

Who rules Germany?

An introduction to our political system

Germany: a **federal** and parliamentary democracy

Federal system
consisting of 16 states
(*Bundesländer*)

Each has its own
parliament and
government



Germany: a federal and **parliamentary** democracy

Parliamentary system:

Art. 20 of the German Constitution (*Grundgesetz* = Basic Law) says:

“All state authority is derived from the people.”

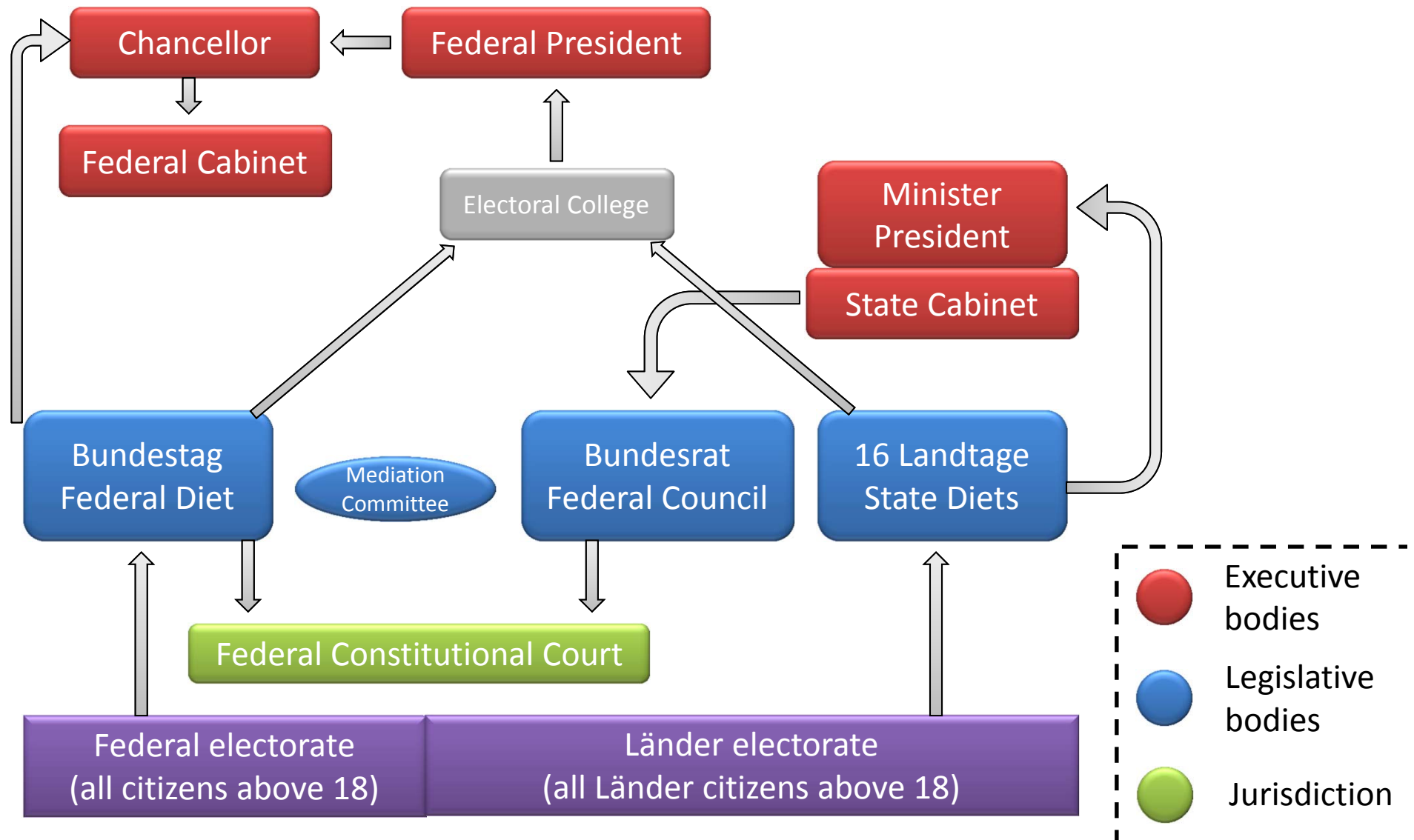
The German Parliament (*Bundestag*) is elected by and represents the German people. It...

- makes national legislation,
- and controls the government.

