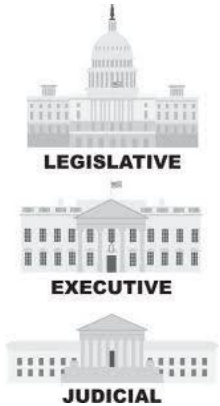


History of Democracy Final





This year we learned about different governmental systems around the world, starting with democracy in Ancient Greece and Rome, and how medieval England, the Renaissance, the Age of Discovery, and the Enlightenment affected democracy. We also learned about how the Reformation, absolute monarchs, World War One, and the Russian Revolution affected the world and about the rise of nationalism and dictator. Finally, we ended with modern-day social injustice problems in the United States, and how our government works today, as well as organizations that advocate for certain causes or help different people groups.

Cycle 1 Guiding Questions

- 1) **What were the contributions of Ancient Greece to the development of democracy?**
- 2) **What contributions did Rome make to democracy and law?**
- 3) **How are democracy, religion and law linked?**



What were the contributions of Ancient Greece to the development of democracy?

Ancient Greece is known as the birthplace of democracy, and it is where democratic ideas first started to take root. In 2000 BCE, Greece was made up of many different city-states that each had their own governing bodies that were led by a monarch. They were generally not close to each other which is why they had separate governing bodies, as the terrain of Greece was very rocky and separated the different city-states. The first idea of democracy originated in the city-state of Athens, when a new system was formed that included citizens in the government, instead of having a monarchy where the king decided everything with no input from the citizens. Democratic ideas started out in 683 BCE when a council of citizens would meet annually to vote on three nobles to run Athens for a year, and when their year of service was up, they would join a council of advisors. This system meant that there were always three people ruling at one time, so the power was split between them and they could collaborate with each other on making decisions for the city-state. Though this form of governing the city-state involved voting, only citizens could vote, and at that time, citizens were only adult males who had completed military service. This made it hard to become a citizen, and only 10% of the population were citizens. Women, slaves, and those who were conquered in the area were not citizens. Within the citizens, there was also a power structure that dictated which issues and decisions they got to vote on, and this was changed and broadened over the years.



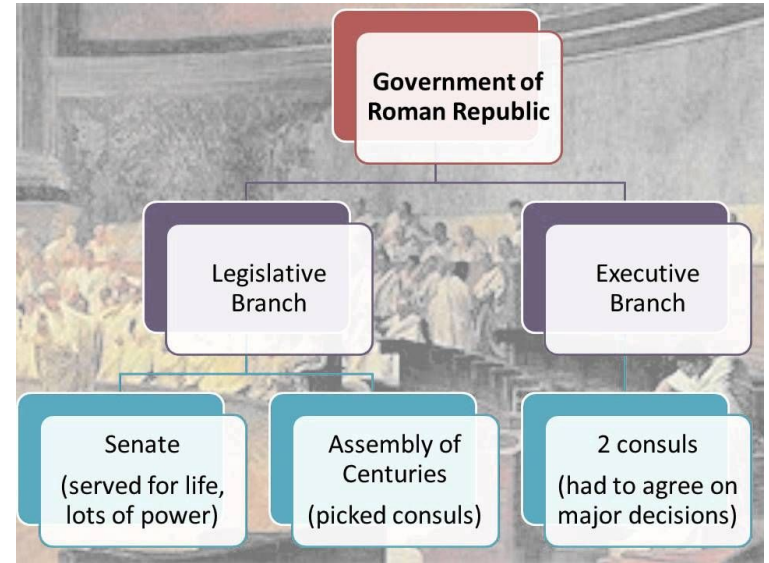
What were the contributions of Ancient Greece to the development of democracy?

There were assemblies that were open to all citizens, and different councils where citizens were elected to make decisions and act as judges or jurors. In 461 BCE, Pericles became the ruler of Greece, and he encouraged the poorer citizens to be more involved in the government by offering to pay those who were jurors. Though democracy eventually ended in Ancient Greece in 338 BCE, its ideas transferred to the modern world, and influenced democracy and the formation of future governments greatly. Ancient Greece also started many ideas that are still prevalent in democracy today, as the idea of natural law, which first came from Aristotle, and stated that there were certain morals and principles shared by everyone that become the basis for making laws. They also started the idea of a written Constitution, which also came from Aristotle who, with the help of some students, wrote *The Constitution of the Athenians*. Today, in the United States, we both use natural law and have a written constitution.



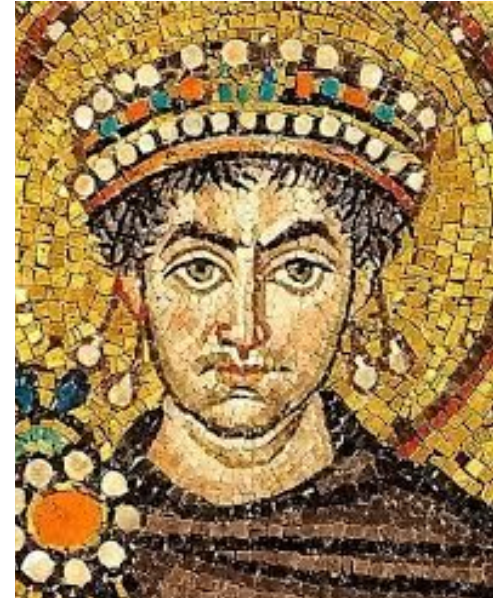
What contributions did Rome make to democracy and law?

