

History of Democracy

- Developed in Ancient Greece
- First invented in the city-state of Athens
- Had a DIRECT DEMOCRACY
- Each citizen could vote DIRECTLY on laws

What Democracy means:
Power comes from the people

In Rome:
They developed a Republic
Also known as (aka) a Representative Democracy
Patricians elected officials to rule

Aspects of Democracy -

- Free Elections
- To have free elections:
 - Elections are held frequently
 - Voters are not discriminated against
 - People can vote in secret (secret ballot)
- Important to have a *true* democracy.

Power Lies with the People

- In democracies, it is the people who have ultimate authority- POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY (People Rule)
- **Social Contract- John Locke**
 - Citizens are obligated to submit to the power of the government
 - In return, government must protect the rights of the citizens and can only rule through “consent of the governed”.

Stability

- People must understand their role in Democracy in order for it to be stable



American Democracy

- **Republic** - A Representative democracy (voting for people to represent you)
 - We elect representatives to run our government
 - President, Congressmen, Senators, Governors, etc.

American Democracy Cont.

- **Federalism -**
 - Government in which power is shared/divided between
 - Federal
 - State
 - Local

American Democracy Cont.

- Each level has their own responsibilities and powers
 - Examples:
 - Federal (National)- Runs the military
 - State- Creates schools
 - Local- Public transportation, police
- State rules cannot contradict the federal government (Supremacy Clause)

American Democracy Cont.

- Separation of Powers
 - Each level of government has three (3) branches
 - Legislative - Makes laws (ex: Congress, General Assembly)
 - Executive- Enforces the laws (ex: President, Governor)
 - Judicial- Interprets laws (ex: court system)

Democracy in England

- **Parliamentary System-**
- **Parliament-** The legislative branch of England
 - Two houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons
 - In a parliamentary system there is no separation of powers
 - People elect members of legislative branch.
 - The winning party in the legislative branch selects the head of government (The Prime Minister)
 - Members of one branch may also be members of another branch

Democracy in England Cont.

- **Constitutional Monarchy**
 - The Queen is limited by the rules of government
- England doesn't have an official Constitution, but laws such as the Magna Carta limit the power of the monarch.