

## 8.2 Political Systems

- *State – region that shares a common government*
- *City-State – independent state consisting of a city and surrounding territory*
- *Empire – state containing several countries*

### I. Nation-State

1. *nation-state- independent of other states*

2. defined borders

3. usually divided into smaller states or provinces

### II. Forms of Government

1. autocracies – ruled by a single person
2. oligarchies – ruled by a small group of people

### III. Democracy

1. *democracy – citizens hold political power*
2. direct democracy- citizens pass laws and select leaders together.
3. representative democracy- representatives are elected to make government decisions

### IV. Monarchy

1. *monarchy – ruled by a monarch*
2. Usually a King or Queen.
3. Absolute monarchs have unlimited power.
4. Constitutional monarchs share power with other branches of government.
5. Power is usually inherited.

### V. Authoritarian Government

1. *authoritarian – all power is held by one person*
2. Government may control ALL aspects of life.
3. *Communism – government owns property and makes all economic decisions*