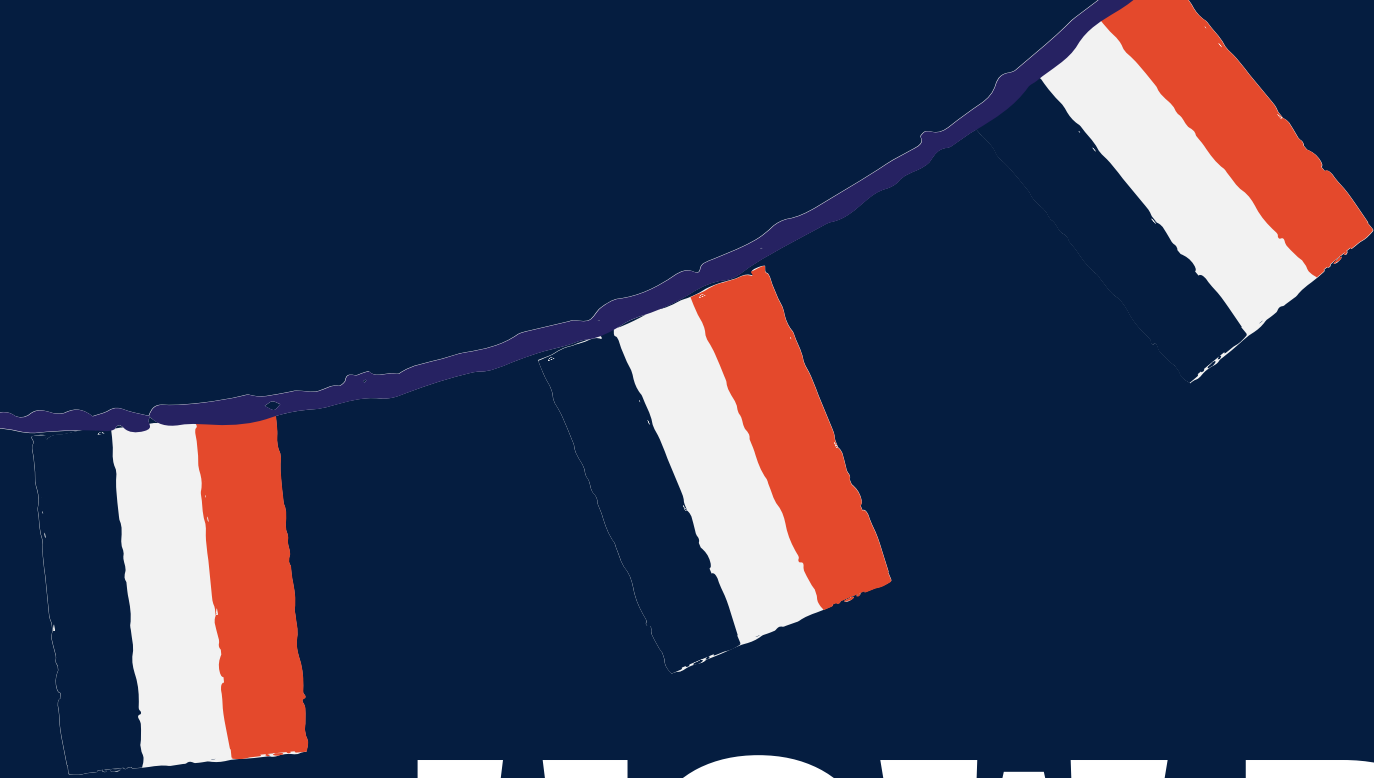




**HOW DEMOCRATIC
IS FRANCE ?**

INTRODUCTION



Key principles:

