


Would Electoral Reform Benefit the UK?



See what you think

Why

This aMap visually represents the ongoing debate on whether the UK should reform its electoral system. Since the last general election, when the current government was elected by around 1/3 of voters, electoral reform has become an important issue.

The current electoral system is called "first past the post" (i.e. winner takes all). The main alternative system is Proportional Representation (PR).

There are a number of different electoral systems under PR, but generally PR is based around the notion that seats in Parliament are divided to directly represent the number of votes cast for each party.

This aMap provides an overview of the main for/against arguments around the issue as a whole.

We have broken the overall Electoral Reform debate into 3 sections.

What to do








Start by reading the propositions at the center of each section.

Work your way outward from each proposition by following the lines, to discover supporting arguments and facts.

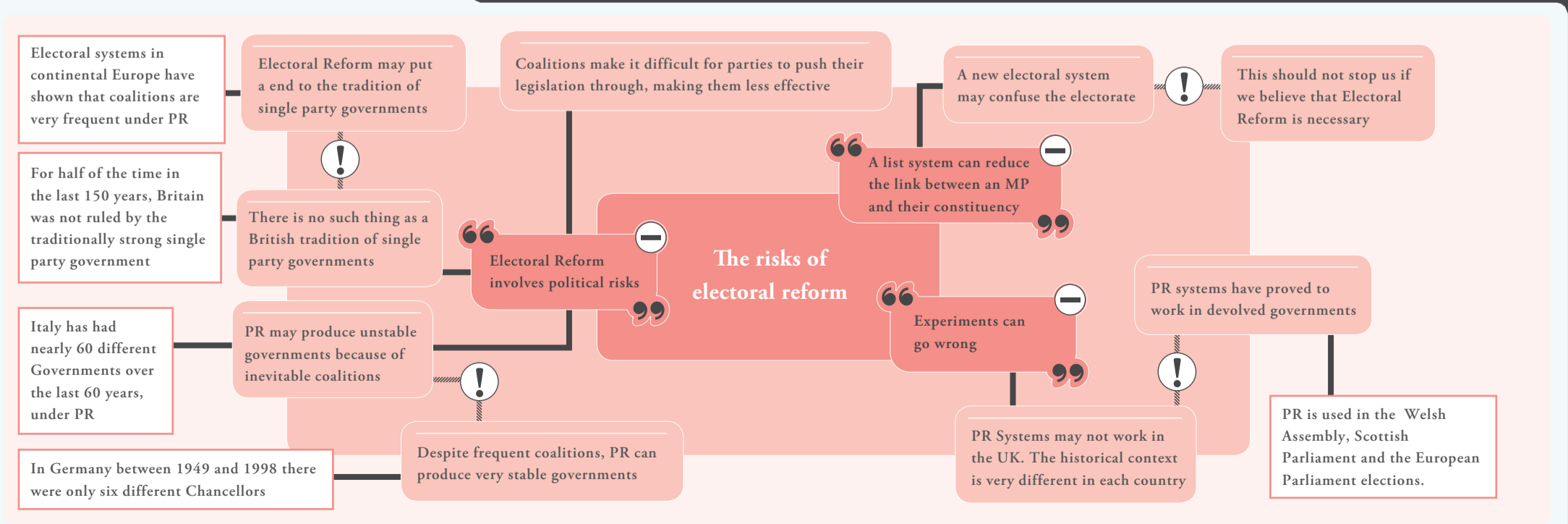
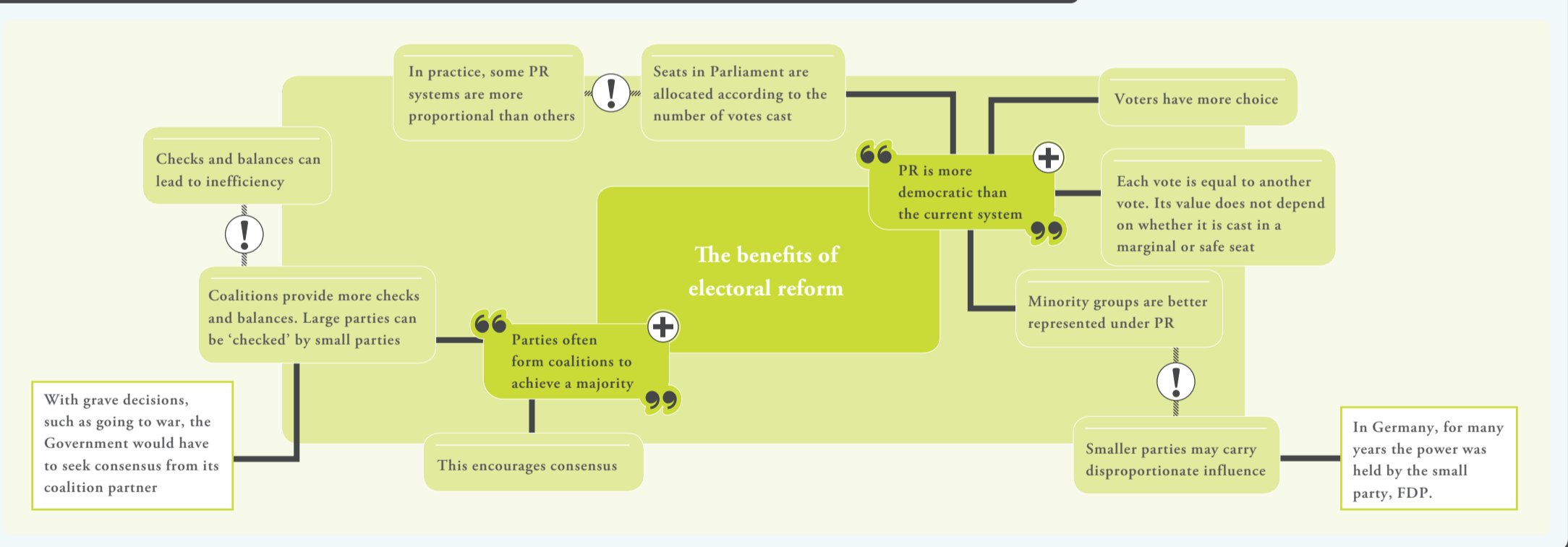
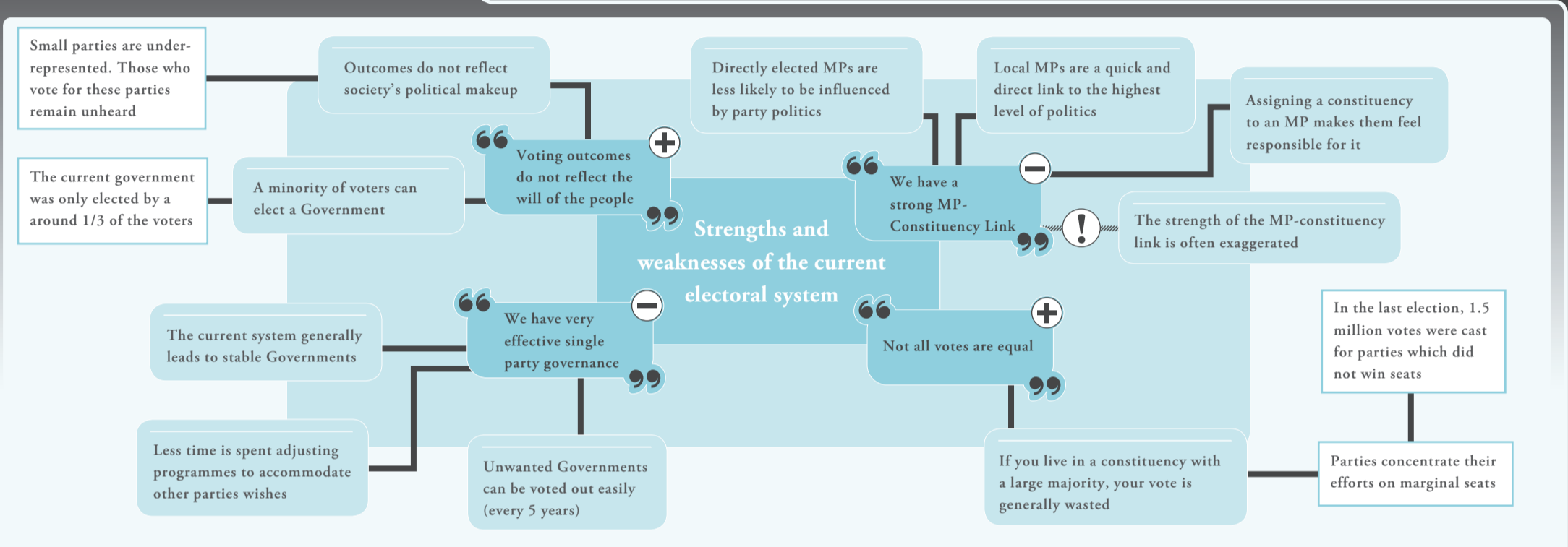
If you agree/disagree with a point, circle it or cross it out.