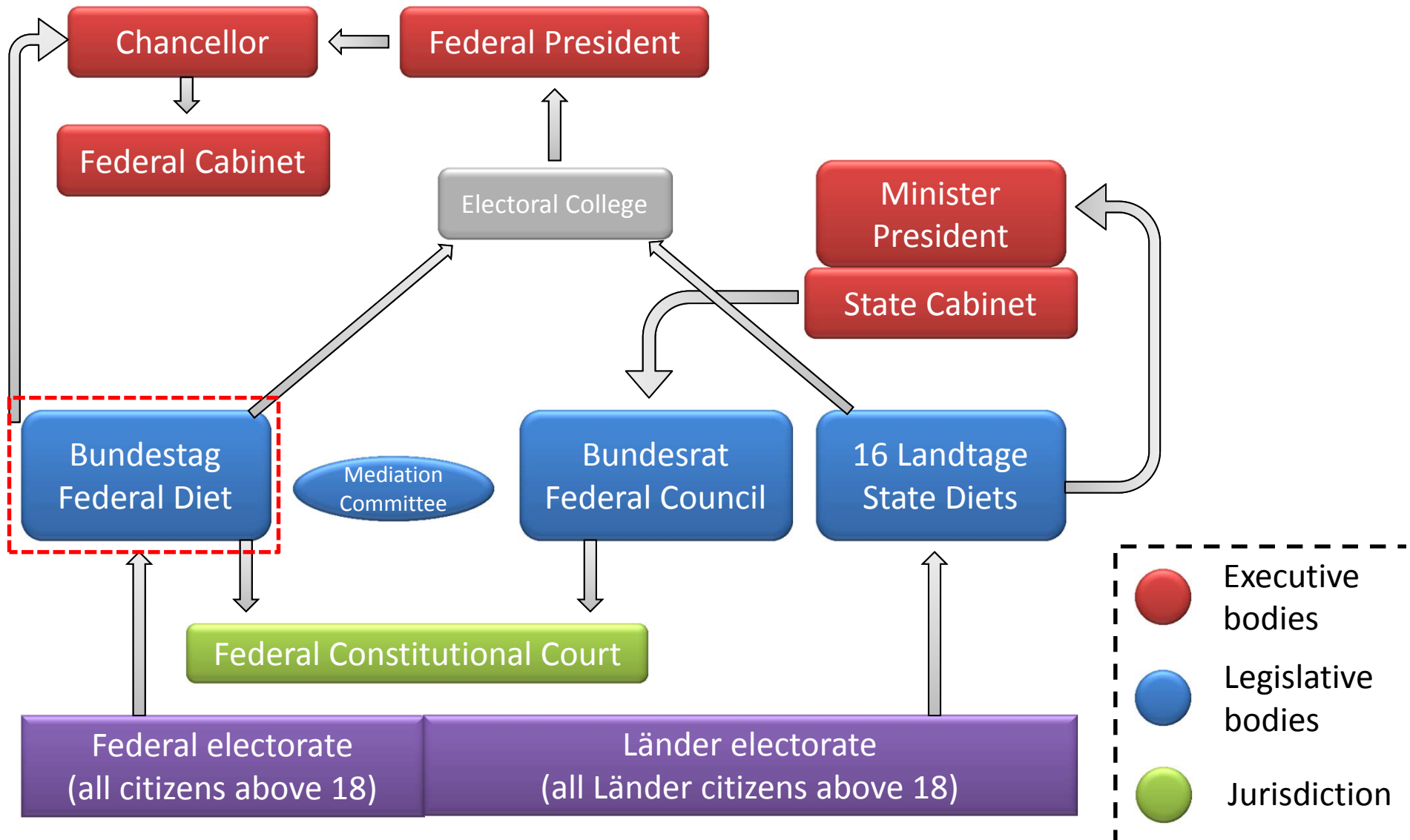


The German Bundestag situated in the *Reichstag*-building in Berlin.

