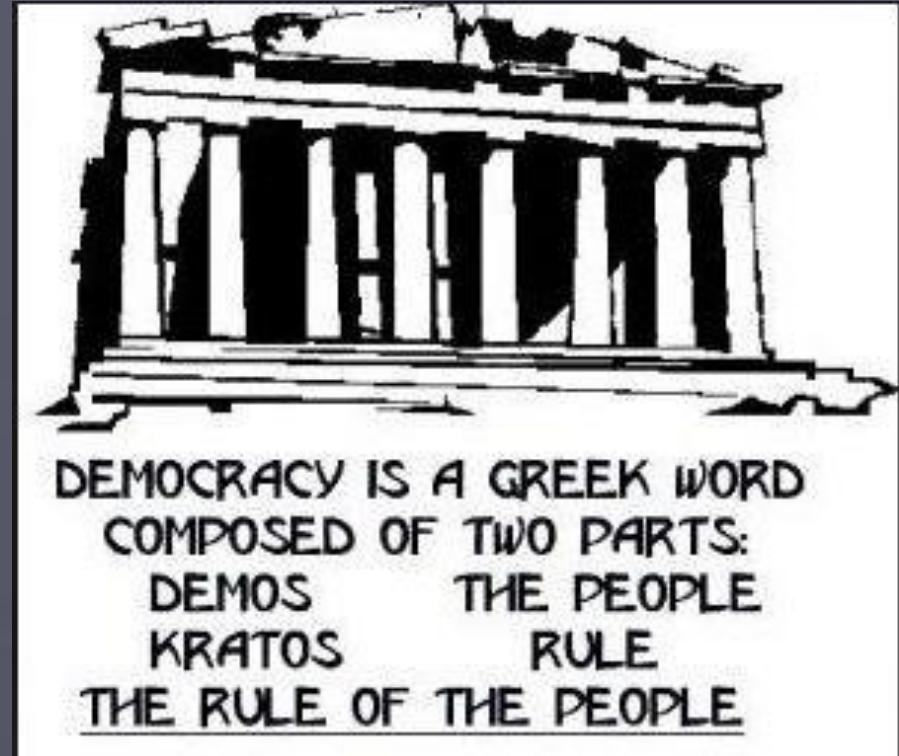


# Principles of a Republic

# Key Vocabulary

- Democracy – Political system where political officials are elected by eligible members of a state
- Republic – Electors vote to select representatives to serve in the government
  - As opposed to a direct democracy where citizens vote directly on governmental issues



# Historical Context: Roman Republic

- Between 750 B.C.E. and 350 B.C.E. Romans develop idea of a Republic
  - People vote for representatives to the Senate
    - Initially Limited representation to Patricians, eventually expanded to Plebeians
  - Representatives – an elected official who participates in the making and passing of laws
  - Senators handle governmental operations
    - Passed laws on behalf of the people



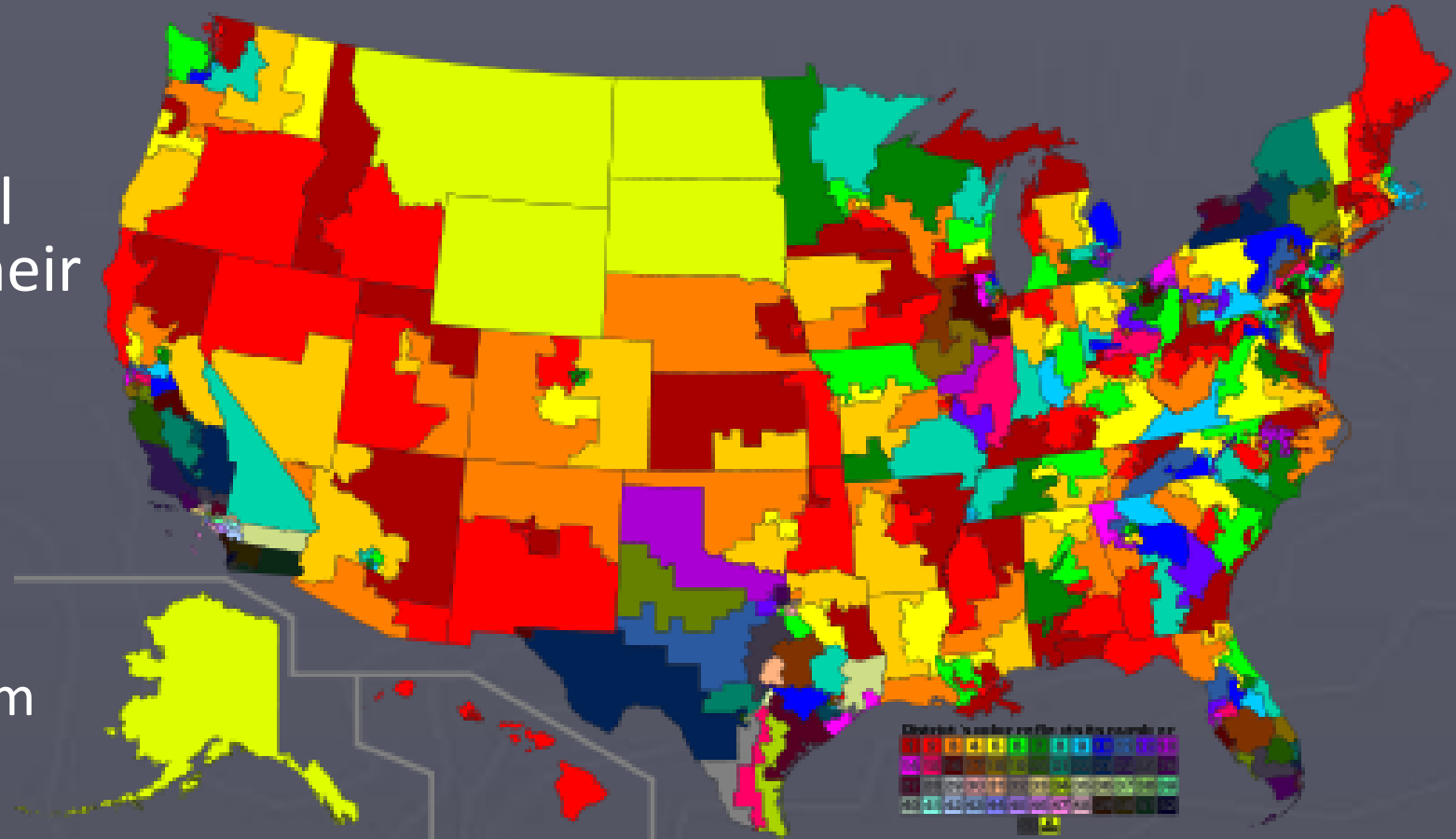
# Parliamentary vs. Presidential Republic

