

## **What is Democracy?**



## **As a Young Political Scientist, I will be able to...**

- **Analyze the rise of sovereign states.**
- **Explain how governments can achieve legitimacy.**
- **Understand why European nations turned to colonialism.**
- **Explain How The U.S. Government is Separated**

# Athens & DEMOCRACY!

Athens creates *Demokratia*-Rule by  
People

Government is decided by male  
citizens, 18 years old, &  
Decisions made in  
Assembly...A DIRECT  
DEMOCRACY

# Government by Rome!

Greece is overthrown by Rome! Rome sets up **Res Republica**- A Republic with powers by representation

Rome would decide power by elections, elect **Senators**, Senators could put in a Dictator in times of emergency

**Patricians**- Rich upper class people

**Plebeians**- Common folks



The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

# **HOLD ON! What is a Republic???**

**Republic-** Power comes from the people & administered by officials holding power for a limited time

**Rome was concerned with promoting “the common good” which could be promoted 3 ways.**

- 1. *Small Uniformed Communities-*** Communities must be similar or differences cause conflict
- 2. *Citizenship & Civic Virtue-*** Citizens are supposed to set aside personal views for common good. Use power to help people & be willing to give it up
- 2. *Moral Education-*** Civic duty must be learned & children must learn generosity, self-control- respect, & courage along with the “civil religion” of symbols & virtues

# Feudalism to the Commercial Revolution

**Feudalism-** Loosely organized system- Lords split up lands among lesser lords (**Vassals**) & controlled peasants (**serfs**)

**Roman Catholic church helps support Feudalism**

**The Black Plague helps create THE COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION!**

**-Money & Trade becomes important because wage & work more important**

# How you say...Monarchy?

The rise in commercialism leads to  
**Monarchy**- People want a single  
strong ruler

Monarchs rule with **Divine Right of  
Kings!**

National Taxes begin & **Sovereignty**-  
Monarchs had upmost decision  
making & maintain order

Rulers also sought **Legitimacy**- Belief  
of people that government has  
right to make rules

# Colonialism & Enlightenment

**Colonialism-** Control of 1 nation over lands abroad. Ideas spread over the world!

**Mercantilism-** Economic & Political theory that money & trade is essential to increase power

Age of Enlightenment begins- Ideas such as Natural Rights & social contract. (John Locke & Thomas Hobbes)

**William Blackstone-** Believes in “Common Law” that all legal decisions should be made based on decisions in past



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, muted tones.

**Eventually this leads to...**

**POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY-** Idea that  
power can only exist with consent of the  
governed!

# **The U.S. Democracy**

**People in the United States have the power to make decisions through voting**

**Representative Democracy-** We (citizens) elect leaders to make laws & run the government.

**This enforces the idea of popular sovereignty, the people rule & make decisions**



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The top left corner shows the blue field with white stars, while the rest of the slide is dominated by the red and white stripes. The text is overlaid on this background in white and blue boxes.

# **U.S. Separation of Powers**

**Presidential Government-** Separates powers between Executive & legislative branches.

**Branches are independent & equal**

**Chief executive is President & is chosen by the people.**

## **Written Constitution**

**Details of powers are written out in a Constitution.**

**Several powers can block actions of other branch.**

**U.S. invented the form of presidential government.**

The background of the entire slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

# **Legislative Branch**

**“L for LAWS!”**

**This branch makes the laws for the nation, state, local government.**

**Our national government is made up of The House of Representatives (Congressmen) & The Senate (Senators)**

**They write the laws, debate them, & vote if they should approve them.**

**Most importantly they approve budgets & declare war. Known as “The Purse of the Nation.”**



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in warm, golden tones.

# Judicial Branch

**“Judicial=Judge”**

**This branch interprets the law based on previous laws & constitutions**

**Examples: The Supreme Court & Federal Courts**

**Protects rights & settles legal disputes**

**Constitutional-** Actions are agreeable to the State or National Constitution

# **Executive Branch**

**“Execute the Law!”**

**Execute-** To carry out or put into Action

**This branch carries out & enforces the laws  
passed by legislatures**

**The National Government-** President, Vice President,  
Federal Agencies

**The State Government-** The Governor

**Local Government-** Mayor

**Handles public & foreign policy, controls militaries, &  
signs or vetoes laws**