- Popular sovereignty
- Separation of powers
- The rule of law

PART 1

FRANCE, A STRONG DEMOCRACY



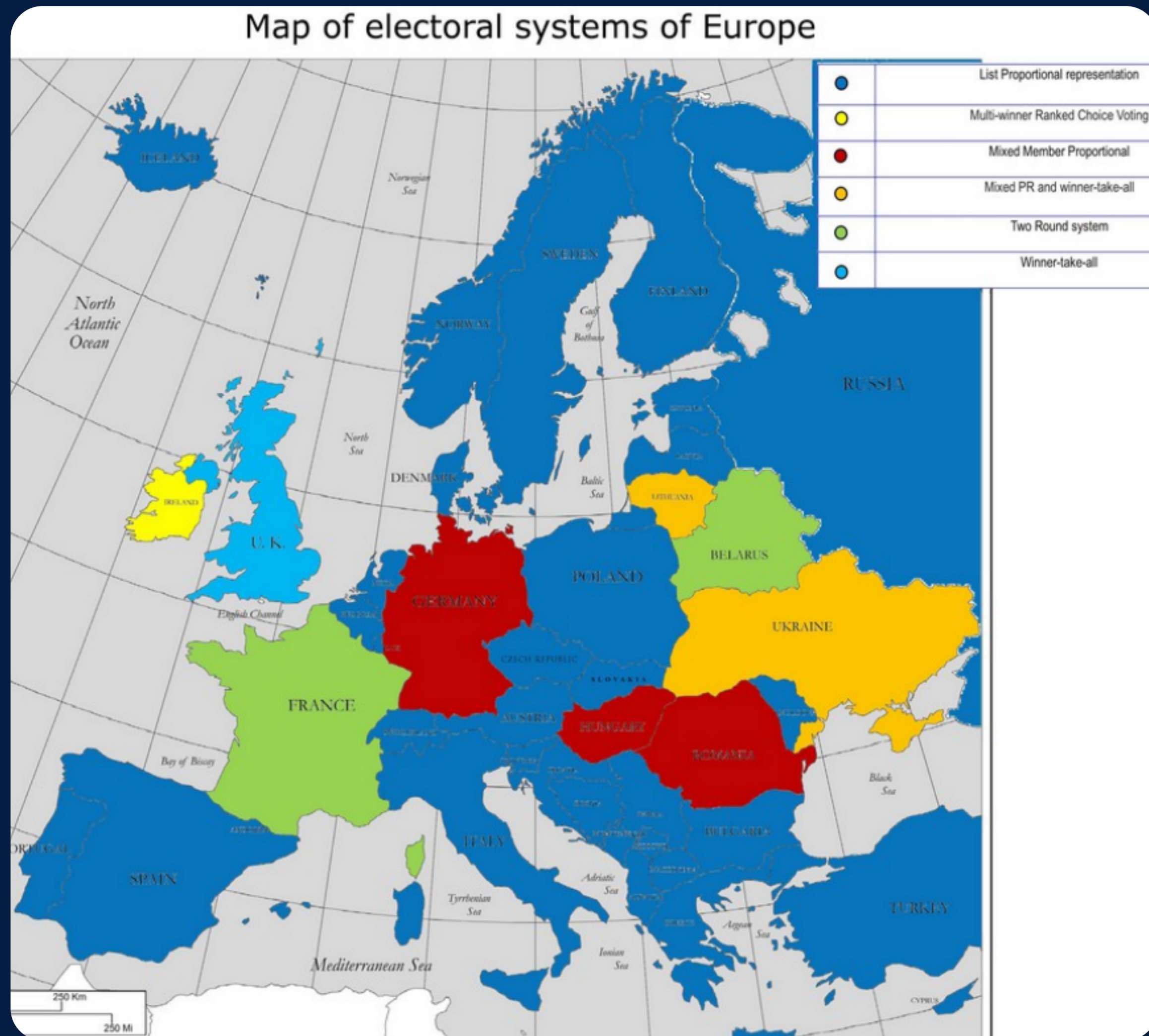
POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY

*Power comes from the people using a **two round system** voting.

>> First round to determine the **two best**.

>> Second round to elect the person or the group.