Ancient Rome did not necessarily have a democracy, at least not one as direct and for the citizens as Ancient Greece did, but they still contributed to democracy. After expelling their Etruscan kings in around 509 BCE, they established their own government. Unlike Ancient Greece, which was a direct democracy, Ancient Rome had a republic, where citizens voted for people to represent them in the government, much like the government of the United States today. However, much like Ancient Greece, most people in Ancient Rome were not citizens, and it was quite hard to attain. Women were also considered citizens but did not have the same legal rights or influence that male citizens had and were not included in government processes. The Romans also brought about the separation of government branches that are seen today in the split of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches that make up the U.S government. Their government had three branches. The monarchical branch had two consuls that did the former king's job and had civil and military power, but there were two of them instead of one king and they could veto one another, and they had one-year terms. After their term was over they became a senator for life, except for if they were ousted for any particular reason. The second branch was the Senate, or the aristocratic branch, which had a council of elders made up of about 300 citizens chosen by consuls and later on censors, and they advised the government. The last branch was the Assembly, or democratic branch, in which the Assembly of Centuries, made of the army members, elected consuls annually, and the Assembly of Tribes, made up of all citizens, approved or rejected laws.



What contributions did Rome make to democracy and law?

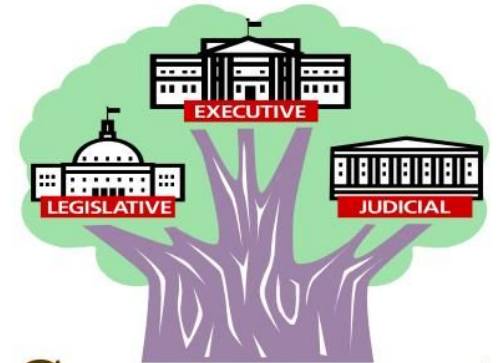
The Romans also believed in equality before the law, meaning that everyone was held responsible for their actions despite their social standing, background, or gender. Everyone was punished the same way, which is also a foundational principle for our government. They also had laws that were made on the basis of reason and justice. They had a written law system that came about in 451 BCE and was called the Twelve Tables. Some of the laws included things about the consensual contract of sale and the recognition of private agreements, which all flow up in modern law as well. They also had criminal proceedings with judges and jurors that heard cases and decided the verdict of the case, much like today's court proceedings. The idea of having a plaintiff, defendant, and unbiased judge originated in ancient Rome. In 528 CE, the Justinian Code was written by Emperor Justinian, and it was an updated system of the old Byzantine and Roman laws that helped take out inconsistencies and law and make legal processes more efficient. The code comprised of many edicts and other opinions that talked about many topics from punishment to marriage. The Code was studied in Europe during the Middle Ages and acts as a foundation for legislation ever since then. Roman law emphasized law over man, which meant that no one was above the law and everyone was subject to its rule and punishment, which is an idea used in legislation today.



Emperor Justinian

How are democracy, religion and law linked?

Law is a very important part of democracy, as the foundation of the rules is the law and everyone in a democracy has to abide by the law. In democracies, laws are made by the government and voted on by the people or the representatives in the government that were voted in by the people. The law is the foundation of democracy and describes what is legal and what is not. Much of the government processes are deciding things about laws or passing laws in order to make society run more smoothly. For example, the judicial branch, an important part of democracy in America, looks at and interprets laws that were made by the legislative branch, and those laws are then enforced by the executive branch. So much of the government is focused on making laws that are fair and align with democratic and constitutional ideals and that will be beneficial to citizens. The judicial branch also interprets the United States Constitution. Many countries have a constitution, which is a system of laws and principles of a country that acts as the foundation for the government and the way that the country is run. For example, the laws in the U.S Constitution created the three branches of government, to make sure that no branch can become too powerful, by putting in a series of checks and balances. This shows how the law really governs the way that a democracy runs, as it makes sure that no one gets too powerful while also making sure that input from citizens is part of democracy, and it also lays out the building blocks of society.



Government

The 3 Branches of the Federal Government

How are democracy, religion and law linked?

Though today religion and democracy are kept separate in most areas, important democratic ideals originate from people's religious beliefs in the past, specifically from the three main monotheistic religions, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. These religions helped bring about the idea of an individual's responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the community to fight oppression. These ideas also included the importance of a person, which is seen today in how people are encouraged to vote as their opinion matters, and how individuals have a responsibility to do certain things for the government, like pay taxes. Another important idea that stemmed from early religions was that all people should be equal that equality should come before God. In addition, the idea of having morality and knowing right from wrong was taught through these religions. Today, everyone is given equal opportunity to do things like a vote or participate in the government, as a democracy involves the input of every single citizen, despite their social class, economic standing, race, or gender.



Cycle 2 Guiding Questions

- 1) **How has England contributed to modern democracy?**
- 2) **How did the Renaissance and The Age of Discovery help the spread of Democracy after the Dark Ages?**
- 3) **What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?**



How has England contributed to modern democracy?

