



The Political System of the United Kingdom

THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Britain is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy.

The monarch is the head of State and Church. She opens and closes the Parliament for political and ceremonial reasons. She appoints the Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister.

The parliament which is elected by the people, is divided into two "houses":

- House of Lords;
- House of Commons;

The seat of Parliament

The seat of parliament is
Westminster.





HOUSE OF LORDS

The House of Lords consists of about 1000 not elected members and is divided into Lord Spiritual (the highest charges of the Church of England), and Lords Temporal. The Lords Temporal are divided into Lords who inherited their charge for life, and Law Lords. They do not receive a salary and their main task is to approve bills already passed in The House of Commons. The President, the Lord Chancellor, is a member of the Cabinet.





HOUSE OF COMMONS

The House of Commons, elected by universal suffrage every 5 years, discusses current political issues. It consists of 650 Members of Parliament (Mps) who represent the 650 constituencies into which the UK is divided. The President is the Speaker.



The Government

A bill passed by both houses of Parliament does not become law until the monarch does not give royal assent and signed. She declares wars and makes peace but only on the request of the Prime Minister. In the UK every citizen over 18 years has the right to vote. The leader of the party that gets the most votes chooses the ministers. The minority party becomes the opposition, also called <<Shadow Cabinet>>. Britain is a "one-party government," for maintain the stability.



Parliament

House of Commons 659 MPs		House of Lords c 700 Members	
Opposition Parties	Governing Party	Governing Party	Opposition Parties & Crossbenchers
Shadow Ministers	Prime Minister	Ministers	Whips
Whips	Ministers	Whips	Backbenchers
Backbenchers	Whips	Backbenchers	Law Lords
	Backbenchers		Bishops



Cabinet

The Cabinet, directly responsible for the monarch, takes decisions on the implementation of new policies and the functioning of the various government departments. The cabinet members are chosen by the Prime Minister and not necessarily belong to the government department.



The Prime Minister

He is the head of Government, normally he's the leader of the majority party in Parliament. He directs and controls policy for the government, and keeps the queen informed about government decisions. He represents the country abroad and decides the date for elections that must be held at least every 5 years.





The Commonwealth

- Guiding principles are contained in the Commonwealth Charter;
- Leaders of members countries shape Commonwealth policies and priorities;
- All members have an equal say;



The Commonwealth's members countries are:

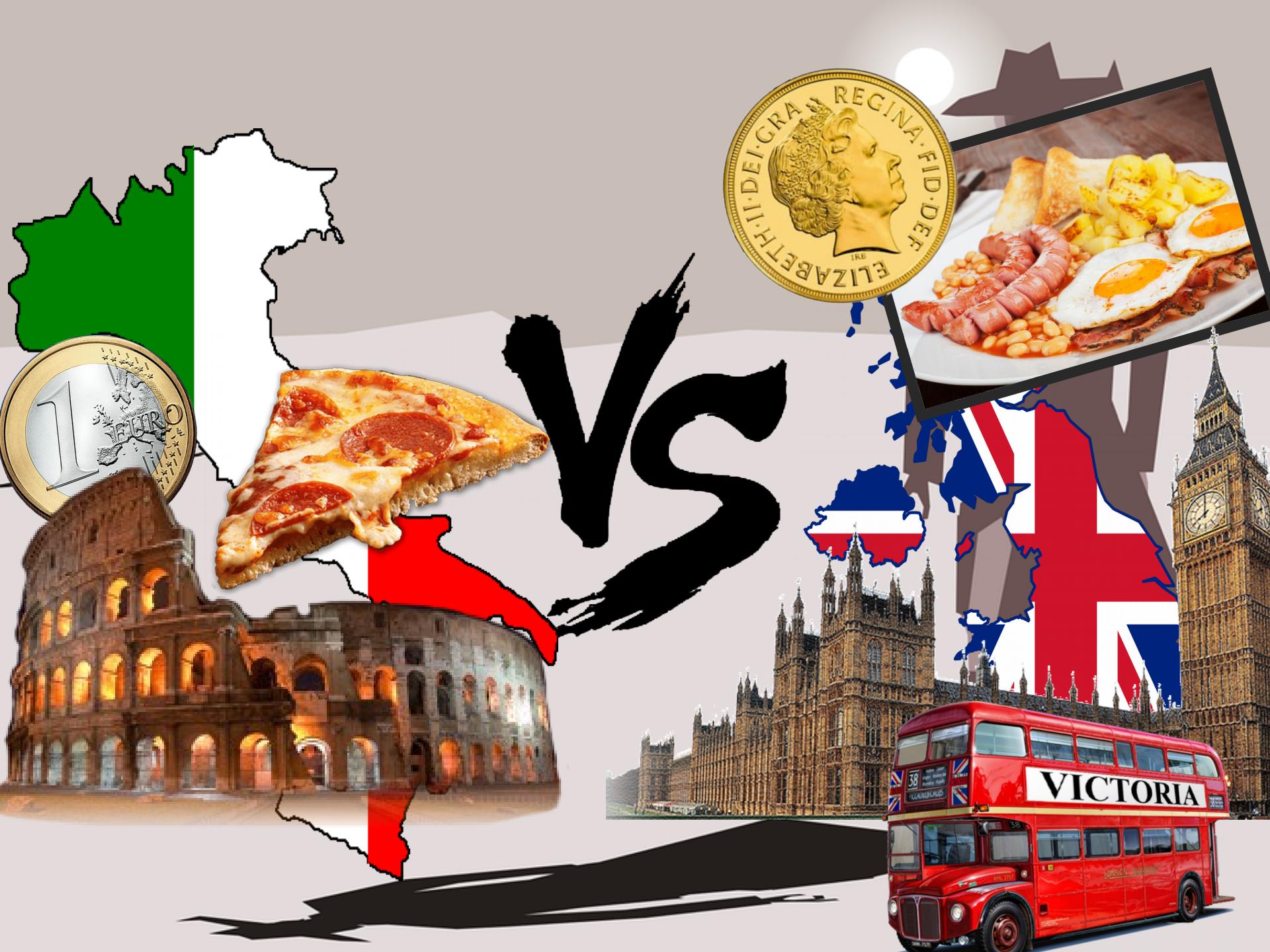
- Fifty two of which Thirty-one are small countries;
- Includes Africa, Asia, America, Europe and the Pacific;
- Include rich and poor, big and small countries;

Commonwealth Secretariat:

- Provides guidance on policy making, technical assistance and advisory services for help achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development;
- Promotes democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development;

Commonwealth organisations are involved:

- helping countries with trade negotiations;
- encouraging women's leadership;
- supporting youth participation at society;
- providing experts to write laws;



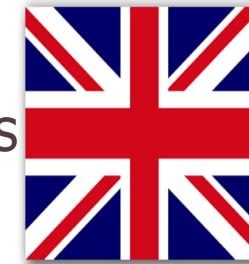


Vs

ITALY



Vs



Vs

BRITAIN

- Italy is a parliamentary republic;
- The Italian Senate is elected by the people;
- In Italy State and Church are separated;
- Italian Parliament is semicircle-shaped;
- In Italy there is a proportional electoral system;
- In Italy women got right to vote in 1946;
- In Italy has been a written constitution since 1948;
- The UK is a constitutional monarchy;
- The House of Lords is not elected;
- The Queen is the head of the Church of England;
- The Government and the Opposition sit opposite each other in Britain;
- In Britain there is a simple majority electoral system;
- In Britain women got right to vote in 1928;
- The Britain Constitution is not written but it is based on the Magna Carta and other conventions;

END