



# SHOULD FRANCE MOVE TOWARDS A 6TH REPUBLIC ?

*Is the system of the Fifth Republic still adapted  
to the challenges of the 21st century in France ?*

# WHAT IS A REPUBLIC ?

→ From “*res publica*”, which means the **public thing**  
= power given to the population, directly or through representative

## THE FIFTH REPUBLIC

→ instituted the **4th of October 1958**



*“Besides, who ever thought that General de Gaulle, having been called to the helm, should be content with inaugurating the chrysanthemums?”*

**3 main  
charcateristics :**

**strong  
executive**

**government  
stability**

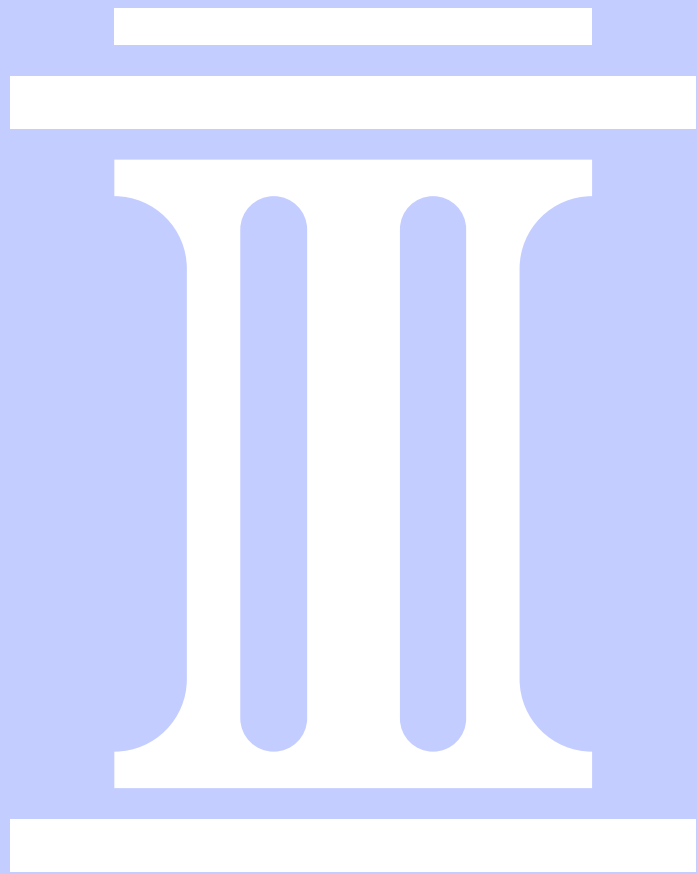
**constitutional  
justice system**

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# POLITICAL STABILITY PROVIDED BY THE 5TH REPUBLIC



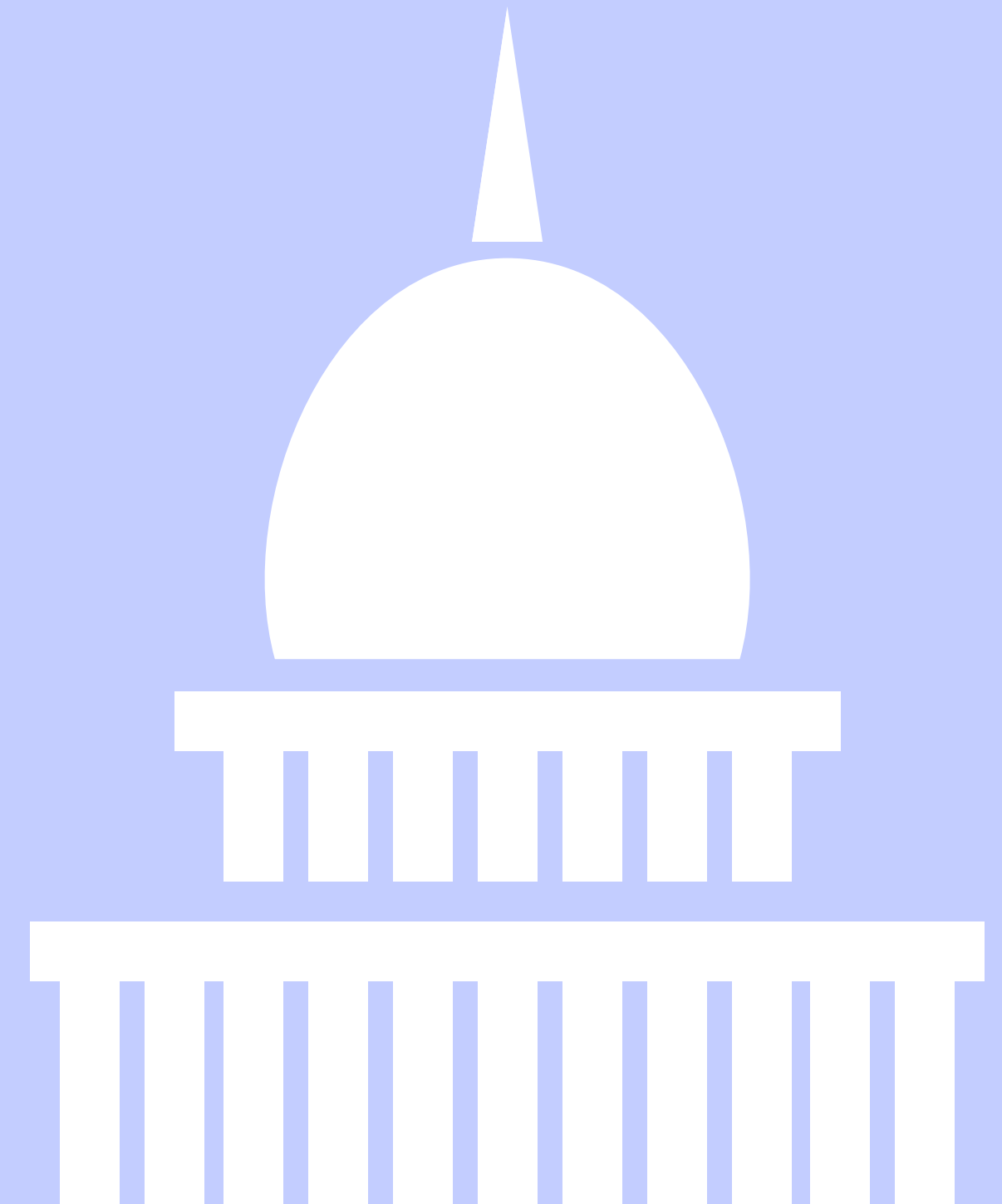
- 🏛️ The 5th republic has been put in place in order to end political instability of previous republic (the 4th)
- 👤 Strong legitimacy of the president elected by single universal suffrage making the 5th republic being a presidential system

# RISKS OF INSTABILITY WITH A NEW CONSTITUTION

 Full institutional overhaul → A transition period that could weaken governance.

● Risk of unstable governments →  
Example: France's Fourth Republic had 21 governments in 12 years (1946-1958) due to parliamentary instability.

 Political uncertainty → Investors and international partners may hesitate, impacting economic confidence.



# THE FIFTH REPUBLIC IS ADAPTABLE



Since its creation, **twenty-five revisions** have taken place, and some have had major **repercussions on the functioning of institutions and political life**

example :

