

This presentation features two contrasting essays written as the final assignment in Intro to Comparative Government, in which the class was tasked with creating their own systems of government. Throughout the semester, the class evaluated different political institutions through many lenses, comparing their efficacy, human impacts, and ethical foundations. This provided the framework for constructing and justifying a government centered on providing the best outcomes for its hypothetical citizens. Both presenters took an earlier political science class, Intro to Political Philosophy, in which they learned about the values of different political philosophers. Many political philosophers did not just write on ethical guidelines for politics, but also prescribed what would make the best system of government. These presenters have chosen to defend the ideal systems of government advanced by different philosophers in their projects. Bates' system of government is a parliamentary theocracy focused on protecting individual rights, grounded in the principles of early religious scholars such as Thomas Aquinas. Gomez's system, by contrast, is a democracy based on the theories of John Stuart Mill, who emphasized individual liberty and autonomy from government or majoritarian rule.