One of the biggest contributions that England made to modern democracy is the Magna Carta, as well as the beginnings of the common law. This law is based on decisions made by the judicial system instead of using the old system of punishing victims with trial-by-ordeal, which was where criminals were either proven guilty or innocent based on whether they could survive a trial involving fire or water. Common law is the framework for many modern law systems today, and it originated in England during the Middle Ages when Henry II put the system into place, which also involved using juries, which are also used in modern government. Another contribution is the Magna Carta, a charter that was signed by King John in 1215, in response to protests from the barons against the high taxes he imposed during his reign. Also known as the Great Charter, the Magna Carta put laws into place that everyone in the area needed to follow, including the king and the nobles. Before the charter was put into place in England, it was under the feudal system, and the king had ultimate power over all of the citizens in their kingdom.



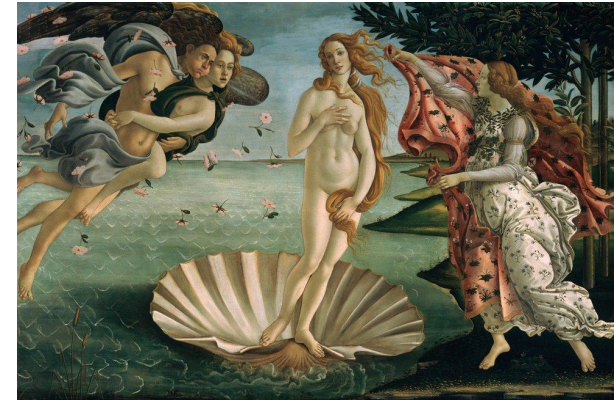
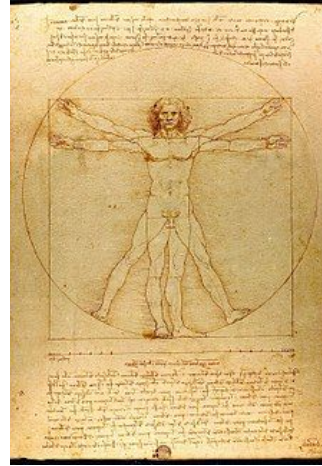
How has England contributed to modern democracy?

The Magna Carta had 63 clauses that had certain “grievances” the barons had against the king’s rule and stated that no one was supposed to be exempt from or above the law, which also applied to the king. Among other things, the charter also stated that everyone should have the right to a fair trial. There are still three of the clauses out of the 63 that are still part of English law today, one dealing with the rights of the English church, another dealing with the rights of cities and towns like London, and the last one dealing with everyone’s right to a free trial. Some of the main points and principles in the Magna Carta show up in important government documents around the world, like in the United States Bill of Rights, written in 1791, and in the European Convention of Rights, written in 1950. The Declaration of Independence also used the Magna Carta as inspiration and wrote out a list of grievances that were similar to the charter. The Magna Carta is a very important charter whose ideas are still prominent today in governments around the world.



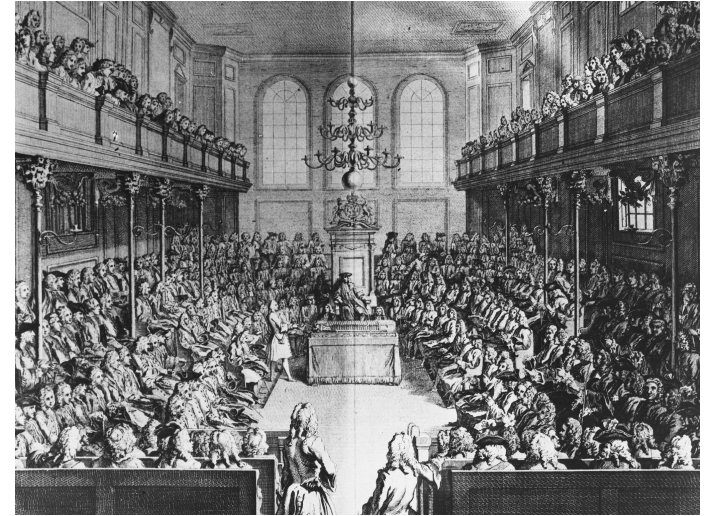
How did the Renaissance and The Age of Discovery help the spread of Democracy after the Dark Ages?

The Renaissance was a movement in the 14th century that began in Italy and brought back Ancient Greek and Roman ideas after the Dark Ages, where there was no progress in art or science in Europe, and people were heavily religious. Roman and Greek ideas had been forgotten during the Middle Ages, but during the Renaissance, the writings and art from that time were studied again, and scholars learned about the ancient Greek and Roman philosophies science, art, and much more about their beliefs and societies. People used their ideas as springboards to learn even more about our world and were inspired to delve back into art and create new inventions. The ideas of democracy were also reintroduced, as they were present in Ancient Greece and Rome, as a direct democracy in Greece and as a Republic in Rome. Though none of the European countries were democratic during the Renaissance, they were less dependent on the Church and did not believe in its teachings so blindly thanks to their new knowledge about science, which helped put the power more into the people's hands as time went on.



How did the Renaissance and The Age of Discovery help the spread of Democracy after the Dark Ages?