**2000**

*reform of the  
presidential five-year  
term (from 7 to 5 years)*

**2008**

*constitutional revision  
on institutional  
modernisation*

**Some of the things possible to  
reform without changing republic :**

*better balance between  
executive and legislative power*

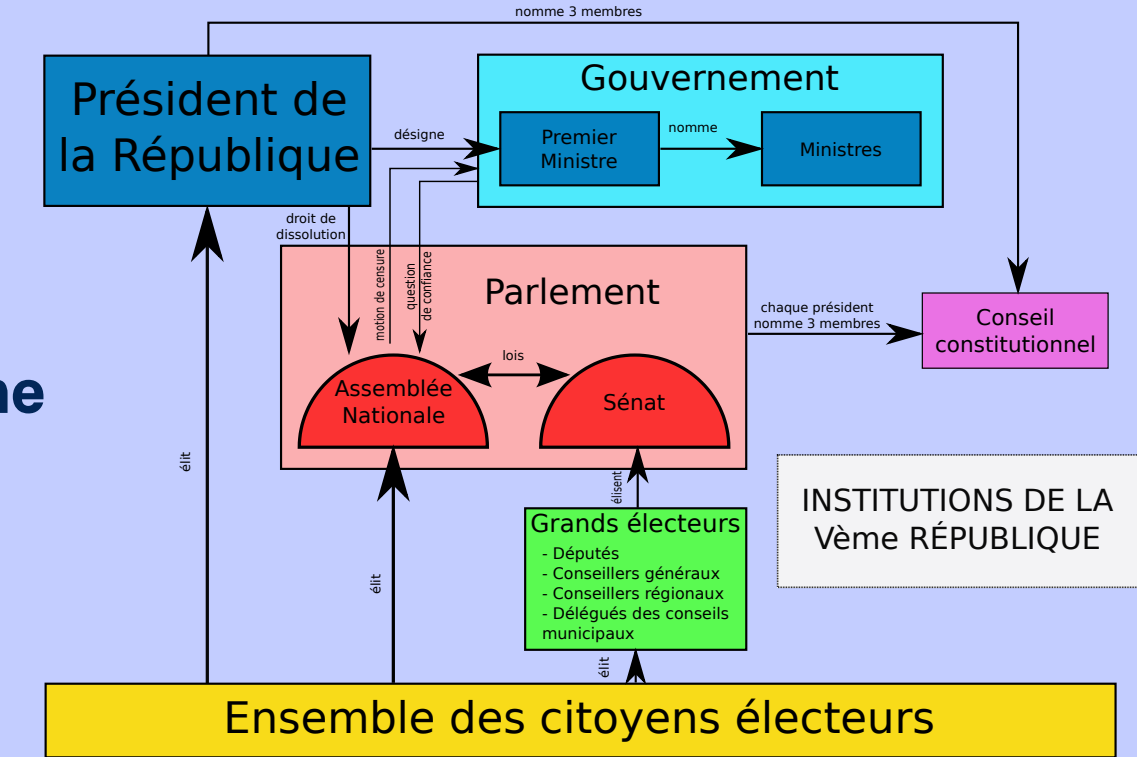
*give more proportionality*

*better decentralization*

# Arguments for the 6<sup>e</sup> Republic :

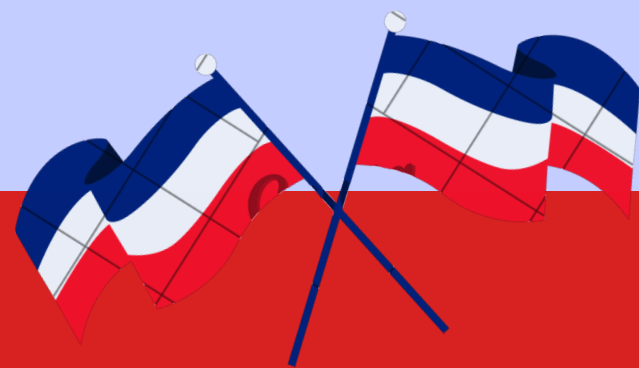
## 1) The President Has Too Much Power

- He chooses and removes the Prime Minister, which gives him full control of the government.
- He can dissolve the National Assembly (Article 12), which forces new elections when he wants.
- He can pass a law without a vote using Article 49.3, avoiding debate in Parliament.
- He appoints some members of the Constitutional Council, influencing legal decisions.