Overview of the political system in Germany

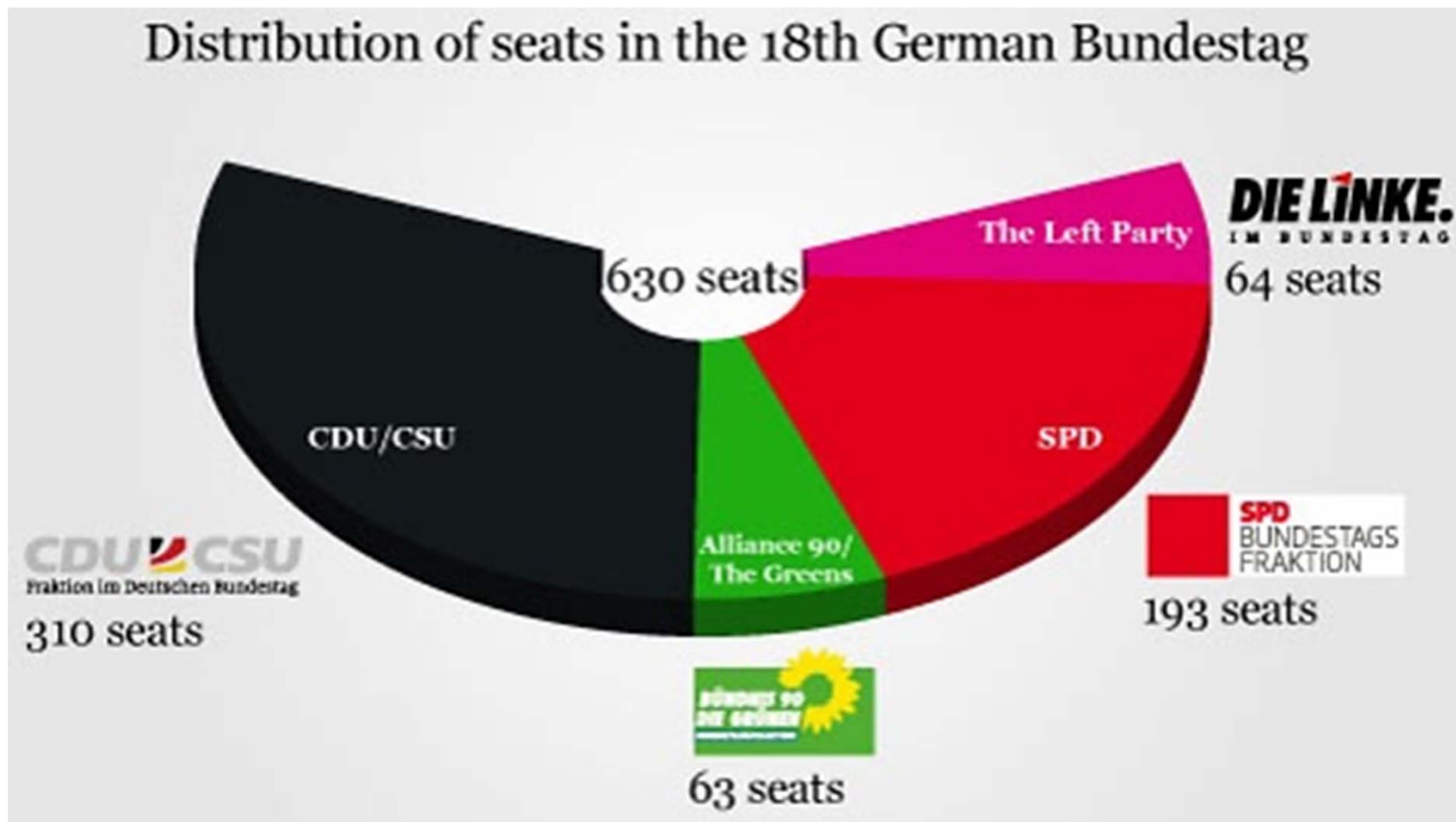


Overview of the political system in Germany



The German Bundestag

- Members elected by popular vote for a 4 year term
- Working parliament with committees discussing laws



The German Bundestag: functions

Electoral functions

Bundestag
Federal Diet

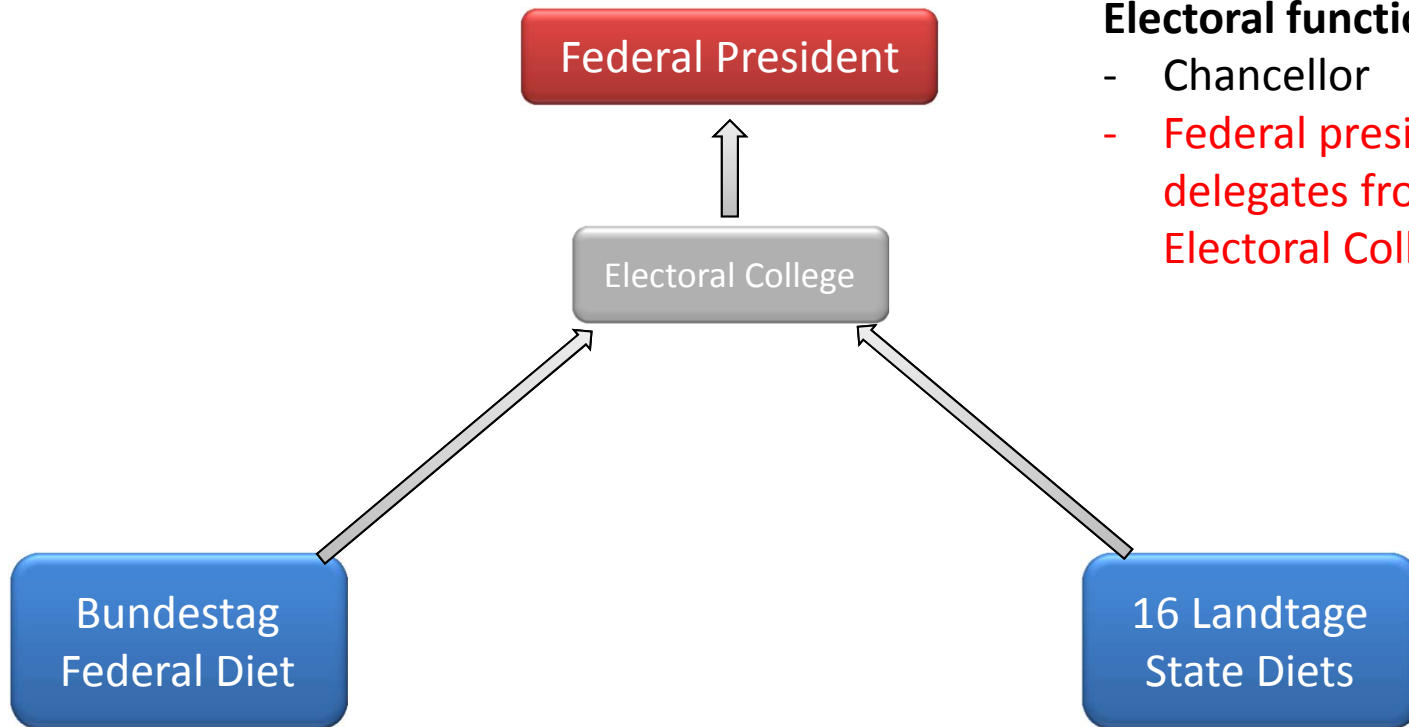
The German Bundestag: functions



Electoral functions

- Chancellor

The German Bundestag: functions



Electoral functions

- Chancellor
- Federal president (together with delegates from the Länder in the Electoral College)

