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SOC 101

There are many countries around the world, that practice democracy. The majority of these countries practice what is known as the parliamentary system. They practice this system, instead of the presidential system that we use here, in the United states. Some examples of parliamentary democracies are Canada, Great Britain, Italy, and Japan. A parliamentary system is one where the laws are made by majority vote of the legislature and then signed by the head of the state, who does not have an effective veto power. The executive branch in the parliamentary government, takes its power directly from the legislative branch. The prime minister and the minister of different executive departments primarily carry out the executive function.

The Israeli government is based on a parliamentary government. The prime minister is at the front of the government and is the leader of the multi-party system. The executive power is exercised by the cabinet. The Legislative power is vested in Knesset. The Judiciary is independent of both the executive and the legislature. Israel also does not have a written constitution. It is easy to see, that the Israeli system of government is all over the place. Israel has been dealing with these issues for many years. The problem is both structural and societal. Israel is severely divided.

I do not think that we as a country, should adopt something similar. While, there are some advantages, I believe that the disadvantages far outweigh them. The biggest advantage of a parliamentary system are adaptability, scrutiny, and accountability. The disadvantages to such a system are, the head of the government is not, in most cases directly

elected, instability, and no independent body to be able to oppose anything. Those are all bad disadvantages to have because changes in power can happen, without an election.

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