The Renaissance inspired the Age of Discovery, where many explorers set out to find new land in order to either spread Catholicism or to find areas with new resources or areas that they could trade with. Almost all of the countries in Europe went on some sort of exploration and colonized land in the Americas or in Africa, spreading their ideas to those areas. In turn, this formed new empires, and Spain and Portugal became more wealthy. With more resources and food, there were population booms and more wars were fought in Europe. In England, there were many religious and political conflicts in the late 1600s, as King James II was Catholic while many of his subjects were not Catholic and they opposed the Catholic monarchy. They no longer believed in divine right thanks to new religious ideas that came about after the Renaissance, and they revolted against the King, causing the formation of the Parliament and a constitutional monarchy in England, and a new king and queen, William and Mary. This was a democratic system, as though there was still a monarch, they worked with an elected Parliament to run the country, and so their power was limited. The discovery of land in the New World also caused many people to move there and create the thirteen colonies in order to have religious freedom. This was one of the first instances of the separation of church and state, and when America revolted against the British rule and formed their own country, their government was a full-fledged democracy with a Constitution and officials that were elected by the citizens.



English Parliament

What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?

The Reformation was a movement in the 16th century that brought about religious change and began Protestantism in Europe. At the time, the Roman Catholic Church, especially the Pope, who was the head of the church, had a lot of power over the people, who were mainly Catholic. They performed many important services and the people thought that the Church and their actions toward it would determine whether they got into heaven or hell. The Bible was written only in Latin, so the priests were the only ones who could read and interpret it, giving them more power, as the common people relied on the priests to tell them what the Bible said. This also gave the priests the potential power to misinform people or manipulate the information in the Bible. People also paid the church of indulgences, which were forgiveness for their sins, so they could get into heaven, but this cost a lot for the normal citizens. Many priests and people in the clergy were corrupt and uneducated, not abiding by their celibacy promises, and preaching incorrectly or not at all. Seeing this terrible behavior of the church, Martin Luther wrote and posted his 95 Theses in Germany in 1517. They stated his arguments about why indulgences were worthless and why the Bible should be more important, as well as the fact that salvation could only be reached through faith and good deeds. Though he did not mean for it to happen, his ideas were printed out and spread all throughout Europe, and though he was excommunicated, he went into hiding and wrote more about his ideas for a new Protestant church. He also translated the Bible into German so everyone could read it. Some people in Germany remained Catholic, while others became Protestant.



What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?

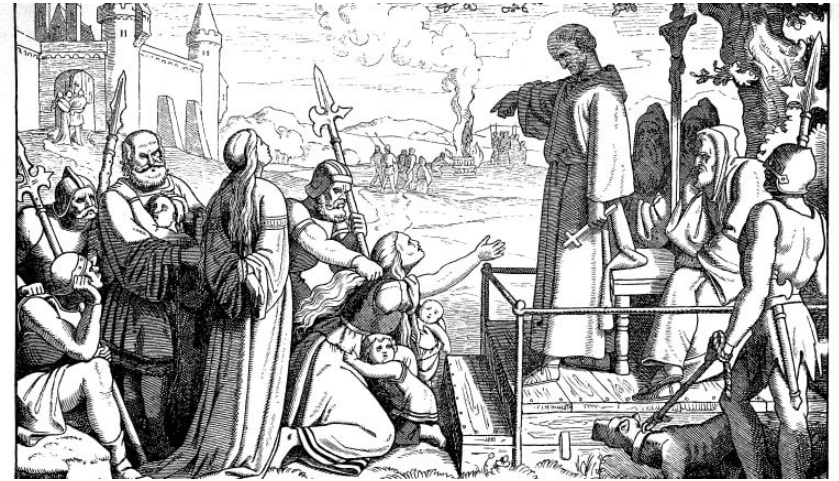
John Calvin, who was French, then wrote his own Protestant ideas which were based on Luther's and made his own church in Geneva, Switzerland, which followed Calvinism, a form of Protestantism. His ideas spread to France, Scotland, and other European countries. Protestantism started in England with King Henry VIII. He was a devout Catholic and did not believe in Protestantism at the beginning of the Reformation, but once his first marriage did not give him a male heir, he wanted to remarry, but the pope would not annul his marriage with Catherine of Aragon. After a bishop annulled his marriage and allowed him to remarry, he was excommunicated by the Pope which angered him greatly. He stated that he should be the final authority and head of the Church of England and closed down all of the monasteries in England, which he got to keep the money from and distributed a Bible written in English to each parish. However, people were angry because the monasteries had provided many important services to the people who were no longer available. The Church of England still had Catholic services, as Henry was a Catholic, but when his son, King Edward VI, came into power, England became a Protestant country. Queen Mary tried to turn the country Catholic again and persecuted and executed Protestants. When Queen Elizabeth I came into power, she established the Anglican Church of England, which combined Catholic and Lutheran beliefs.



John Calvin

What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?

In response to the Reformation, the Catholic Church started the Counter-Reformation which attempted to turn countries and people Catholic again. At the Council of Trent, they decided on new rules of the Catholic Church that addressed the problems that Luther and the other reformers had with the way that church was run. It was decided that priests and bishops needed to become more serious and stick to their vows, and they also outlawed nepotism, and they could no longer sell things like indulgences. They also decided that there would be a book that talked about the teachings and principles of the church for people to read. In order to spread Catholicism, the church conducted the Inquisition, in Spain to stop heresy, as Protestants were shunned as heretics, and make sure people remained Catholic. They also sent groups of missionaries to the New World to spread Catholicism there, to make sure that more people were Catholic than Protestant. The Reformation completely changed the religious landscape of Europe and brought about new ideas about religion that helped to stop the immense power the Catholic Church had over the people of Europe.



