

POWER IN FRANCE

France is a REPUBLIC

It's currently the 5th republic

In a republic there are 3 separate power:

- Executive : it belongs to the president and the government

- Legislative: It belongs to the Assemblée Nationale and the

Senate

- Judiciary: It belongs to judges who are public servants

COMMON POINTS AND DIFFERENCES WITH THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

Common points

The president is elected for two consecutive terms maximum

The president is elected by the French citizens

France never had a female president

The legislative power belongs to 2 chambers : the Assemblée Nationale and Le Sénat

The justice system is independent

The Conseil Constitutionnel does a part of your Supreme Court's job

Differences

The president's term lasts 5 years (quinquennat)

The Assemblée Nationale is elected for 5 years and the Senate for 6 years

The Assemblée Nationale is more powerful than the Senate

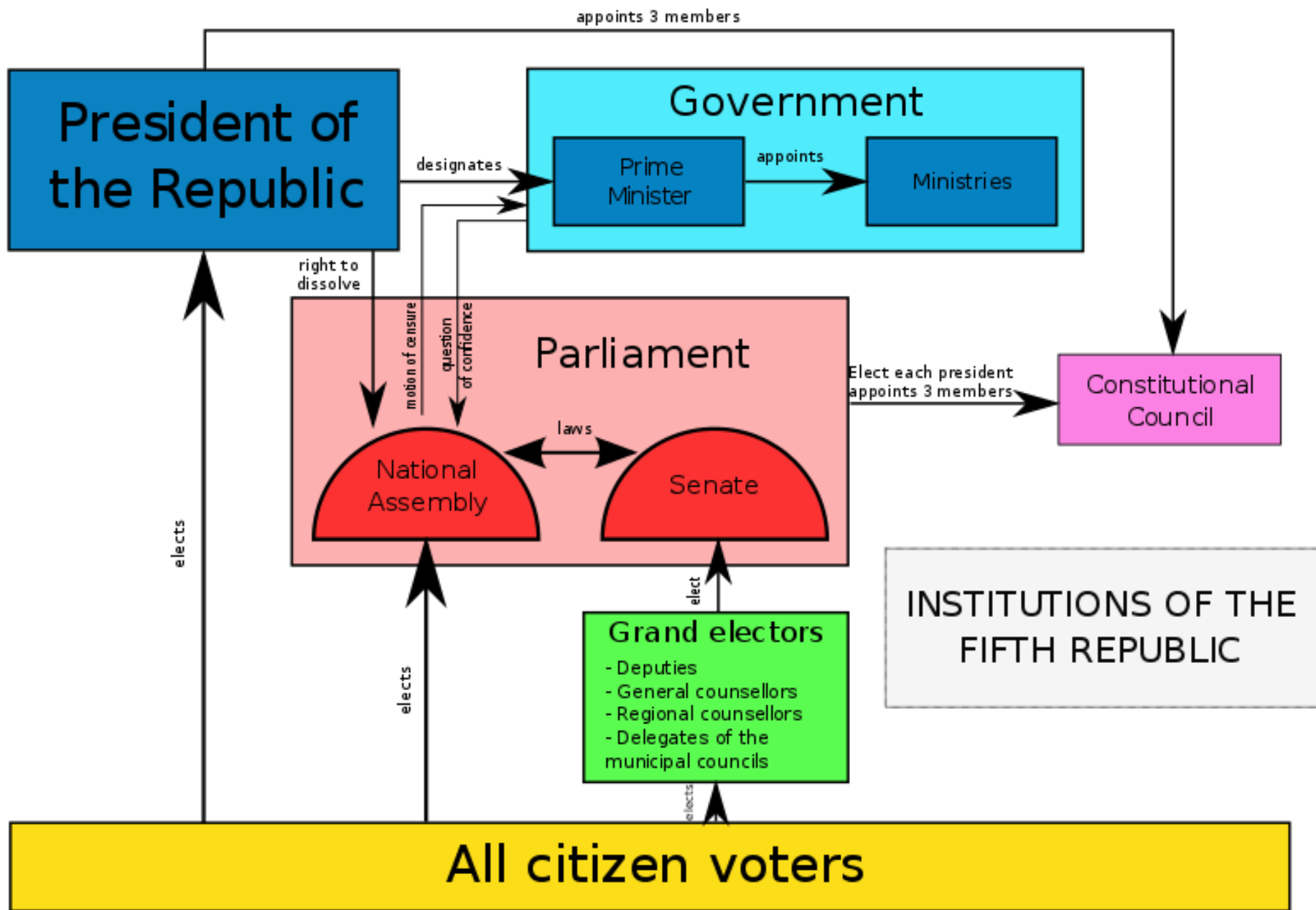
The French president has more power than the American president

When a president dies or resign during his term there is another election

It's possible to have a president and a prime minister being from different political parties: COHABITATION

The president's powers

- to organize referendums
- to dissolve the National Assembly(US senate)
- has the power of mercy
- to sign the treaties
- to use the A Bomb
- to ask for full power for 6 months in case of emergency
- to be immune during his term (no impeachment)
- to appoint the prime minister



DECENTRALIZATION

1982: the government and the president gave powers and funds to
« collectivités territoriales »

There are three types

Decentralized powers: Régions, Départements and Communes

COMMUNE	DEPARTEMENT	REGION
Conseil municipal 6 years	Conseil general -101- 6 year	Conseil Régional-13 -6 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CCAS -Transportation -Primary schools -Libraries, swimming pools, sports facilities -Urban planning (permit) -Police municipales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Departemental roads -Social support to handicapped, seniors, vaccination campaigns -Middle schools -School buses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Highways -High schools -Natural parks -Public works: ex: tourism
Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Taxe d'habitation/foncière -State 	Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Part of communes ' local taxes -State 	Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Part of communes' local taxes -State

