



History of Government **Final**



A History of Government

This year, in history, we learned about the role that government has played in human history. Humans have lived under organized societies for thousands of years, with some of the earliest complex-societies dating back to 4000 BCE. The creation of order amongst early societies was what transformed nomadic groups of hunter-gatherers into productive groups who could rapidly expand their territory.



The Sumerians were credited with being the first modern civilization
(~4000-2004 BCE)



CYCLE 1 GUIDING QUESTIONS

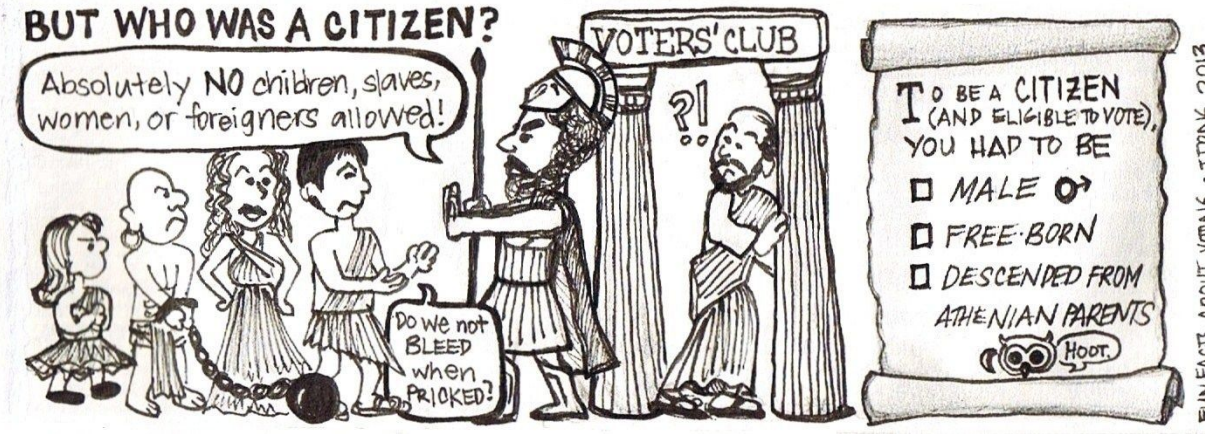
- 1) What were the contributions of Ancient Greece to the development of democracy?
- 2) What contributions did Rome make to democracy and law?
- 3) How are democracy, religion and law linked?





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

In 507 BC, the Athenians created the first democratic system ever. The system, which they called *demokratia*, or “rule by the people”, separated the governing process between the sovereigns, elected representatives, and the popular or public court. Specifically, the Greeks operated as a direct democracy, as all recognized male “citizens” were allowed to vote in the popular court. However, citizenship was only given to male and female natural born Athenians, and excluded foreigners, those who had migrated due to conquest, and slaves.



The Greek democratic system was divided into three courts:

The **Ekklesia**- Sovereign body who wrote laws and dealt with foreign affairs

The **Boule**- Representatives from each of the 10 Athenian tribes

The **Dikasteria**- Where citizens could argue cases to randomly selected jurors



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Greek Contributions

- First model of direct democracy
- First popular court
- Example of (disproportionate) government representation

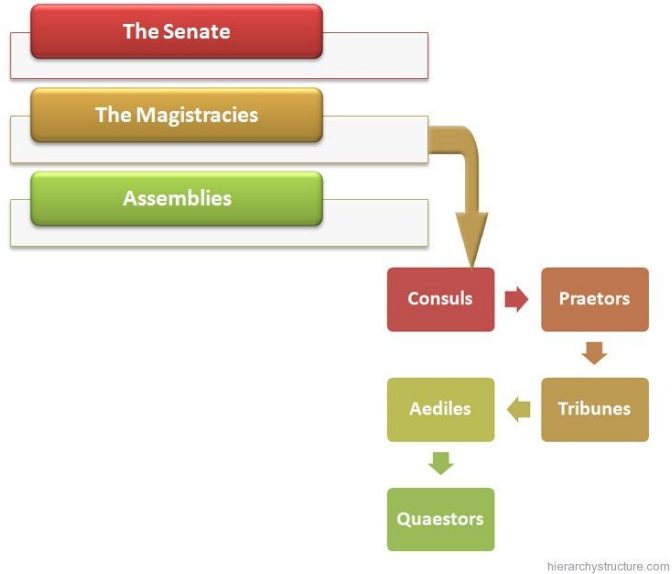




What contributions did Rome make to democracy and law?