Cycle 3 Guiding Questions

- 1) Who were the 'Absolute Monarchs'?
- 2) What was the Enlightenment and what was its relationship with the French Revolution?
- 3) What are the basic forms that government can take?



King Louis XIV

Who were the ‘Absolute Monarchs’?

Absolute monarchs were monarchs who had complete, unlimited, autocratic power over their kingdom. They were seen as having divine right, which meant that they were placed into power by God as their representative, so they were seen as not subject to the earthly authority and could do whatever they wanted. They were not checked or challenged by any other part of the government or nobility. There were absolute monarchs in Europe from the 1500s to the 1800s, though Russia had an absolute monarchy until 1917. The dynasties in Europe were the royal families that had held power for decades, and they gained power hereditarily, as it was passed down through the family, so power remained in the same royal family for decades and even centuries. Absolute monarchs came about after the medieval order was dissolved and sovereign nation-states were created that each had powerful leaders. In order to strengthen their states, the ruler had to look powerful, so they claimed absolute authority over their states, which limited the power that the church and nobles had on the government. Some countries like England in 1688 and Holland in 1815 eventually put constitutional monarchies into place which limited the power of the monarchs and made a system where the Parliament and the monarchs worked together to run their country. Other countries like France and Spain kept their absolute monarchies in place for longer.



Who were the ‘Absolute Monarchs’?

Philip II of Spain was one of the first absolute monarchs in the 1500s, and he helped popularize the idea of absolutism in the rest of Europe. He was wealthy during his reign, as he had a large supply of gold and resources coming in from the New World, and during his rule, he mainly tried to expand the already large empire of Spain and defend the Catholic Church during the Reformation. One notable absolute monarch was King Henry VIII. He declared himself head of the church as well as head of state, meaning he truly had complete authority over England, and this was an amount of power could never have been achieved by medieval kings. During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church held a lot of power, and the king always shared power with the church, so they did not have absolute reign over their kingdoms. However, during the 1500 and 1600s, the Reformation happened and new ideas about religion came about, reducing the power of the Catholic Church and allowing kings to not only be head of state but the head of the church as well, giving them full authority.



King Philip II



King Henry VIII

Who were the ‘Absolute Monarchs’?

Peter the Great was also an absolute monarch who did a lot of good for Russia. He helped modernize the kingdom and opening it up more to relations with the rest of Europe, helping Russia to become a better-known world power. Another notable absolute monarch was King Louis XVI of France, who stated: *“I am the state”* showing truly how much power absolute monarchs held. He was extremely wealthy and spent his money on extravagant and lavish displays of wealth, from the opulent Palace of Versailles to buying the latest expensive fashions. He and those that surrounded him led extravagant lives, while the people of France were starving and poor, as they were taxed heavily by the king. This eventually led to the French Revolution and the execution of the king in 1793. He was the epitome of an absolute monarch who did whatever he pleased, but it eventually caught up to him, as he did not take the well being of his subjects into account.



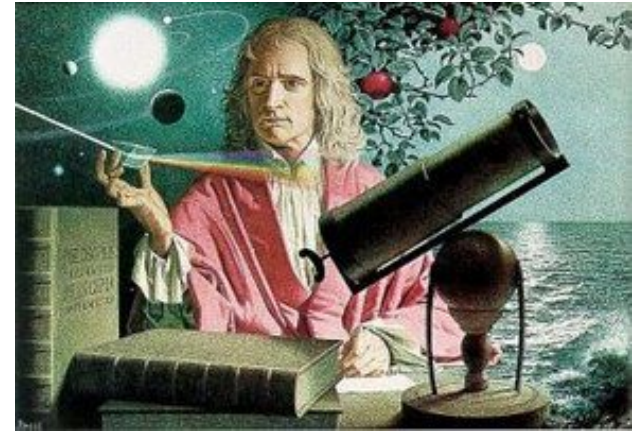
Peter the Great



Palace of Versailles

What was the Enlightenment and what was its relationship with the French Revolution?

The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries mainly in Europe that sparked new ideas about science, individualism and free thought, politics, and philosophy. It was during this time that many great thinkers began to wonder and learn more about these topics. One of the main causes of the movement was the Thirty Years War, which ended in 1648. It was very destructive and caused everyone to rethink the ideas of nationalism and warfare that were present and quite prevalent in Europe at the time. Writers wrote down their ideas about these topics and spread them around Europe, starting the Age of Enlightenment. Ideas about the natural world were described in more scientific terms with scientists like Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton explored more about why the things in our world were the way that they were. Philosophers like John Locke applied the methodic and scientific approach of the scientists to human behavior and nature, in order to understand people better. One of his most important ideas centered around the fact that individuals were their own selves and did not belong to or should be dependent on the church or a monarch. He also talked about the fact that laws should be put into place only if they had majority support of the people that it would be governing, and he also advocated for the separation of church and state. The Enlightenment also brought about new or modified beliefs in God that came with learning more about the natural world which may have contradicted things in Christianity and certain traditions or beliefs.



