**Types of Political Systems:**

According to Edward Shills, there are three main types of political systems.

These are discussed as under:

**1-Totalitarian system:**

A system in which the state controls and regulates all phases of life considered essential for perpetuating its power and for carrying out programmes arbitrarily. It is the most extreme form of authoritarianism. Unlike democracies, where a variety of groups struggle for a voice in government, the government dictates the society’s values, ideology, rules and form of government.

Societies having totalitarian system do not permit dissent. The centralized authority always dominates over the autonomy of individual or sub-groups within the society. Mussolini’s Italy, Hitler’s Nazi Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Union are often quoted as examples of totalitarian states.

Total­itarian states are ruled by one political party that organizes the citizens into a unified group. In practice, the state is represented by a politically powerful ruling class or elite that dominates all other interest groups.

**2-Oligarchic system:**

Any form of government in which there is a ‘rule by a few’, for example, by members of a self-regulating elite having domination over a large society is known as an oligarchic political system. It is a system in which a small group (elites) rules and holds supreme power over a larger society.

**3-Democratic system:**

In its broadest sense, democracy is a way of life in which an individual feels free to act within accepted boundaries of norms and also equal in respects of his/her rights. In the narrower sense, it is a form of government, a power structure in which people govern themselves.

People participate in the government through their representatives that they elect. In other words, people represent themselves and take their own decisions. It is an imagination of the replica of an equalitarian society.