



Foundations of the United States Government

Greece, Rome, England



Greece: Background

- Loose collection of **City-States**
 - Small independent nations
- Between 750 and 550 B.C.E. started to develop ideas on government
- City-State of Athens ruled by Great Council
 - More Athenians wanted to be involved
 - Leads to idea of *Demos Kratia*
 - “Government by the people”





Greece: Athenian Democracy

- Structured as a **direct democracy**
 - People directly voted for rulers and laws
- Develop the idea of **Citizenship**
 - Those who are citizen have the ability to vote and participate in government



Greece: Problems and legacy

- Citizens were only males who owner large amounts of property
 - Women, slaves, small farmers/business owners no
- Athenians first to develop and implement large scale democratic style government



Rome: Background

- Between 750 B.C.E. and 350 B.C.E. Romans develop idea of a **Republic**
 - People vote for **representatives** to the Senate
 - Representatives – an elected official who participates in the making and passing of laws





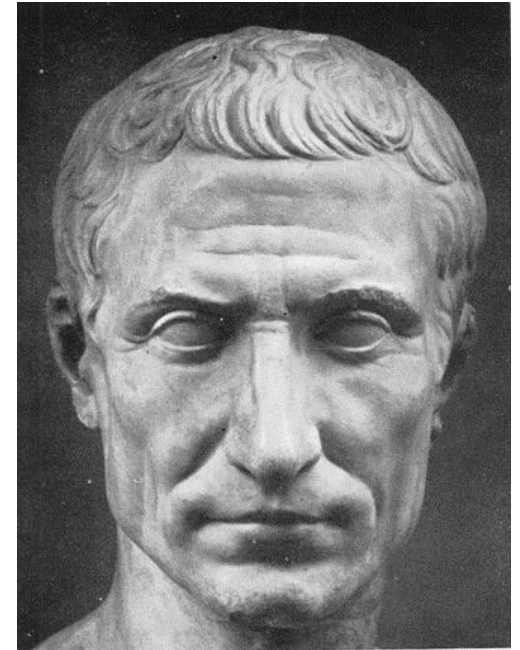
Rome: Roman Republic

- At first only patricians (upper class) could participate in the government
- Eventually plebeians (lower class) were allowed to participate as well
- Senators handled day to day governmental issues



Rome: Problems and Legacy

- Around 450 B.C.E. Romans called to have laws codified
 - Laws were written down to prevent the government from abusing its power
- The Roman republic functioned much more efficiently
 - Less participation needed by citizens
- Allowed for the rise of tyrants





England: Background

- During Middle Ages England was ruled by an absolute Monarch
 - King had full power to make decisions
- In 1100s C.E. Henry II established English Common Law
 - Kings courts established to make unified court system across kingdom



England: The Magna Carta

- Barons of England banded together and forced King to sign *Great Charter* in 1215
 - Spelled out rights of nobles
 - Made it illegal for king to imprison people without a jury trial





England: Parliament

- *Parler* in French means “to talk”
- Developed out of great council of nobles
- Would talk about ideas then present them to the king
 - Led to a **Limited Monarchy**
 - Where king had to share power with the people



England: Bill of Rights

- Passed in 1689
- First time the people had more power than king/Queen
 - Limited kings ability to tax, pass laws, and could not interfere with elections



How does it all connect?

- The United States is a democratically elected Constitution-Based Federal Republic