The German Bundestag: functions

Electoral functions

- Chancellor
- Federal president (together with delegates from the Länder in the Electoral College)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of Federal Supreme Court judges (the other $\frac{1}{2}$ is elected by the *Bundesrat*)



The German Bundestag: functions

Legislative function

Bundestag
Federal Diet

The German Bundestag: functions

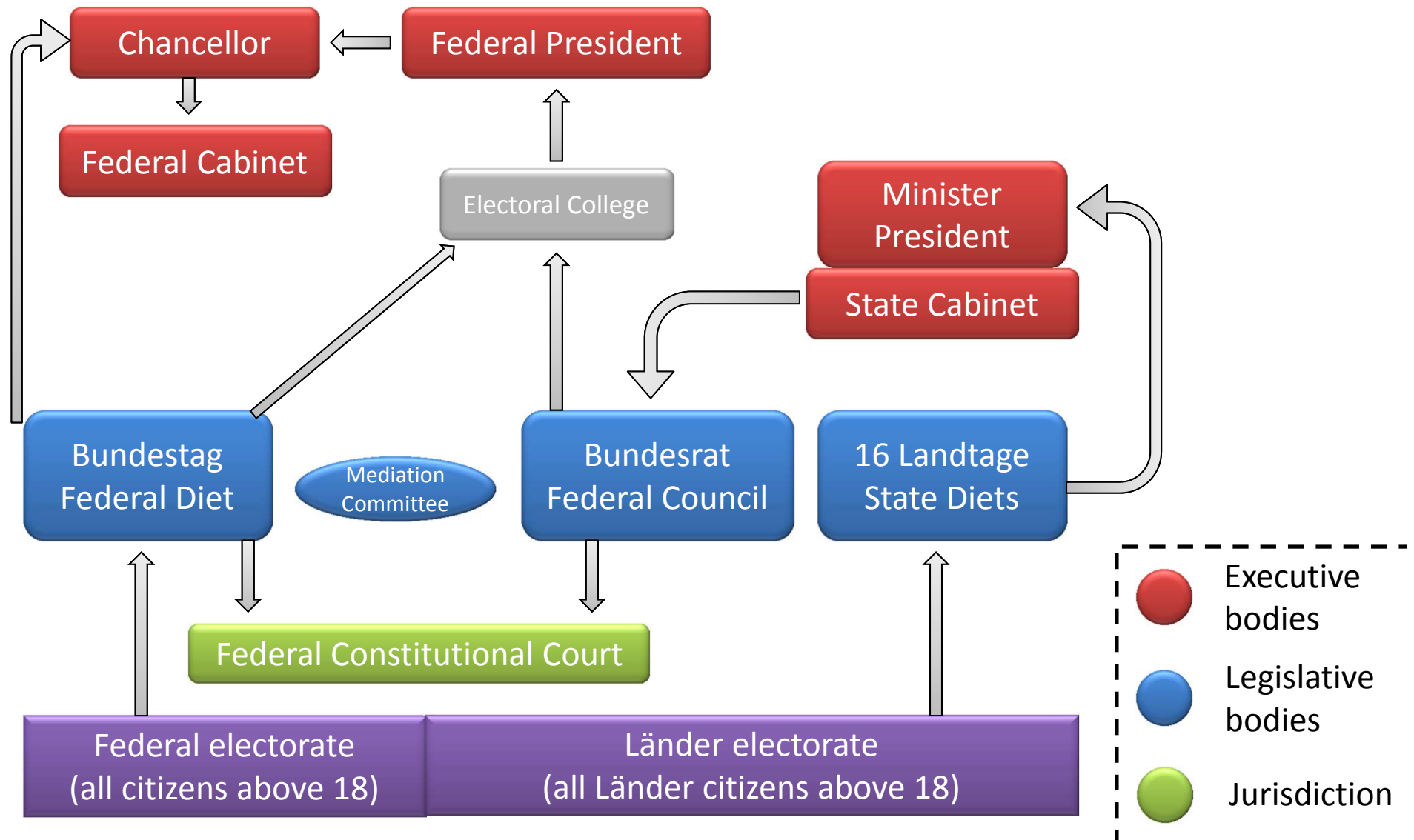
Legislative function

The Bundestag makes national laws.