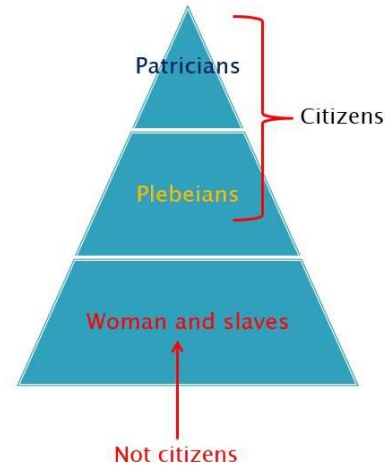
After the Roman Empire conquered Greece in 146 BC, they quickly melded the Greek democratic system into a new system of their own. The Romans formed the first representative democracy, in which the people elected leaders to speak, vote, and propose legislation on their behalf. This system, known as a Republic, was similar to the Boule court.

Again, the definition of a “citizen” changed under Roman law. Although no unelected citizen had the ability to vote, it was still a title which came with honor. Only males above the age of 15 could be considered citizens, and there were multiple classes of citizens which came with certain rights. A full citizen could vote, hold public office, trade, and marry free women, while a “lesser” citizen might be able to vote and trade but not hold office.



Principate System

Citizens were entitled to the right to vote, but required to pay taxes and serve in the military



Citizenship System



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Roman Contributions

- Clear class system
- First model of representative democracy
- Dictatorial system in times of crisis





How are democracy, religion, and law linked?

These three factors are all linked together by their effect on culture and ability to influence. Democracy can determine the law based on what the majority of the people think, while religion is one of many factors that influences what the people believe in the first place. Religion often shapes and affects moral values, such as a person's stance on abortion or the death penalty. Although some modern democracies call for a separation of Church and State, this, in reality, is practically impossible because as long as some people still believe in a religion, they may base how they vote on it.



How are democracy, religion, and law linked?

Throughout history, religion has influenced government. The two first democratic societies observed greco-roman polytheism which fundamentally shaped the model of democracy due to the less-conservative views of polytheism. When the Roman Empire converted to Catholicism, its influence was seen as well. Democracy can cooperate with religion and law, but the balance found in between must weigh both the views of the people and the reflection of it in the State.





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?

The English parliament was developed because of the growth of the various councils called by kings over time. During the middle ages, the king's councils began to expand so that they actually dealt with issues of the state, rather than just advising the king on how to handle them. Parliament became a strictly legislative body as, over time, its judicial responsibilities were handed over to the courts, leaving it with just responsibility over laws.

Following the English Civil Wars, the Commonwealth was established, creating England's republic, and survived despite the return of monarchy in 1660. Because of its success, the Parliament system was able to remain over centuries of administrative turnover. However, voting by the House of Commons only allowed around 5% of the population representation in the government.



How has England contributed to modern democracy?

Suffrage in Britain

The Reform Act of 1832- Extended Suffrage to 7% of adults

Reform Acts of 1867, 1884- Further extend male suffrage

Reform Act of 1918- Grants universal male voting rights

Equal Franchise Act of 1928- Grants universal male voting rights

Britain was one of the earliest countries in Europe to develop a democratic system, and Britain's Parliament is one of the longest lasting representative systems in history. Although Britain still has a monarchy, the monarch's role is now only as a symbol and representative of the United Kingdom.