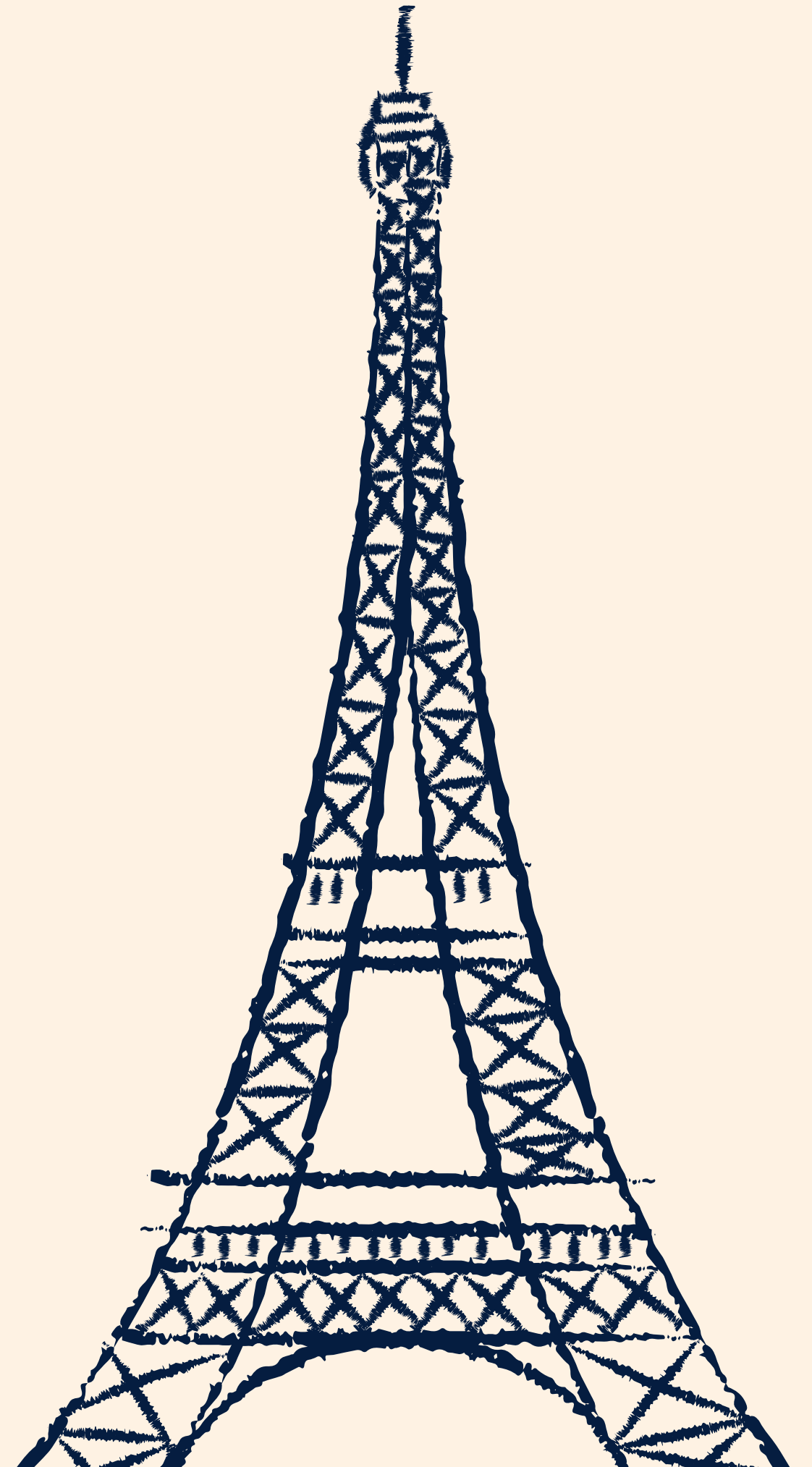
*Election by **direct universal suffrage**.