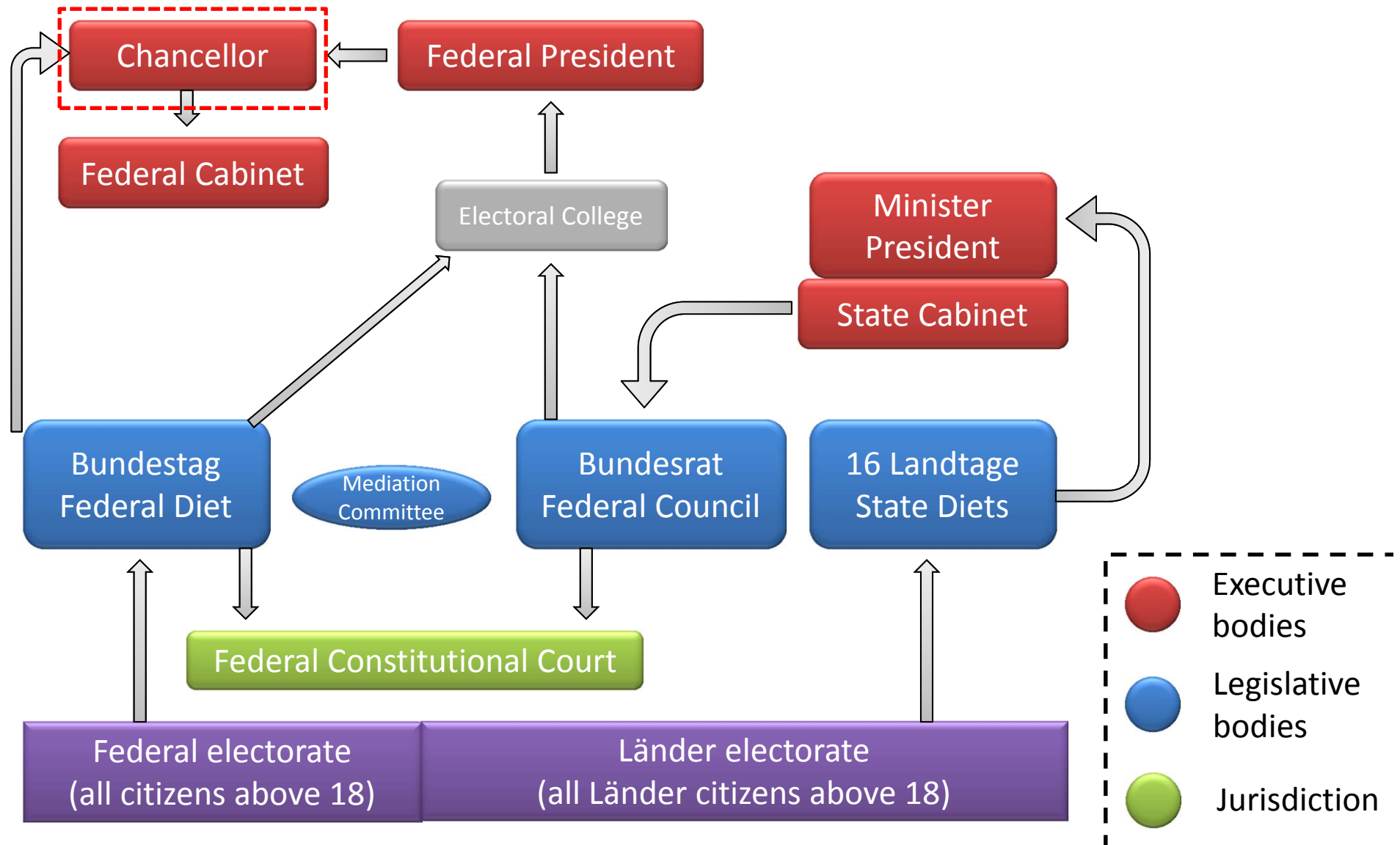
Important ones together with the Bundesrat (representation of the Länder).



Overview of the political system in Germany



Overview of the political system in Germany



Chancellors



Konrad
Adenauer
1949-63, CDU

Chancellors



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Ludwig
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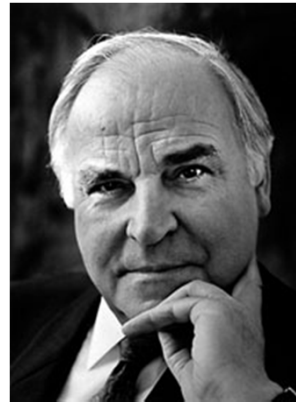
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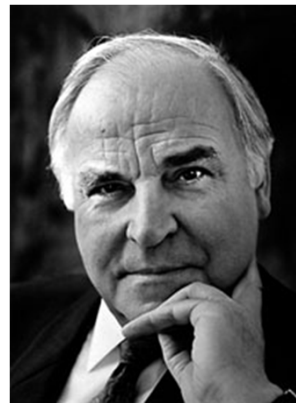
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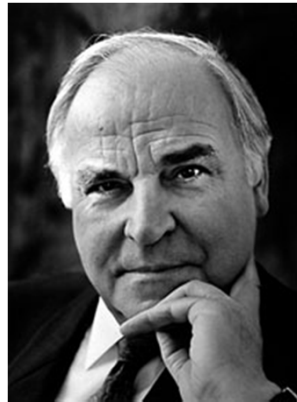
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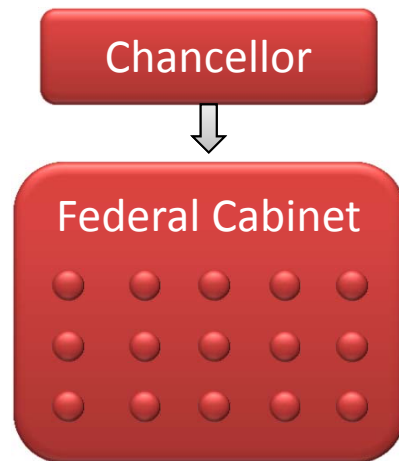
Angela
Merkel
since 2005, CDU

