Southwest Asian Governments

**Directions**: Complete the chart below with information from the presentation.

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| Country | How did the current government gain power? | Distribution of Power | Type of Government | Executive Branch | How is the head of government chosen? | Legislative Branch | Role of Citizen – Who can vote? |
| **State of Israel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Islamic Republic of Iran** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Southwest Asian Governments - KEY

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| Country | How did the current government gain power? | Distribution of Power | Type of Government | Executive Branch | How is the head of government chosen? | Legislative Branch | Role of Citizen – Who can vote? |
| **State of Israel** | UN created country in 1948 out of the former British mandate of Palestine. | Unitary | Parliamentary Democracy | 1. Prime Minister (most power)  2. President | The prime minister is usually the head of the dominant political party. There are two major political parties in Israel and many smaller parties. | The Knesset is the parliament. It holds most of the power in the Israeli government. | Israelis that are 18 and older vote for the Knesset’s 120 members (who then choose the Prime Minister) |
| **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** | Members of the Saud family have ruled Saudi Arabia since 1932. | Unitary | Oligarchy | King | Hereditary; past down to males in al-Saud family | Consultative Council; there are 120 members of the Council. King chooses 2/3rds of the members of the Council. | In 2004, the Saudi government began allowing men who are 21 and older to vote for some of their local officials. Women cannot vote |
| **Islamic Republic of Iran** | In 1979, the Islamic Revolution overthrew the monarchy and set up a religious dictatorship. | Unitary | Theocratic Republic | 1. Supreme Leader (unlimited power; always an ayatollah)  2. President | The Assembly of Experts chooses the Supreme Leader, and he holds the position for life.  President is elected by the people. | Consultative Assembly | The Iranian people elect the Assembly of the Experts, parliament and the president by popular vote. Citizens eighteen and older can vote for the 290 members of the Assembly |