## 2) The Consequences of This System

- A weak Parliament – Most members of Parliament (MPs) follow the President's party, so there is little debate on laws.
- A limited democracy – Big reforms are sometimes forced through without real discussion (for example, the use of Article 49.3 for the pension reform).
- People lose trust in politics – Many citizens feel that their voices don't matter, leading to low voter turnout and protests.





### 3 ) How a Sixth Republic Could Fix This

#### Reduce the President's power

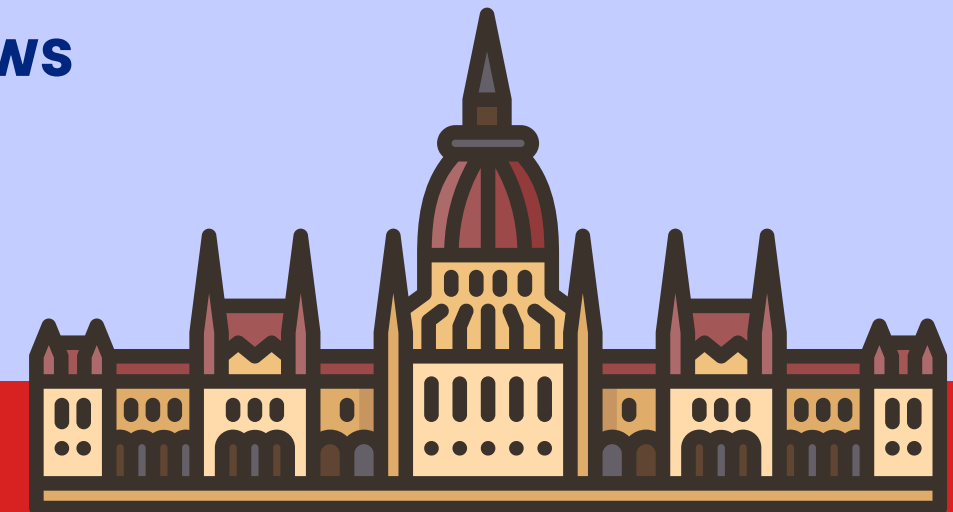
- Change the President's role to be more symbolic, like in Germany
- Remove or limit the use of Article 49.3, so Parliament has to vote on all laws
- Stop the President from choosing members of the Constitutional Council, to make legal decisions more independent.

#### Give more power to Parliament

- Use proportional voting in elections so more political views are represented
- Let Parliament choose the Prime Minister, like in Spain or the UK
- Strengthen Parliament's power to check the government, with more investigations and mandatory votes on big reforms