Competences of the chancellor

Chancellor

The chancellor ...

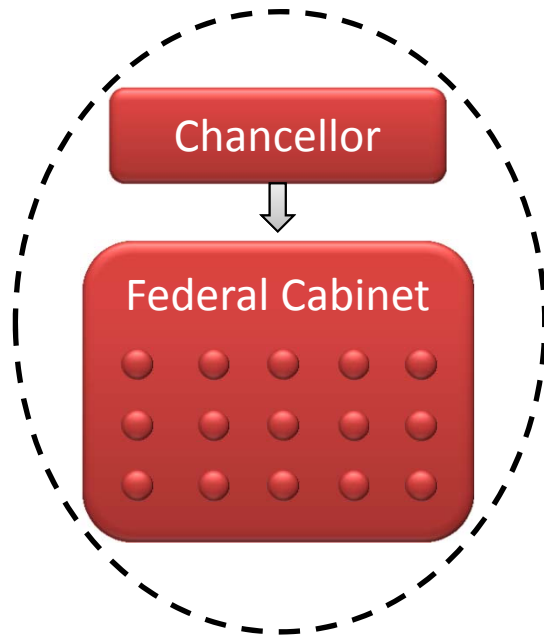
Competences of the chancellor



The chancellor ...

- chooses the ministers in cabinet

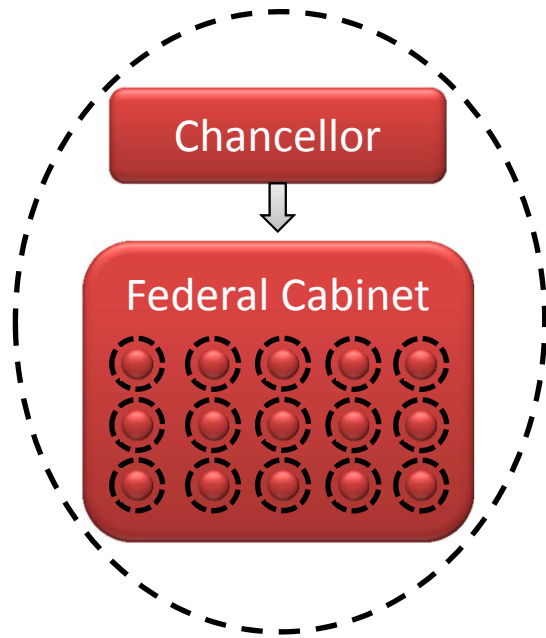
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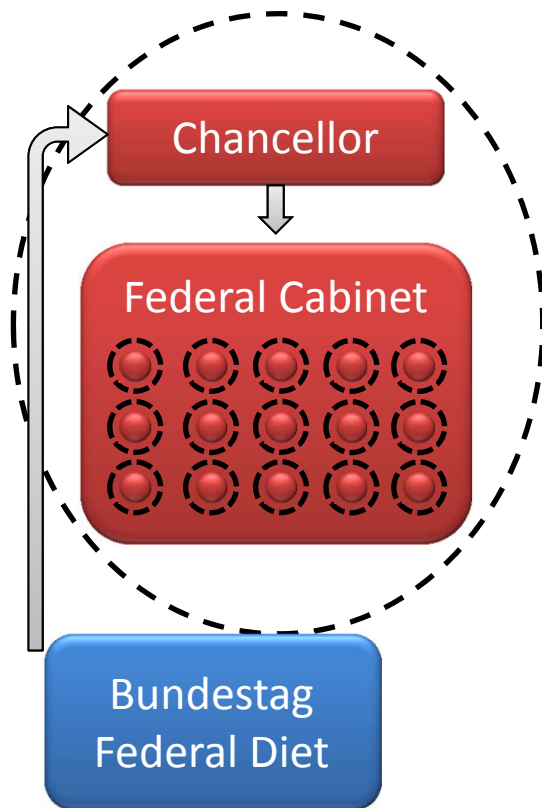
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Competences of the chancellor

