

Private government

A government is private with respect to a subject if it can issue orders, backed by sanctions, to that subject in some domain of that subject's life, and that subject has no say in how that government operates and no standing to demand that their interests be taken into account, other than perhaps in narrowly defined circumstances, in the decisions that government makes. Private government is government that has arbitrary, unaccountable power over those it governs.

This of course is a matter of degree. Its powers may be checked in certain ways by other governments, by social norms, and by other pressures.

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government*