar? How are they different?