Within 10 minutes you should start to develop your own thoughts on the issue.

Key

-  Proposition
-  Argument
-  Fact
-  Since
-  For Electoral Reform
-  Against Electoral Reform
-  But

Use the space on the back of this aMap to add your thoughts.



So, do you think Electoral Reform will benefit or harm the UK?

Benefit

Harm

Other Opinion

Draw your own conclusions

Use the space below to add any additional thoughts or rationale behind your position

Share and Grow

By now we hope this aMap has helped you initiate / develop / confirm / change / expand your views on the Electoral Reform debate.

With this new ammo we'd love you to go out and share your thoughts with other people: friends, family, neighbours, milkmen, strangers . . . whoever!

Ideally you'd share your thoughts and also listen to other people's perspectives to help challenge and develop your thoughts further.

Developing thoughts on issues is an ongoing process, and it's important for you to continually question, build, tear apart your position to make sure it's as strong as possible.

Expressing your point of view helps build a common understanding of the issue being debated. Throw your thoughts into a melting pot, and see what comes out at the end.

To help you do this, we'd love you to share your thoughts with us and the world by posting them online here:

www.aMap.org.uk

About aMap

aMap has been developed to help people to understand and promote debate on important and often complicated issues. aMap is short for "argument map" and the idea behind it is very simple: to map out complex arguments to allow people who know very little about an issue to start to form opinions on it.

Using an aMap you should be able to start to form an opinion about something you previously knew nothing about in around 10 minutes.

aMap has been developed by a collaborative team led by Chris Quigley of Delib and Perry Walker of the new economics foundation, and supported by the London School of Economics.

Special thanks goes to Sara Rehman, Alicia Garcia, Cecile Emery, Dan Egan & Ollie Lindsey without whom aMap would still be a few sketches on the back of an envelope.

Further information

The following is a list of links to additional information resources and related news stories to help you dig deeper into the issue:

Explanations of different voting systems:
www.whoshouldyouvote.com/st/content/erfaq

Make Votes Count campaign for electoral reform:
www.makemyvotecount.org.uk

The Electoral Reform society:
www.electoral-reform.org.uk

X-Change. Engaging young people in Electoral Reform:
www.x-change.org.uk

Wikipedia's entry on Electoral Reform:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/electoral_reform

Contact Information

To find out more, visit:

www.amap.org.uk

This is version 1.1 of aMap. If you've got any feedback on how to improve aMap then please get in contact as we'd love to hear from you.

To commission an aMap

E-mail either Chris Quigley, chris@delib.co.uk
Or Perry Walker, perry.walker@neweconomics.org

aMap was developed by