- President – Elected official who is constitutionally separate and independent from legislature
- Parliament – Electors select representatives, who then select a Prime Minister as head of government
- Countries can form hybrid variants of these depending on needs of country



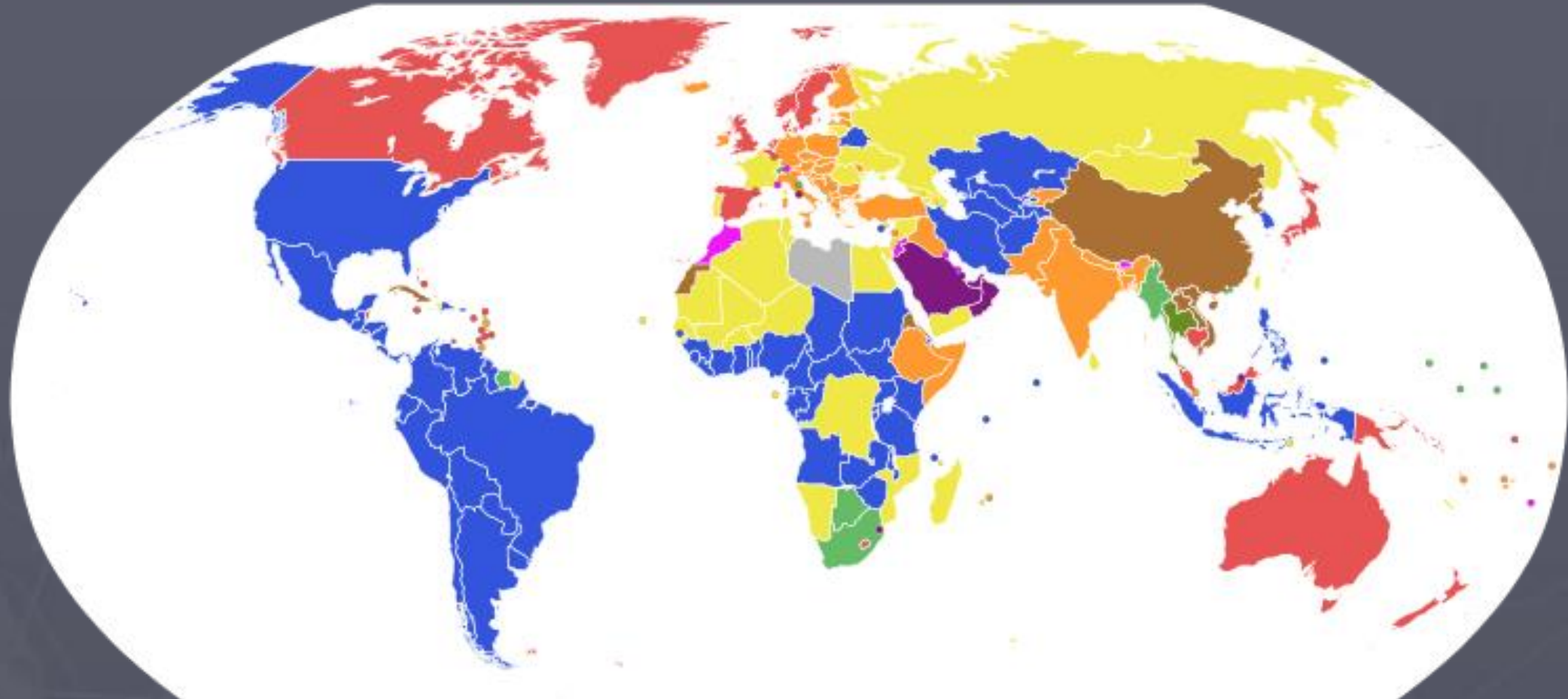
# Benefits

- Republic system allows voters to select representatives who will vote on legislation on their behalf
- Allows for local voice in national politics
  - Two Senators from each state
  - 435 Representatives from population based voting districts





# Map of Countries with Republican Systems



- Presidential republics with a full presidential system
- Presidential republics with a semi-presidential system
- Parliamentary republics with an executive presidency dependent on the legislature
- Parliamentary republics with a ceremonial/non-executive president, where a separate head of government leads the executive

# Significance

- The United States is a Democratically elected constitution-based federal republic
  - American citizens rarely vote directly for legislation, unless there is a referendum where representatives decide it is an issue for the citizens to vote for
  - Representatives are directly responsible to their constituents, and risk being voted out if they go against the wishes of the voting population

