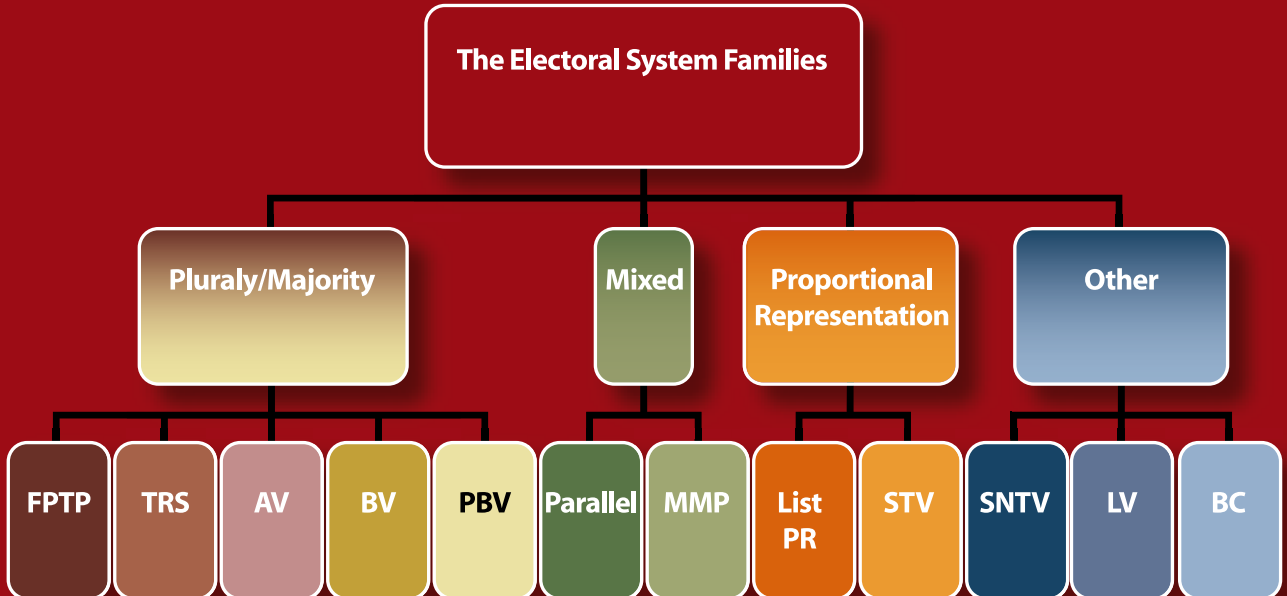
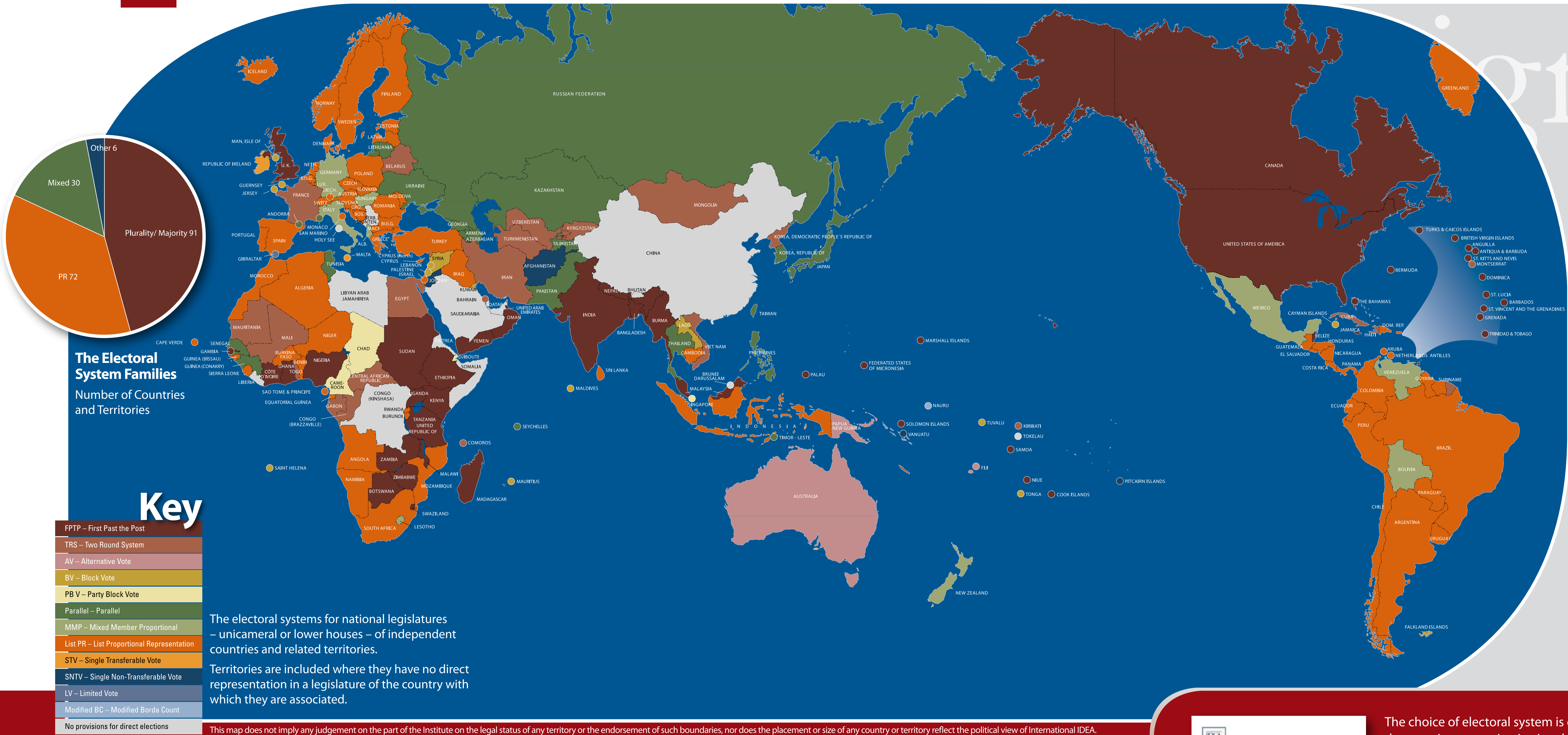