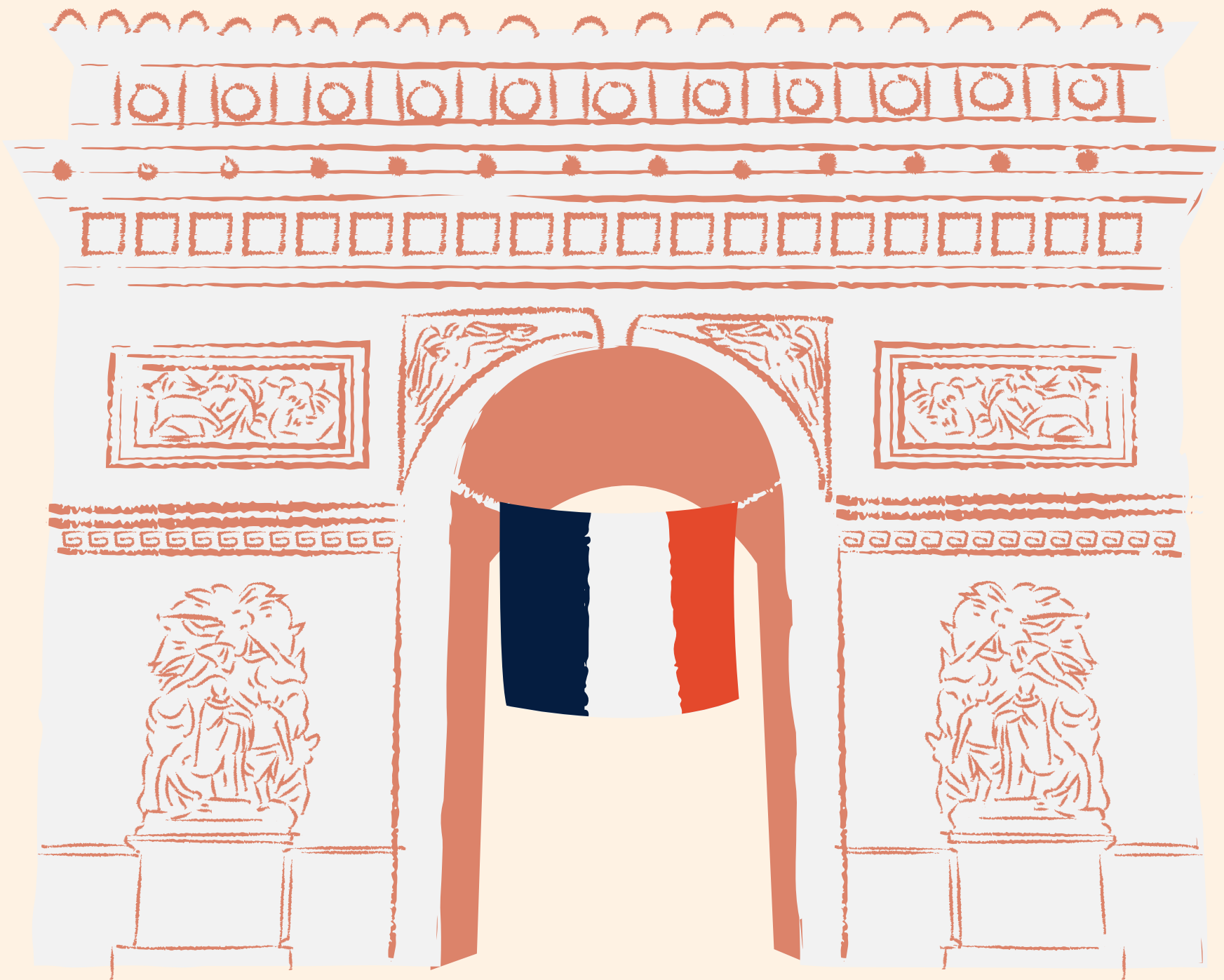


SEPARATION OF POWERS

The 3 powers are separated to make a **balance** between them in order to **prevent abuses**.
Example : motion of no confidence against the government.