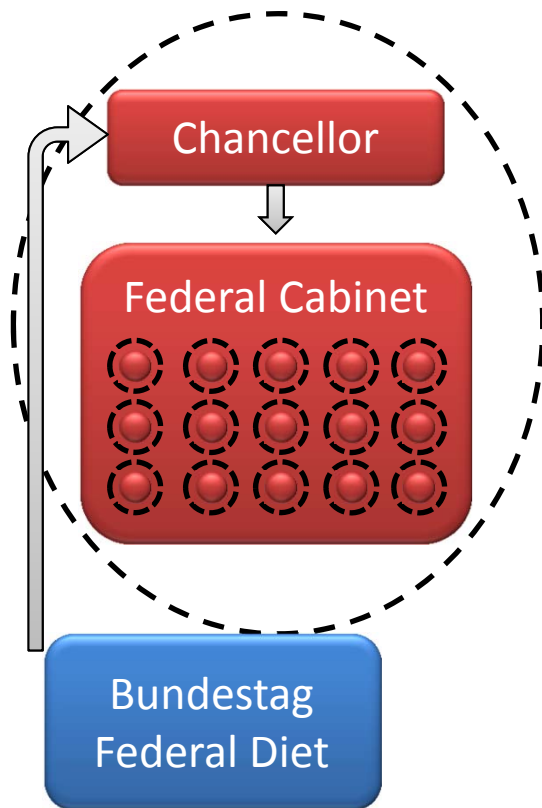


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Competences of the chancellor



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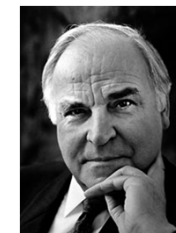
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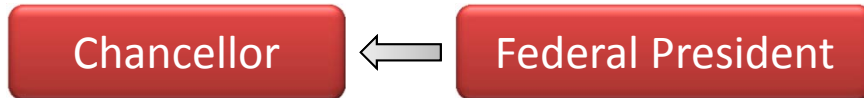
Once successful: 1982 Kohl vs. Schmidt



Constructive vote of no confidence



The Federal President



The Federal President...

- is the head of state
- represents Germany at home and abroad
- has only very limited political powers



Joachim Gauck
Federal President since 2012

The Federal Constitutional Court

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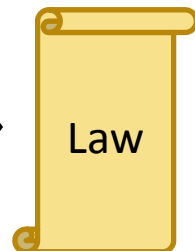
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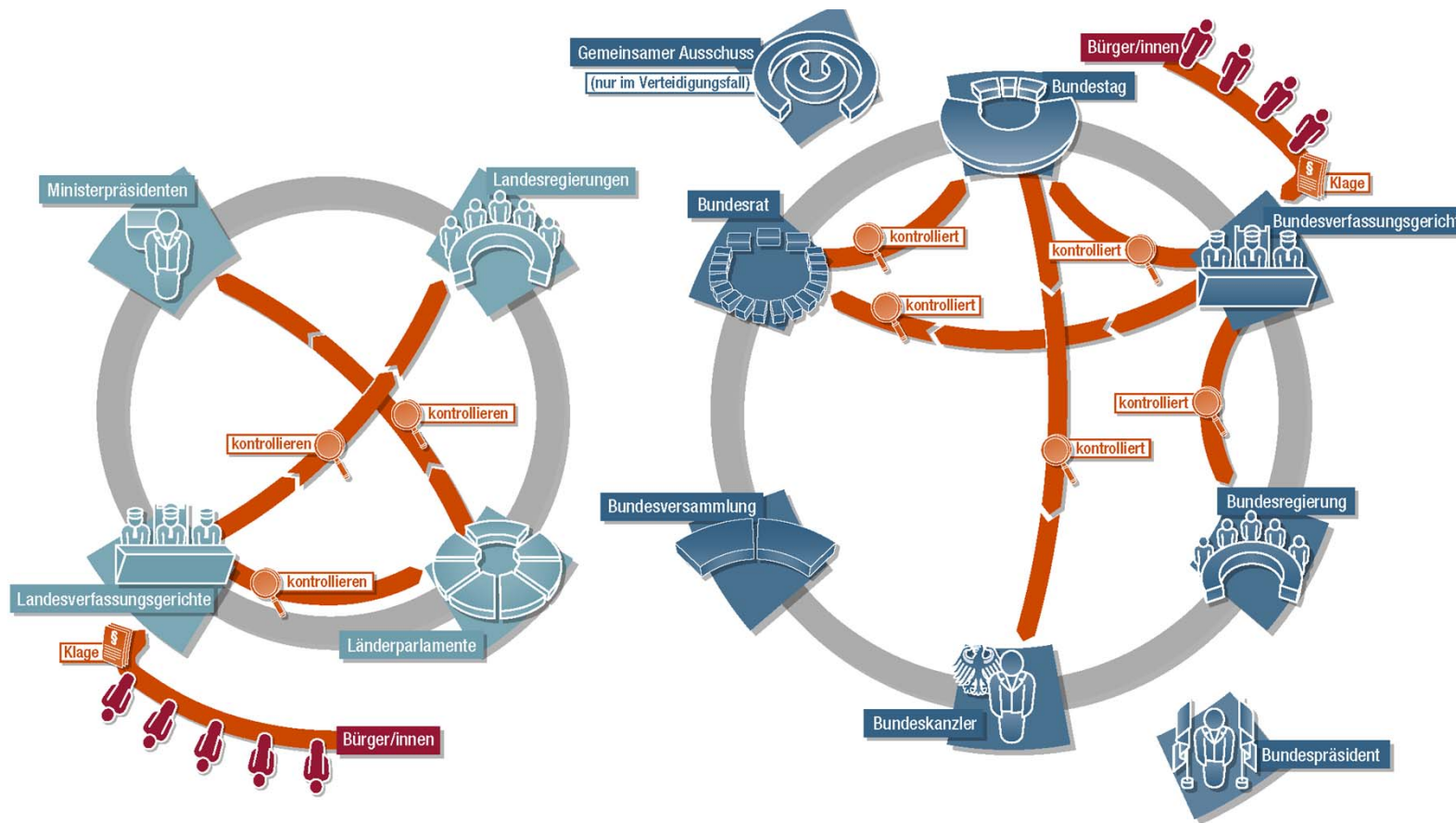
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- can impose a party ban on undemocratic parties (happened only twice: to a Nazi-follow up party in 1952 and a communist party in 1956)