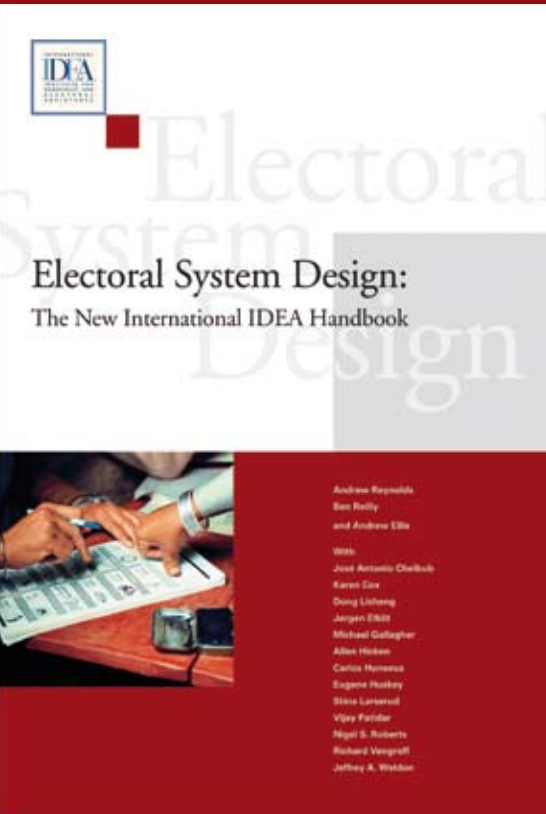
# The Electoral Systems of the World



Electoral systems classified into families by how they translate votes into seats.

# www.idea.int

Created in 1995, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an inter-governmental organization with member states from all continents, has a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide. IDEA operates at an interface between those who analyse and monitor trends in democracy and those who engage directly in political reform or act in support of democracy at home and abroad. IDEA works with both new and long-established democracies, helping to develop and strengthen the institutions and culture of democracy.



The choice of electoral system is one of the most important institutional decisions for any democracy. In almost all cases the choice of a particular electoral system has a profound effect on the future political life of the country concerned, and electoral systems, once chosen, often remain fairly constant as political interests solidify around and respond to the incentives presented by them. The choices that are made may have consequences that were unforeseen as well as predicted effects.

For information about IDEA's work on Electoral System Design please visit the International IDEA website.