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

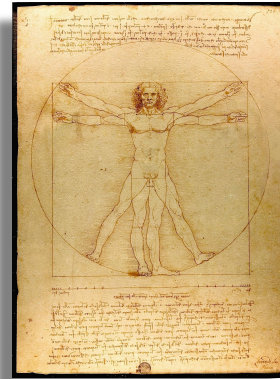
The renaissance was characterized by a departure from the Church by many, as modern philosophical movements exposed corruption in many religious systems. Additionally, the renaissance revolved around the re-discovery of the European “classics” which created greater interest in ancient Greece and Rome. When scholars looked back on the Greco-Roman government systems, particularly that of the Spartans, newfound admiration of *demokratia* began to spring up.





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

The renaissance also birthed the concept of humanism, in which the human beings are valued above pleasing a deity or moral concept. Many humanistic ideologies such as equality and the voice of the people go hand in hand with democracy.





What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?

The Protestant Reformation was a religious, intellectual, and political upheaval in the 16th century, following a rising tide of doubts surrounding the Catholic Church. The Reformation found its roots in Martin Luther's 95 Theses in which he listed all of the church's contradictions and disagreements with the actual Bible. At this time, the Bible had not been widely translated from its original Latin, so very few people had actually read the Bible. The Catholic Church had come to adopt several financially-motivated practices which were less for the sanctity of the religion than for money. It had become common for people to pay the Church "indulgences", payments for sin which the Church claimed would guarantee them their place in Heaven after they died. Luther, who had been able to read the Bible, disagreed with the Church greatly and so with his theses the Reformation began.





What was the Reformation and how did it affect Europe?

The Reformation affected Europe by fundamentally changing the practice of religion, not only by cleaning up Catholicism but also in creating a new branch, Lutheranism. Following the Thirty Years' War, many found new political and religious freedom following brutal persecution. It also initiated the Baroque period and reshaped how many Europeans went about their life and faith.





CYCLE 3 GUIDING QUESTIONS

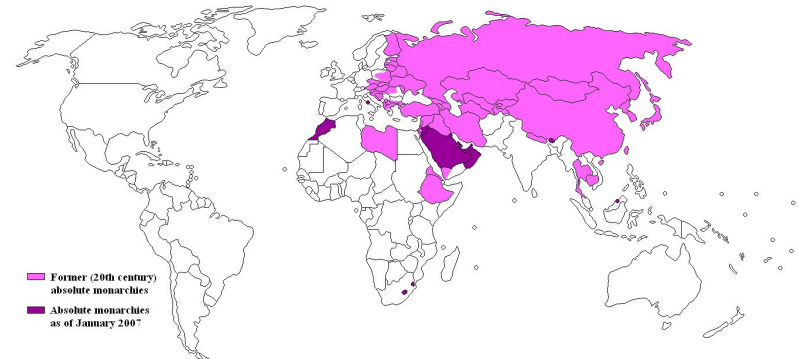
- 1) Who were the ‘Absolute Monarchs’?
- 2) What was the Enlightenment and what was its relationship with the French Revolution?
- 3) What are the basic forms that governments can take?





Who were the ‘Absolute Monarchs’?

Absolute Monarchy refers to an autocratic government style in which the monarch holds total authority. This supreme rule is often justified by claiming a divine right to power. Absolutism is usually characterized by unchecked power, and these rulers are often prone to arbitrary actions. Absolute Monarchs were especially popular during the 17th through 19th centuries in Europe. However, there are other forms of absolutists beside monarchists, as seen in more modern examples such as Hitler.





Philip II
Spain



Louis XIV
France



Peter the Great
Russia



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

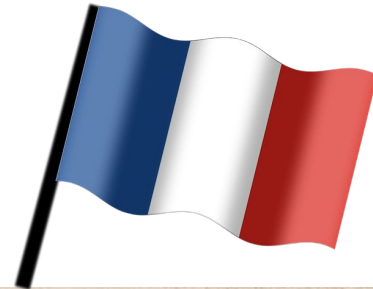
The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that was a result of the humanist movement of the Renaissance. The Enlightenment brought on several significant revolutions, wars, and governments. The reason that it was so impactful was because the movement focused on using rational thought rather than superstition and blind faith. Playing off of the Reformation, many came to believe less in the church and organized authority and more on their own rationale. This period was known as the Age of Reason because of this.





