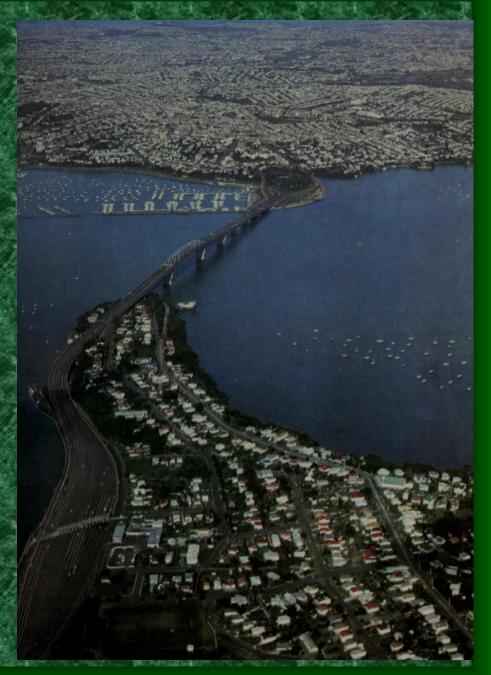


New Zealand is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Though New Zealand is an independent state, the British Queen is the head of state there, so, the country is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. It's form of government reflects its historical link with Great Britain.

• The Queen is represented by the governor – general. The parliament represents the legislative branch. Though the Parliament in New Zealand has only the House of Representatives, there are 120 members and they are elected by the people.





• The main political parties are the National Party and the Labour Party. The leader of the party that has the majority of seats in the House becomes prime minister. He appoints ministers, heads of the formal Executive Council and the informal but important Cabinet. The British monarch appoints the governor-general who is part of the Executive Council.



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