



# Cohabitation

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Recent [opinion polls](#) for the **French legislative elections** suggest the possibility of a **cohabitation** in the French [Parliament](#).

- **Cohabitation** is a situation where the [President](#) and the [Prime Minister](#) (leader of the **National Assembly**) come from **different political parties**.
  - This occurs when the **President's party does not have a majority in the National Assembly**, leading to the appointment of a **Prime Minister from the opposition party or coalition**.
  - In this **power-sharing arrangement**, the President handles foreign policy and defense, while the Prime Minister focuses on domestic policy and day-to-day governance.
  - It **requires cooperation and compromise** between the two leaders to ensure effective governance.
- It has occurred **3 times** in the French Fifth Republic since 1958.
  - The **French Fifth Republic** refers to the **current republican system of government** in France, established by Charles de Gaulle in **1958**, replacing the former parliamentary **Fourth Republic**.
- France is a **semi-presidential, double-headed executive, representative parliamentary democracy**, with clearly defined roles for the President and the Prime Minister.

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