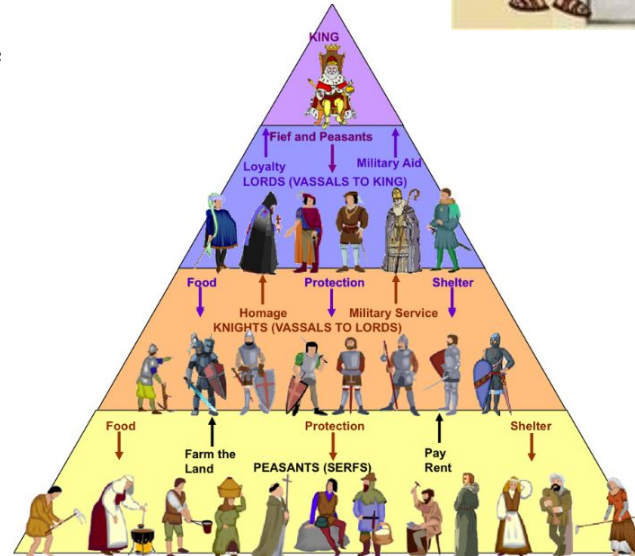
What was the Enlightenment and what was its relationship with the French Revolution?

All of these ideas were very new and radical at the time, and brought about many new ideas into Europe and changed the way that people thought about both their own lives and the world around them. These ideas inspired the French Revolution of 1789, as the Revolution had the goal of emphasizing the rights of the common people as opposed to the nobles having many more rights than the common person. The aristocracy in France at the time lived extravagant lives while the peasants were poor, starving, and suffering. The ideas of individualism and the good of the common people that were brought about with the Enlightenment, as well as the idea that monarchs should have less power over the people, inspired the Revolution. The thinkers of the Enlightenment were against the hereditary power structure, which meant that aristocracy automatically had power, and those involved in the French Revolution also wanted the chance to have more power and to have a more fair government, where the aristocracy did not hold so much power and money.



What are the basic forms that government can take?

The basic forms of government rely on a series of laws and rules that govern citizens. Legislation has evolved over time, from Hammurabi's Code that dealt with common disagreements, to other moral laws, to Greek democratic laws, and the Twelve Tables and Justinian Code in Rome. Later on, there was the legal system of the Catholic Church and then feudal law in Europe, where peasants were tied to the land they worked and lived on and were loyal to the noble they were renting land from. Feudal law lasted from the 800s to the 1300s, when they were mainly replaced with Roman laws and Common law in England. Common law helped to check the powers of the monarch and ensure the safety and rights of citizens, which is what the United States laws are based on as well. There are also many different forms of government that are based on these laws.



What are the basic forms that government can take?

One form of government that is lawless is anarchy. It is just complete chaos with a lack of a government, authority, or any rules to govern citizens.

Another form of government is a monarchy, where the country is ruled by a single monarch, like a king or queen. In absolute monarchies, the monarch has complete power, and in a constitutional monarchy, the monarch shares power with another governmental system, which limits their power.

Autocracy is another form of government in which there is one ruler that has total power over all aspects of the government, and it is like a dictatorship, where a single dictator that forced themselves into power has complete power over the country. They normally censor media and enforce their rule in violent ways to make sure that they are not opposed or overthrown. An oligarchy is a form of government in which there is a small group that shares the power over the area they are governing and a theocracy is a form of government that involves religion. The laws are based on and take religious beliefs into account, and people recognize God as an important and great ruler. Democracy is a form of government in which the population of a country votes on decisions and officials, either directly or through a representative that was elected by the citizens. There are many different forms of government found throughout the world today.



Cycle 4 Guiding Questions

- 1) **What was the War to End All Wars?**
- 2) **Why was the Russian Revolution a turning point in world history?**
- 3) **Why did rise of extreme nationalism lead to an age of dictators?**



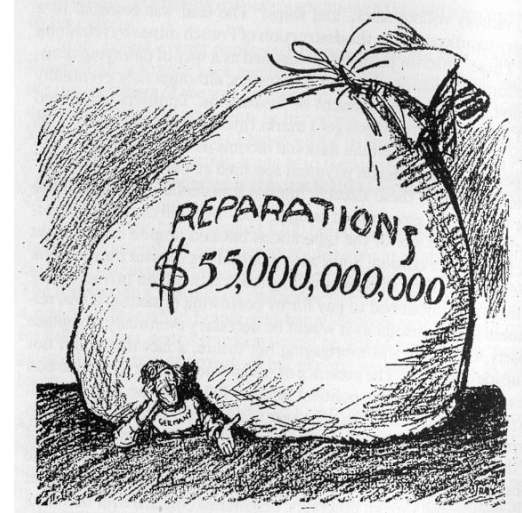
What was the War to End All Wars?

The War to End All Wars was World War I, which is ironic because it was followed by World War II around twenty years later. However, it is the second-most costly and deadly war in human history after World War II. World War I started in 1914 when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in Sarajevo, by a Balkan nationalist. These people believed that the Balkan people should have their own states because they all shared the same culture and language, which was the idea of nationalism. Many countries that had alliances with other countries that they had to support declared war on each other. World War I happened on four different continents and was one of the first wars that used modern technology that was more destructive, like tanks, more advanced machine guns and grenades, and things like poison gas and submarines. It was the first war that employed submarine warfare and aerial fighting involving fighter planes, thanks to the invention of both machines. They also used trench warfare. The war had devastating losses, with around thirty million people dead, including both soldiers and civilians.