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

The Late Enlightenment (1780-1815) resulted in the French Revolution of 1789. Enlightenment thinking urged people to abandon their older authorities, who were seen as antiquated and past their dues, and focus on rebuilding into a reason-based society. Previously, the lower classes in France had come to foster intense anti-upper class sentiments, as the bourgeoisie and royals indulged themselves while the masses suffered. However, the French Revolution deviated from its set rational course as it devolved into a series of bloody battles and political statements. Still, the Enlightenment's egalitarian sentiments were what sparked the French Revolution and set forth a new school of thinking.





What are the basic forms a government can take?

Totalitarianism- Total government control

Authoritarianism- Characterized by military control, tyranny, and hyper-surveillance

Monarchy- Typically hereditary rule, one main monarch rules

Oligarchy- A small group of people, the elite, rule

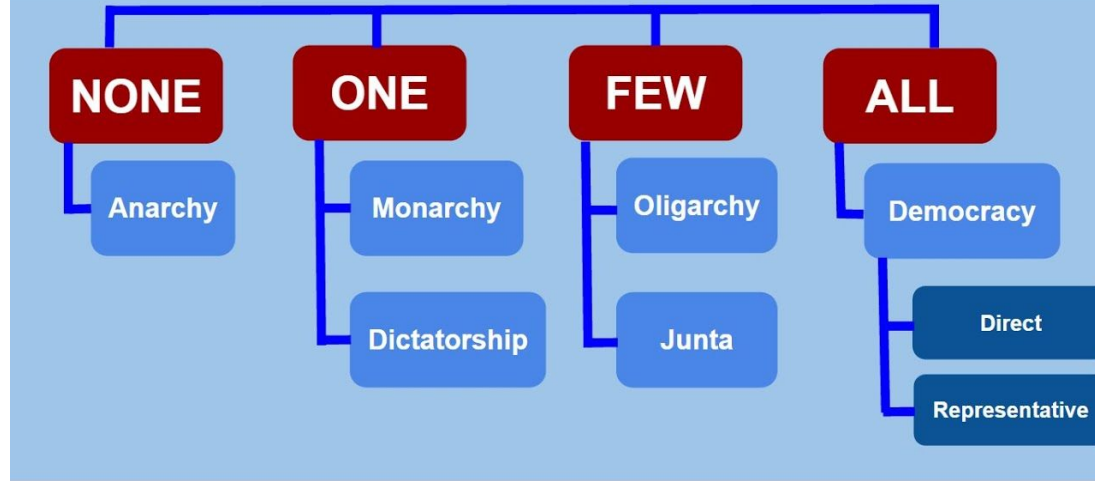
Republic- Indirect rule of the citizens through representatives

Direct democracy- Citizens rule via voting and majority rule

Anarchy- No order or established government



WHO RULES?



The chart above explains the basic government structures based on who holds authoritative power