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La commune, communauté de communes, communauté d'agglomération:

They are in charge of

- nursery and primary schools
- elections
- censuses (état civil)
- recycling, waste management, street cleaning, water system
- help the needy
- local transports
- sports facilities and libraries

Le conseil départemental « departmental council »

It's in charge of

- middle schools (« collèges »)
- school transport/ buses
- defire departement
- departemental and national roads
- des special needs people

Le conseil régional : « regional council »

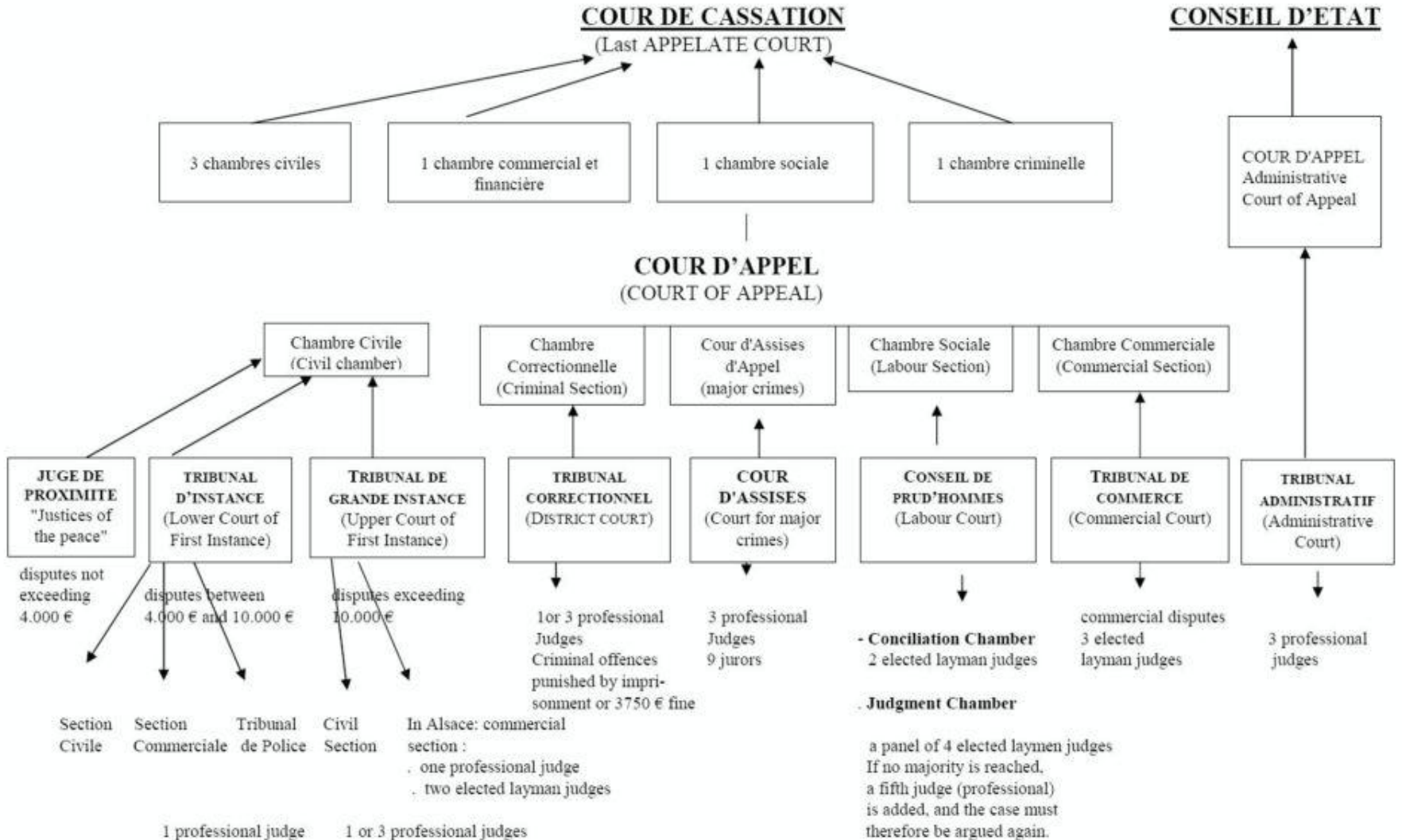
It's in charge of

- adult vocational training
- high schools
- student housing
- natural parcs
- regional transports and highways

The judicial system (système judiciaire)

It's a complex system of Civil courts and penal courts.
French judges are called « » magistrats » and they are public servants

FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FRENCH JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE AMERICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

In France some differences:

- no release on bail
- no life imprisonment (Nordhal Lelandais- Mailis-18/02/2022)
- Death penalty has been abolished in 1981
- It's rare someone under 18 years old is sent in jail.
- There are no juvenile centers for offenders under 18
- Someone under 13 is considered as irresponsible .

Some common points:

- probation exists (sursit)
- time without parole is possible (période de sûreté)
- protective custody is used (détention préventive)
- public defender
- you are allowed to defend yourself.

-French magistrates have NO gavel and WE DO NOT SWEAR ON THE BIBLE (secularism: laïcité)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cny_slm2a8U

French serial killer Michel fourniret

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oub_EnF_5PU

Romain Dupuis (17/18 december 2004)