Executive	Legislative	Judiciary
President and government	Parliament	Independant justice system
Apply law	Make law	Control and sanction





RULE OF LAW

THE 1958 CONSTITUTION IS THE **SUPREME
LEGAL FRAMEWORK.**

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL ENSURES
THE **PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHTS.**

GUARANTEED RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, PRESS, ASSEMBLY, AND
ASSOCIATION.

SECULARISM: STATE NEUTRALITY IN RELIGIOUS
MATTERS (1905 LAW).

LIBERTÉ

ÉGALITÉ

FRATERNITÉ

PART 2

The limits of French democracy

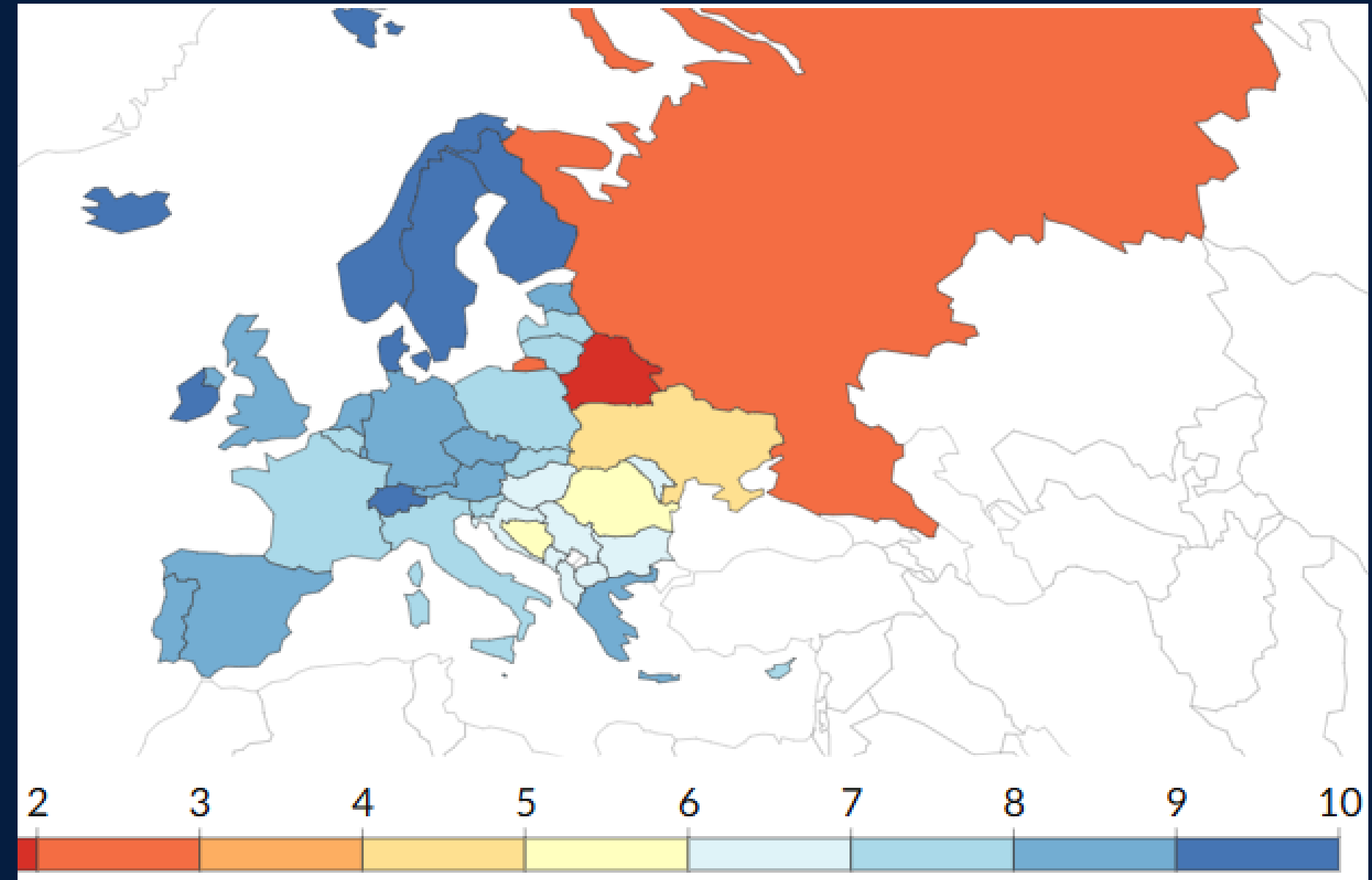


DEMOCRACY INDEX

French score : 7,99

-> Imperfect democracy

States where elections are transparent and free and fundamental freedoms are recognised, but these freedoms may be violated



USE OF ARTICLE 49.3

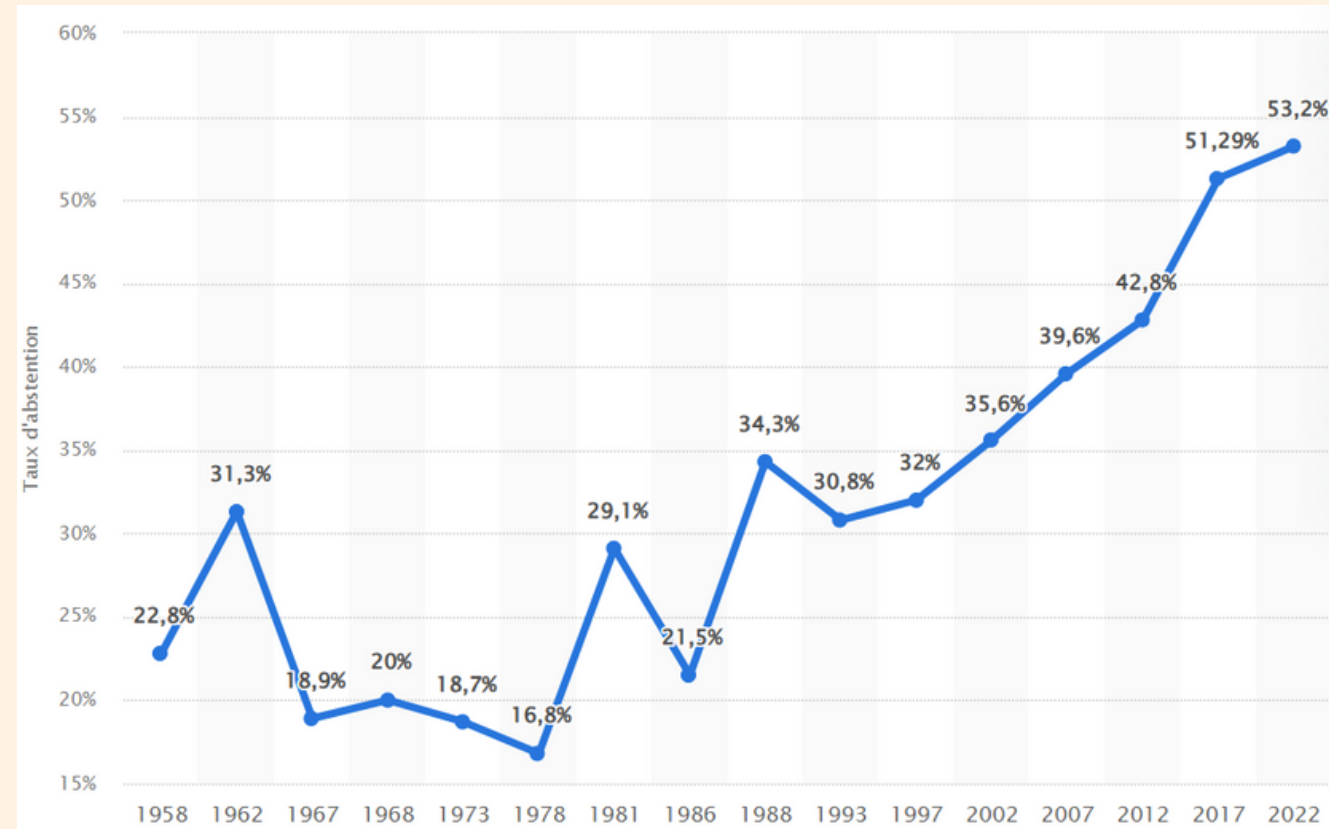
Allows the government to pass a law **without a parliamentary vote**

Used 106 times since 1958

Recently for : the adoption of the 2024 Social Security Financing Bill.