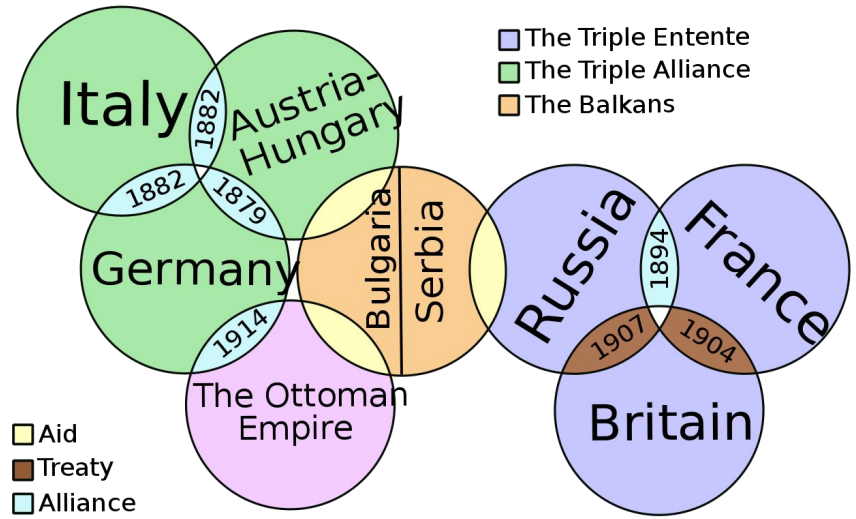
CYCLE 4 GUIDING QUESTIONS

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



What was the War to End All Wars?

World War 1, also known as the War to End All Wars, was fought between the Central (Germany, Austro-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria) and Allied Powers (France, Britain, United States, Russia, and more), mainly in Europe, between 1914 and 1918. The war began with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand on behalf of a Serbian nationalist group. At the time, tension were high in Europe as Serbs fought against the Austro-Hungarians for independence and the south-eastern countries recovered from the Baltic Wars. World War 1 was a culmination of various political and cultural issues all rising to a boiling point, released with the act of aggression against Austro-Hungary. This war was known as the first World War and the War to End All Wars because of its massive scale and multi-continental involvement. Additionally, it was one of the highest casualty wars in world history, due to both the relentlessness of German attacks and modern military technology.



The main participants in WW1



What Was the War to End All Wars?

Causes of WW1:

- Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand
- Austro-serbian tensions
- The Ottoman Empire's land loss due to the Balkan Wars
- Blind nationalism in both Germany and Serbia
- Germany wanted to exert their newfound power



Why was the Russian Revolution a Turning Point in World History?

The Russian Revolution (1917-18) marked a turning point in world history for many reasons. For one, the brutal revolution and decades of conflict which followed created what is today a world superpower. Within a few decades, Russia also shifted between an absolute monarchy, to a communist society, to a totalitarian state. The Russian Revolution was the result of over a century of growing public tensions concerning the ability of the Russian tsar line to govern. Additionally, the Russian Revolution helped fuel the suffragette movement since most of the initial protests were by women who worked in factories.



One of the first protests of the Russian Revolution



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

Historically, it has been proven that dictatorship often follows periods of widespread public outcry or sudden gain. Nationalism often riles people up and makes them believe that their respective country is the greatest among all others, leading to sentiments of entitlement and brutality. Although nationalism isn't inherently harmful, it is more often than not characterized by exclusionist and elitist beliefs. Over the years, many dictators have been able to use their country's nationalism to promote their own agenda.



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

Example: Hitler and Nazi Germany. The fascist dictator Adolf Hitler was able to use Germany's nationalism for over a decade to hold and strengthen his political power. Following Germany's catastrophic loss in WW1, Hitler appealed to the nation's wounded nationalism by pinpointing blame on Jews, immigrants, and homosexuals, and urging them to again believe that their nation was the greatest. In fact, he went so far as to claim that Germany Aryans were the superior race. Because of this, soldiers were funneled into the military, propaganda was believed and rampant, and those who disagreed were so intimidated by those who did agree that they remained silent.





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 power?

Dictators come to power often abruptly and unexpectedly. Dictators usually gain public support by taking a commonly shared issue and pin-pointing the blame. Dictators appeal to nationalism, hatred, and the human instinct to be led. They often make themselves out to be the savior of their nation, both subtly and advertently. Once they have established power, they maintain it using propaganda, fear mongering, and may even try to control their citizens. Using hyper-surveillance or secret police (like the Gestapo in Nazi Germany) to enforce their rules pressures citizens into showing support. In short, dictators come to power by manipulating and appealing to the masses.



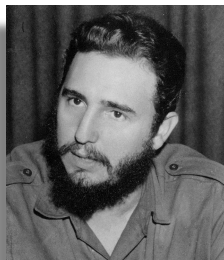
How do dictators come to and hold power?