What was the War to End All Wars?

The war had a huge impact on Europe even after it was done. At the end of the war, the Spanish influenza outbreak occurred, killing six million people, as Europe was weakened by the war and was not in a position to deal with the outbreak. The war also redefined borders and four empires: the Hapsburg, Ottoman, Romanov, and Hohenzollern Empires were dismantled. In addition, many of the European countries' economies suffered because of the money they had to spend on resources for the war. The Germans, who lost the war and were blamed for most of the destruction that it caused had to sign the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which demanded war reparations from Germany and limited the size of their military. This put Germany deep into debt, causing the German population to become very poor and unhappy. This acted as a catalyst for World War II, as the German populace was downtrodden and needed someone to look up to, which is how Hitler was able to rise to power. The war also led to the Russian Revolution in 1917, as the Russian population was a lot poorer than the nobility and were unhappy with the way that they handled World War I, which drained resources and made citizens even poorer, and this unhappiness led to the Russian Revolution. World War I was known as the War to End All Wars because of the destruction that it caused and people stated that they never wanted to have such a war ever again.



Why was the Russian Revolution a turning point in world history?

The Russian Revolution was a turning point in world history because it started Communism and completely changed Russia, and it had an impact on international affairs as well. The Revolution occurred because the Russian population was tired of the aristocracy having a lot of money and spending them on lavish things while the common people were poor and starving. The working class of Russia was fed up with the monarchy and the way that they ran the country and led by the Bolshevik Party, namely Vladimir Lenin, they overthrew Tsar Nicholas II and executed his entire family, ending the Romanov rule in Russia. The Revolution happened in two different parts in February and October of 1917. After the October Revolution, the Bolshevik Party and Lenin had more support and power, and they established a Communist government, forming the USSR, which lasted until 1991. This was a complete change for Russia, who had never had a government ruled by the people. Though it was an oppressive government, it was the first time that the government was led by people who were not aristocracy, but just normal people turned leaders.



Why was the Russian Revolution a turning point in world history?

The new government brought Russia into the modern age, as in the past they had remained an agrarian society though the countries around them were embodying the new intellectual ideas that came with the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment. With the Communist government, Russia was industrialized more, and there were larger urban areas that became important to the Russian economy. More people became educated as well. The Russian Revolution also had an impact on the rest of the world, starting with World War I. The Revolution happened in 1917, and Lenin pulled them out of the war in 1918, which meant that Germany only had to fight the Allies on the western front. The Soviet Union inspired many other Communist governments around the world and even endorsed Communist governments and movements. The Revolution helped bring Communism into the world and other countries. The Soviet Union also played important roles in international affairs, which may have been different if it was not the USSR, as they helped defeat the Nazis during World War II, and fought the Cold War and Space Race with the United States, advancing technology in both countries. Overall, the Russian Revolution changed the world by introducing Communism as a governmental system, changing Russia completely, and by playing important parts in world affairs.



Why did rise of extreme nationalism lead to an age of dictators?

The dictators brought a sense of pride and stability to those in countries like Russia, Italy, and Germany who were going through either economic or political turmoil, which is where the dictators came in between World War One and Two. The countries suffered from economic loss, hyperinflation, a humiliation in Germany, poverty, and a government that was not performing well. This instability allowed dictators to take over, as the people in those countries were looking for someone to restore their countries, and they were mad at the other countries around them. The dictators who presented scapegoats, opposed the ideas found in other countries and started extreme nationalism were seen as good leaders by the people in those countries because they restore their pride and hope in their countries. After World War One, Italy and Germany especially felt wrong, which led to nationalism and patriotic mindset that their country was the best, and they wanted to expand their influence.



Why did rise of extreme nationalism lead to an age of dictators?

The rise of extreme nationalism led to an age of dictators because people were looking for a strong leader that could help them strengthen their country, especially in Germany, where the Treaty of Versailles left them poor and humiliated. They were lost and were looking for someone to blame for their defeat in World War One, which is why when Hitler came along with his grand ideas, promising to restore the country's wealth and giving them someone to blame, he gained a lot of support. There was a similar case in Italy, who had not gotten what they were promised in the Treaty of Versailles. They were upset and that started nationalism in their country, as they felt that the other countries had wronged them and they had a lot of patriotism towards Italy. Fascism had a lot of sentiments about nationalism and focused on strengthening their countries, which the Italian people wanted after the war, which is how Mussolini gained support and came into power. The dictators executed anyone who spoke out against them and they ruled through fear while keeping up a propaganda campaign that made it seem like they were bettering the country. The fascist ideologies stressed racism, as they believed that they were superior races, like in Hitler's case, the Aryans were superior and the Jews needed to be removed. Generally, they thought that they would help their countries, but their efforts to broaden their country's borders, especially in Hitler's case were unsuccessful and he committed many atrocities, ending in the deaths of millions.



Cycle 5 Guiding Questions

- 1) **How do dictators come to and hold on to power?**
- 2) **What social injustices were perpetrated in US history?**
- 3) **What social organizations guard Human Rights today?**



How do dictators come to and hold on to power?