#### Involve citizens more in decisions

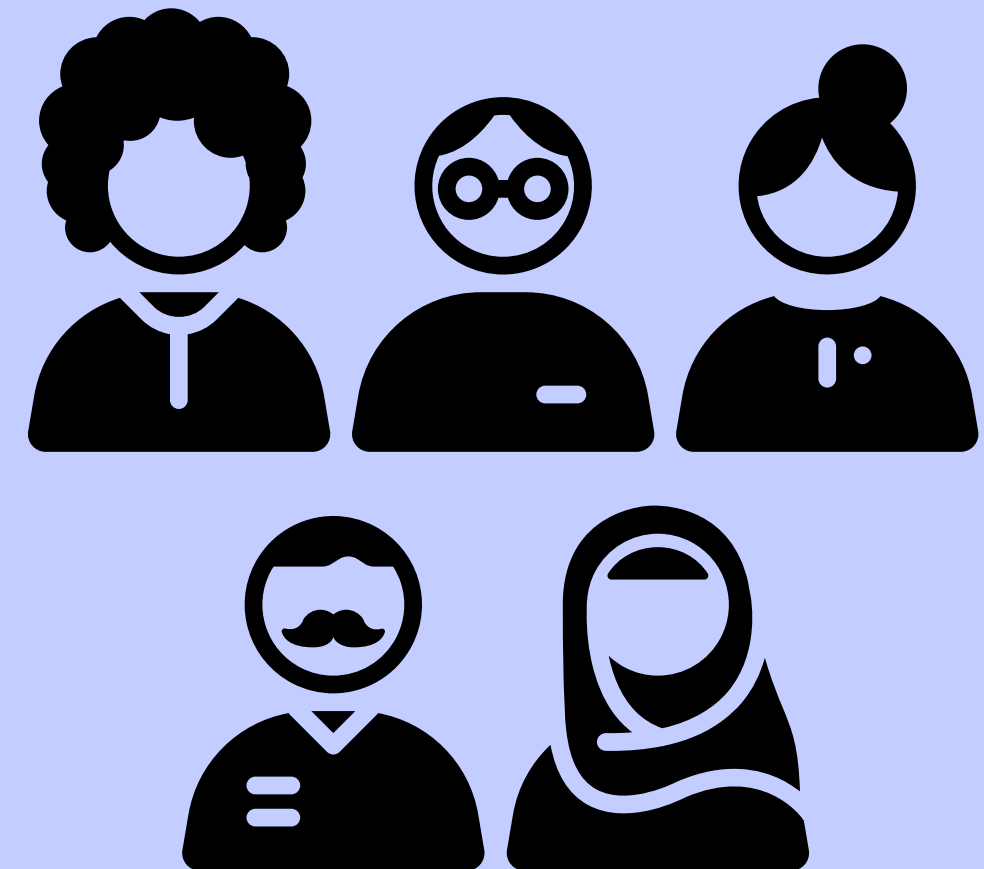
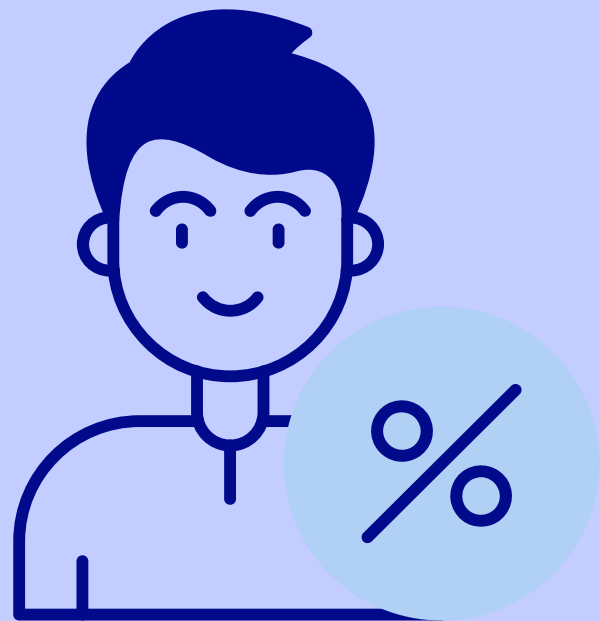
- Introduce citizen-initiated referendums (RIC), so people can vote on important laws
- Improve public consultations and citizen assemblies, so people have a real say in government decisions





# A MORE REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY


-  Now, political parties are divided in three parts -> In consequence there isn't any majority.
-  Possible adoption of proportional representation to have a better representation of all opinions.



# ADDRESSING CITIZEN CRITICISM

## MORE DEMOCRACY, MORE PARTICIPATION



 **Low voter turnout** → Only 47.5% in the 2022 legislative elections, lowest in history.

 **Public dissatisfaction** → Gilets Jaunes protests, demand for direct democracy.

 **Proposed solutions:**

- **1** More referendums → Swiss-style voting on key policies.
- **2** Citizens' assemblies → Example: 2019 Climate Convention where 150 citizens shaped climate laws.
- **3** Participatory budgeting → Paris allocated €100M in 2023 via citizen voting.

# CONCLUSION

The actual French Republic face numerous challenge and need **change**

To adapt to those change, the country can either :

- keep the **stability** of the **5th Republic** and do only some reforms

or :

- have a real **modernization** and democratization by creating a **6th Republic**



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***SHOULD THE FRANCE STAY THE SAME, REFORM THE FIFTH  
REPUBLIC, OR CREATE THE SIXTH REPUBLIC ?***