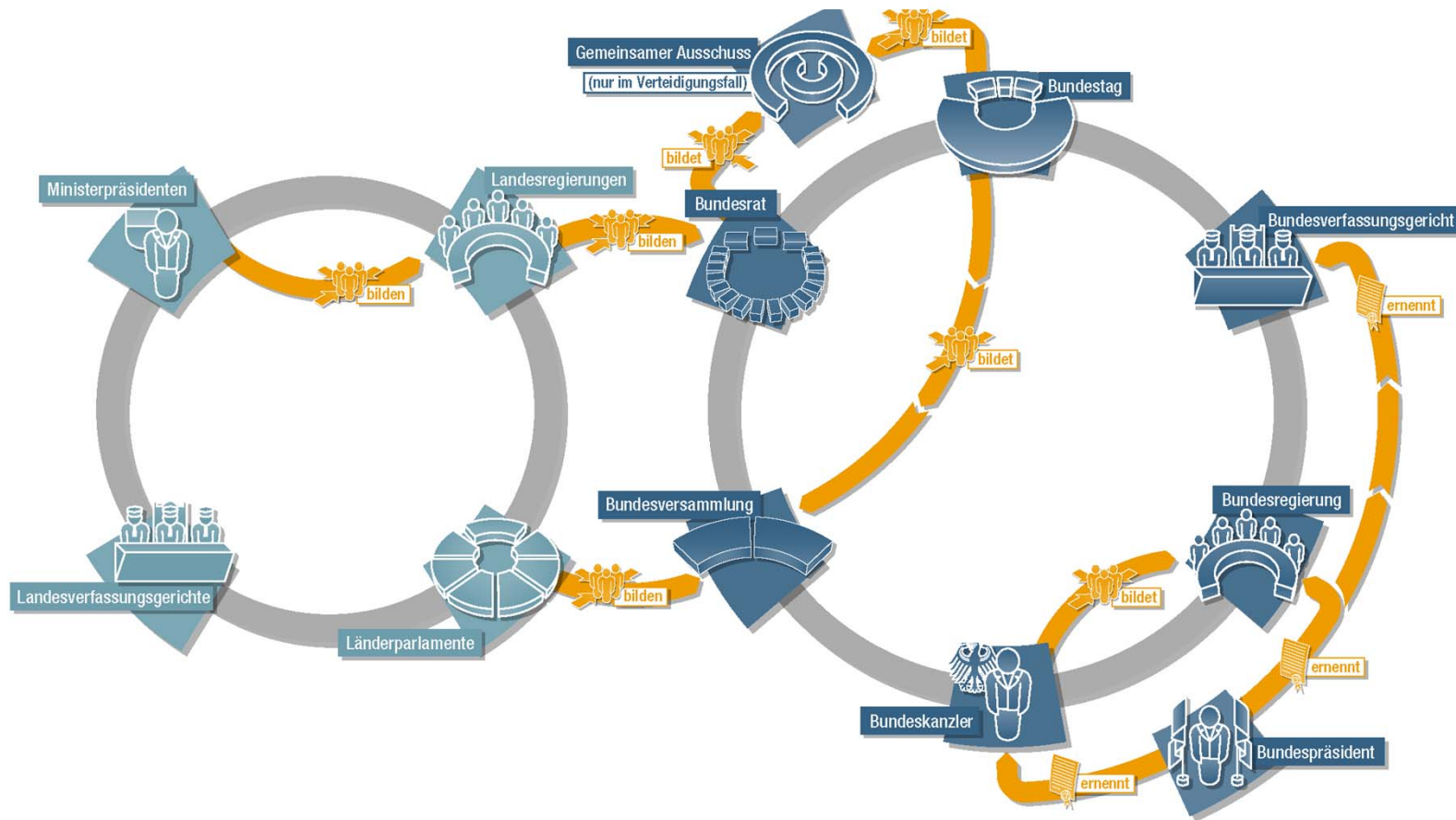
Shared powers and checks and balances

Direct controls



Shared powers and checks and balances

Control through appointments



Shared powers and checks and balances

The complete system of controls

