**CLASS SET**

Dictatorship

1. A government in which a single leader or party exercises absolute control over all citizens and every aspect of their lives: [absolutism](http://www.answers.com/topic/absolutism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [autarchy](http://www.answers.com/topic/autarchy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [autocracy](http://www.answers.com/topic/autocracy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [despotism](http://www.answers.com/topic/despotism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [monocracy](http://www.answers.com/topic/monocracy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [tyranny](http://www.answers.com/topic/tyranny%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top).
2. Absolute power, especially when exercised unjustly or cruelly: [autocracy](http://www.answers.com/topic/autocracy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [despotism](http://www.answers.com/topic/despotism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [totalitarianism](http://www.answers.com/topic/totalitarianism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [tyranny](http://www.answers.com/topic/tyranny%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top).
3. A political doctrine advocating the principle of absolute rule: [absolutism](http://www.answers.com/topic/absolutism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [authoritarianism](http://www.answers.com/topic/authoritarianism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [autocracy](http://www.answers.com/topic/autocracy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [despotism](http://www.answers.com/topic/despotism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), [totalitarianism](http://www.answers.com/topic/totalitarianism%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top).

[Political Dictionary:](http://www.answers.com/library/Political%20Dictionary-cid-22794) dictatorship

In modern usage, absolute rule unrestricted by law, constitutions, or other political or social factors within the state.

In the twentieth century the existence of a dictator has been a necessary and (to some) definitive component of totalitarian regimes: thus Stalin's Russia, Hitler's Germany, and Mussolini's Italy were generally referred to as dictatorships. In the Soviet case the very word and idea of dictatorship were legitimized by Marx's idea of the historical necessity of a ‘dictatorship of the proletariat’ which would follow the revolution and eradicate the bourgeoisie.

[Britannica Concise Encyclopedia:](http://www.answers.com/library/Britannica%20Concise%20Encyclopedia-cid-22794) dictatorship

Form of government in which one person or an [oligarchy](http://www.answers.com/topic/oligarchy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top) possesses absolute power without effective constitutional checks. With constitutional [democracy](http://www.answers.com/topic/democracy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_top), it is one of the two chief forms of government in use today. Modern dictators usually use force or fraud to gain power and then keep it through intimidation, terror, suppression of civil liberties, and control of the mass media.