

CHAPTER

1

Section 1

Government and the State

For much of history, and in many parts of the world, leadership was passed from one person to another on the basis of a “divine right” to rule. That is, people believed God gave certain individuals the right to rule. Study the cartoon and answer the questions that follow.



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Interpreting Political Cartoons

1. Those with the divine right were generally of royal birth. These individuals would then be succeeded by their children. Which part of the cartoon demonstrates this concept?
2. Those under royal rule believed that they must obey the king as they would obey God. How does the position of the king in this cartoon give him a God-like presence?
3. Is the cartoonist in favor of or opposed to the theory of divine right? How do you know?
4. **Making Comparisons** What do you think is the difference between a king and a dictator? Explain how the cartoon illustrates this distinction.