Abstract: In this talk I will describe a concrete construction of groups via matrices or, more generally, as groups of automorphisms of certain Lie algebras and an abstract construction by generators and relations. The concrete groups in question cover most classical groups over rings. The abstract groups generalize the groups defined by Steinberg. The two types of groups are related via central extensions. The main methods to make the general constructions work come from Jordan pairs, but no prior knowledge of Jordan pairs will be assumed.