Techniques:

- Propaganda (Example: Nazi Germany)



- Fear-mongering (Example: Fidel Castro)



- Opportunism (Example: Pol Pot)



- Hatred/Pinpointing (Example: Hitler and anti-semitism)





What social injustices were perpetrated in US history?

The United States has had a long history of discrimination and social injustice, dating all the way back to the country's inception. Most notably, the States allowed slavery for 200 years and blacks were not considered citizens until the 14th amendment, ratified in 1868. However, besides systemic problems, there are a few incidents that stand out.

- Seizure of land from Native Americans by European colonists
- Japanese Internment during WW2
- The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945



What social injustices were perpetrated in US history?

Although the current political climate and rise of far-left ideals has made such large-spread social injustices unheard of, the United States continues to suffer from such issues on smaller, more brutal levels. This is mainly due systemic abuse of the justice system which allows main crimes including racially motivated ones to be ignored due to bias. Despite an abundance of equal rights legislation, women are still paid less than men on average, as are people of color. Additionally, protective legislation varies from state-to-state.





What social organizations guard Human Rights today?

Because legislation is slow to pass, many advocacy groups have sprung up all over the globe for a variety of purposes. They range from NGOs that provide service throughout continents to localized groups who fight specific issues.

Examples:

General:

American Civil Liberties Union
United Nations

POC Rights:

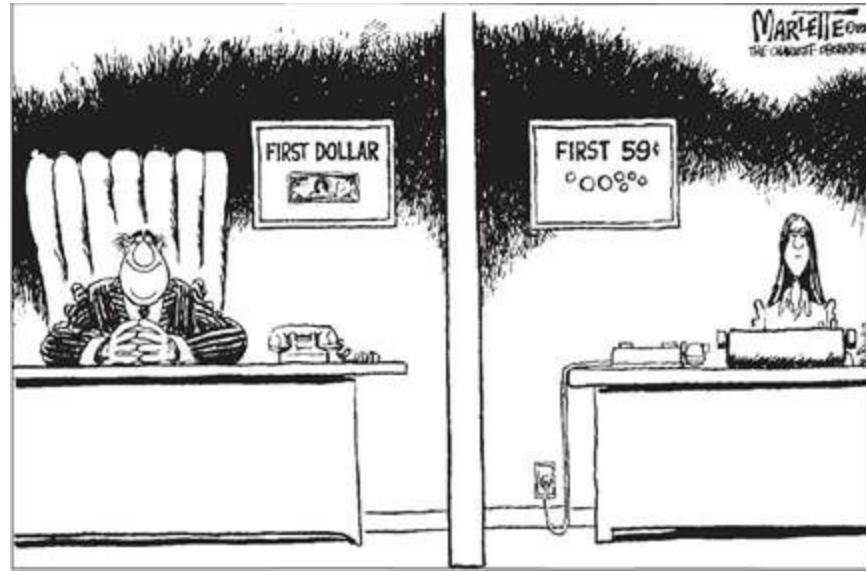
NAACP
Southern Poverty Law Center
People's Action Institute

Gender Equality:

UN Women
Association for Women's Rights in Development
Plan International

LGBTQ+ Rights:

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)
Family Equality Council
Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders



Today many groups and independent advocates are working to achieve equal rights for all- in voting, legal protections, and more. However, many Americans don't view the current stances as problematic or don't support equal rights for certain groups in the first place, so this goal is a ways away.



Concluding the History of Government

This year, we learned just how complex the government is and how important it is that we understand it. By knowing how our government functions and from where it got its roots, we are able to learn just how we can participate. Additionally, by learning about events such as the Protestant Reformation and the Renaissance which crucially shaped modern culture, we are able to form our own researched ideas while knowing their roots. This year in history has widened my world-view and a better historical basis from which to draw my opinions. History often serves as an example for the future and so it's important we study it, whether we want to build off of what we admire or learn from our mistakes.

THANK YOU,
And thanks for a great year.