A dictator is a person that holds absolute authority over the country they are ruling. They have a totalitarian rule and are not checked by any other part of the government. Normally, dictators come to power during a state of emergency or through a coup d'etat where the government is overthrown, usually because the residents of the country are unhappy with the way it's being run, though this is not always the case. After the overthrow of the old government, the dictator seizes power in the confusion that follows, as the country no longer has a government and looks towards a leader figure that seems like they can lead the country. Dictators are also usually very charismatic and present ideas to the citizens that are very appealing, which helps them gain public supports and allows them to come into power. Sometimes, dictators come to power in a legal way, like Hitler, who was actually appointed chancellor, and then after the president died, he appointed himself as the Führer of Germany, which made him a dictator.



Fidel Castro

How do dictators come to and hold on to power?

Dictators have complete power over the state, meaning they control the entire government and can hold rigged elections or hold none at all and stay in power for as long as they want. While they are in power, they do not call themselves dictators, they use titles like the president, chancellor, prime minister, and other such names which have a less negative connotation than the dictator does. Generally, those who oppose dictators are killed or jailed, which makes many people scared of speaking out and they remain under the dictator's rule because they are too scared to do anything about it. The dictator also normally has power over the military, which helps them imprison and kill people. They also are able to make the general public scared of an outside threat and then put themselves in the position where they seem like the only thing that can protect them from this threat. They also can control what information their citizens have access to, so even if they are telling lies or spreading false propaganda, their citizens have no way of fact-checking them. Dictators also use propaganda to achieve their agenda of assigning blame to a people group or spreading their ideas. They normally remain in power until they are dead or overthrown.



What social injustices were perpetrated in US history?

In the United States, there were many social injustices against different minority groups, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and women in general. Women were denied the right to vote until they fought for it and gained the right to vote in 1920 when the Nineteenth Amendment was passed. However, this was only for white women, and minority women did not gain the right to vote until the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, 45 years after the Nineteenth Amendment was passed. During World War II, Japanese Americans were put into internment camps because the American people were scared that they would act as spies for the Japanese and help them win the war. They threw everyone with Japanese descent, even those who were American citizens, into the internment camps which were dirty, small, and had terrible living conditions overall. They had to live in holding centers that were surrounded by barb wire, like a prison, even though they did not do anything. They were taken from their normal lives for no reason, and a lot of them ended up losing their property and jobs after they were released.



What social injustices were perpetrated in US history?

African Americans were extremely oppressed, even after slavery was abolished in 1865. Segregation laws were put into place, separating the African Americans from the white people. They could not attend the same schools, use the same facilities, and they did not have the same opportunities. African Americans were treated as lesser citizens and had to endure decades of racism and unfair treatment. Jim Crow laws were the state laws that enforced segregation in the southern United States, where racism was the worst, and the word Jim Crow was used as a slur against the African Americans. The laws were imposed through violent measures sometimes, and there were many lynchings of those who did not comply with the rules. There were also groups like the Ku Klux Klan in the south that terrorized the African American population. For decades, these laws were in place despite their unfairness, and it was only in the 1960s that African Americans began to gain more rights after they fought for them in the civil rights movement, through protests and rallies.



What social organizations guard Human Rights today?

Today there are many organizations that help to guard and protect human rights. One of them is the United Nations, which was founded on October 24th, 1945, after World War II, in order to have a council that helped maintain peace between countries. It mainly focuses on keeping world peace, building peace between different nations, working out problems between nations in a peaceful manner, and they aid those who are disadvantaged or in dangerous situations. They also protect human rights by helping governments strengthen their countries and capacity for solving human rights issues, and they help out those in need whether it be providing schooling or a food source for them through organizations like UNICEF or UNESCO, which are both parts of the UN.



What social organizations guard Human Rights today?

An organization that guards human rights currently is Amnesty International, which is a non-governmental organization that has eight million members around the world. They create movements worldwide about specific human rights issues. They help to free people who were wrongfully jailed and they aim to change unfair laws regarding equality, LGBTQ equality, the death penalty, and free speech and they have succeeded in some cases. Amnesty International has even received the Nobel Peace Prize for all the things they have accomplished. Another non-governmental organization that guards human rights is the Red Cross, which provides aid and disaster relief all around the United States. They collect blood to give to those in need, help wounded soldiers and other victims of war, and conduct disaster relief to affected areas and people.



What I Learnt This Year

This year we learned about the different forms of government and the evolution of both law and governmental systems throughout different periods of history, as well as how big events affected democracy. We began by learning about the Ancient Greek and Roman governmental systems and how religion helped set the foundations for democracy. Later, we looked at how medieval England shaped democracy with documents like the Magna Carta, and how the Renaissance and Age of Discovery spread democracy, as well as how the Reformation changed Europe. We also learned about absolute monarchs, different governmental systems, and their distribution throughout the world, as well as World War One and the Russian Revolution's impact on the world. We also studied dictators, social injustices in the United States, and organizations that help with human rights issues and peacekeeping. This year, I learned a lot about how the U.S government was formed and how it operates as well. We looked not only at democracy, but at different kinds of governments all over the world and throughout history and studied how the power structures worked, as well as the uprisings and revolts caused by mistreatment and unhappiness, and how those brought about immense change in worldview. I believe that I learned a lot about how democracy has been shaped over the years and how different world events throughout history have contributed to it. I think that my biggest takeaway was an understanding of how democracy came about and I definitely learned a lot more about my own government, especially how it operates and how I can participate in it.



Thank You!

