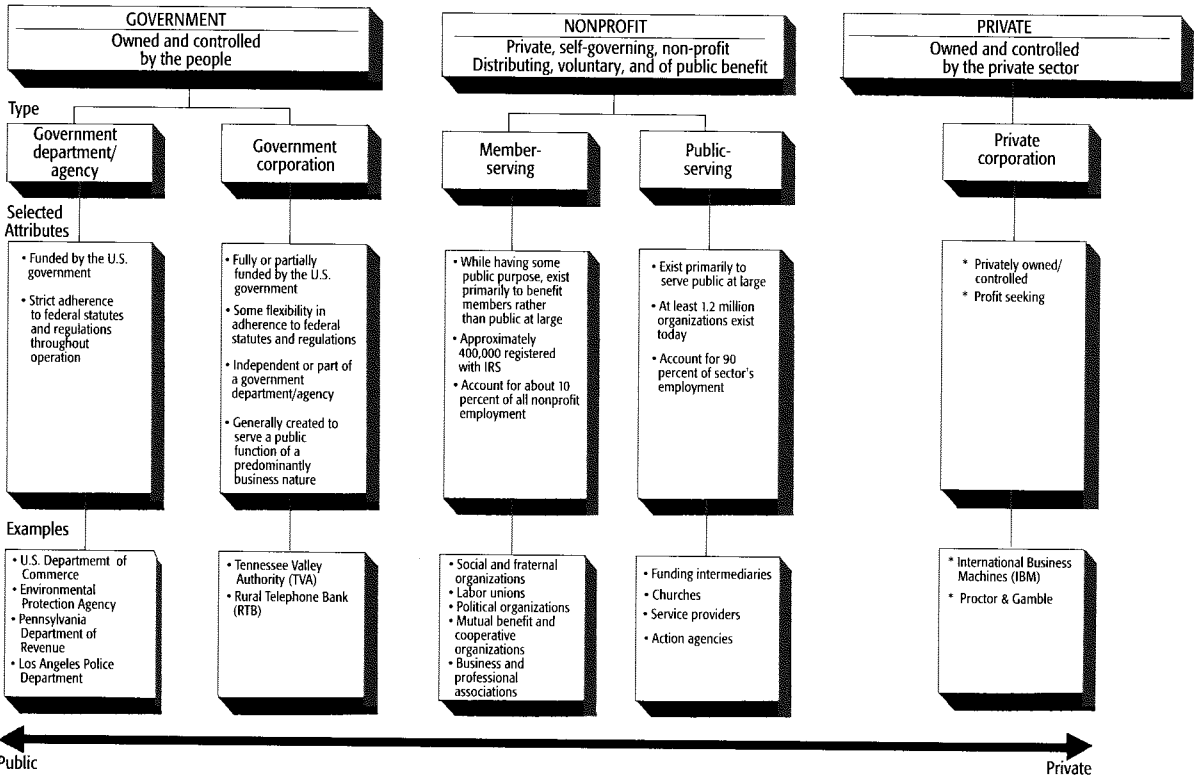


**Figure 1.1** Comparison of Government, Nonprofit, and Private Entities



An important question in public administration today is, What does it mean to be “public”? In the past, the term public meant “government.” End of discussion. Today scholars understand public administration to include government plus all those organizations and institutions that contract with, or somehow cooperate with, government to do government work. But now that distinction is increasingly fuzzy. Institutions on the right, while profit making, can serve the public. Conversely, nonprofits can, at times, generate “revenue streams” that look to some like profits. “Nonprofit” hospitals are a case in point.