Democratic crises & public distrust



Abstention & political disengagement :

- Lack of representativeness & connection with people's concerns.
- Loss of confidence in electoral promises
- Impression of a frozen political system.
- Growing influence of social networks and new forms of mobilisation.



Social movement: (Yellow Vests in 2018) :

- 287 000 protesters
- Movement against social inequalities and the government in power.

PART 3

Other democracies





- Presidential regime with a strict separation of powers
- Extreme polarisation between Republicans and Democrats
- Low voter turnout



- High trust in institutions
- Egalitarian social model
- Very high turnout



- Proportional electoral system
- Federal system with strong decentralization
- Culture of government coalitions

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

DEMOCRACY INDEX (THE ECONOMIST, 2022):

-> France ranked 23rd behind Germany (14th) and Sweden (3rd):

Strengths: civil liberties and political pluralism

Weaknesses: political participation and political culture

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL):

-> France ranked 23rd in 2022, with a score of 72/100

Germany (9th), Sweden (4th), United States (27th)

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS):

-> France ranked 24th in 2023, behind Germany (21st), Norway (1st)

Problems: media concentration, political pressure

CONCLUSION

**FRANCE: A STRONG
BUT CHALLENGED
DEMOCRACY**



Possible improvements:

- Institutional reforms (citizen participation).
- Social policies to reduce inequalities.
- Civic education to strengthen democratic engagement.



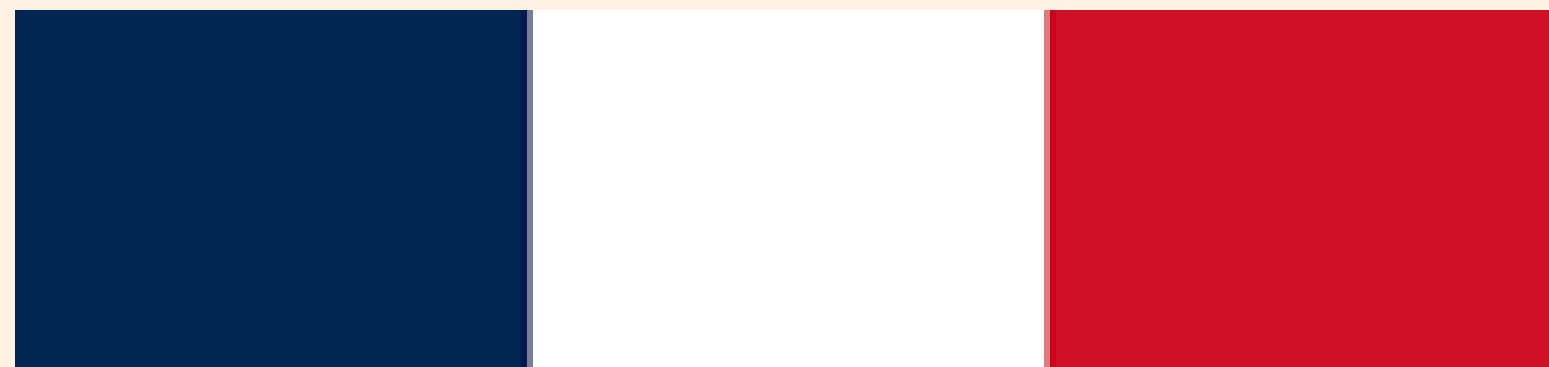


THANK YOU





**In your opinion, is
France a democracy?**



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