

Social Studies Virtual Learning

AP US Gov & Politics

U1 Review : Ideals of Democracy

May 4, 2020

AP US Gov & Politics

May 4th, 2020

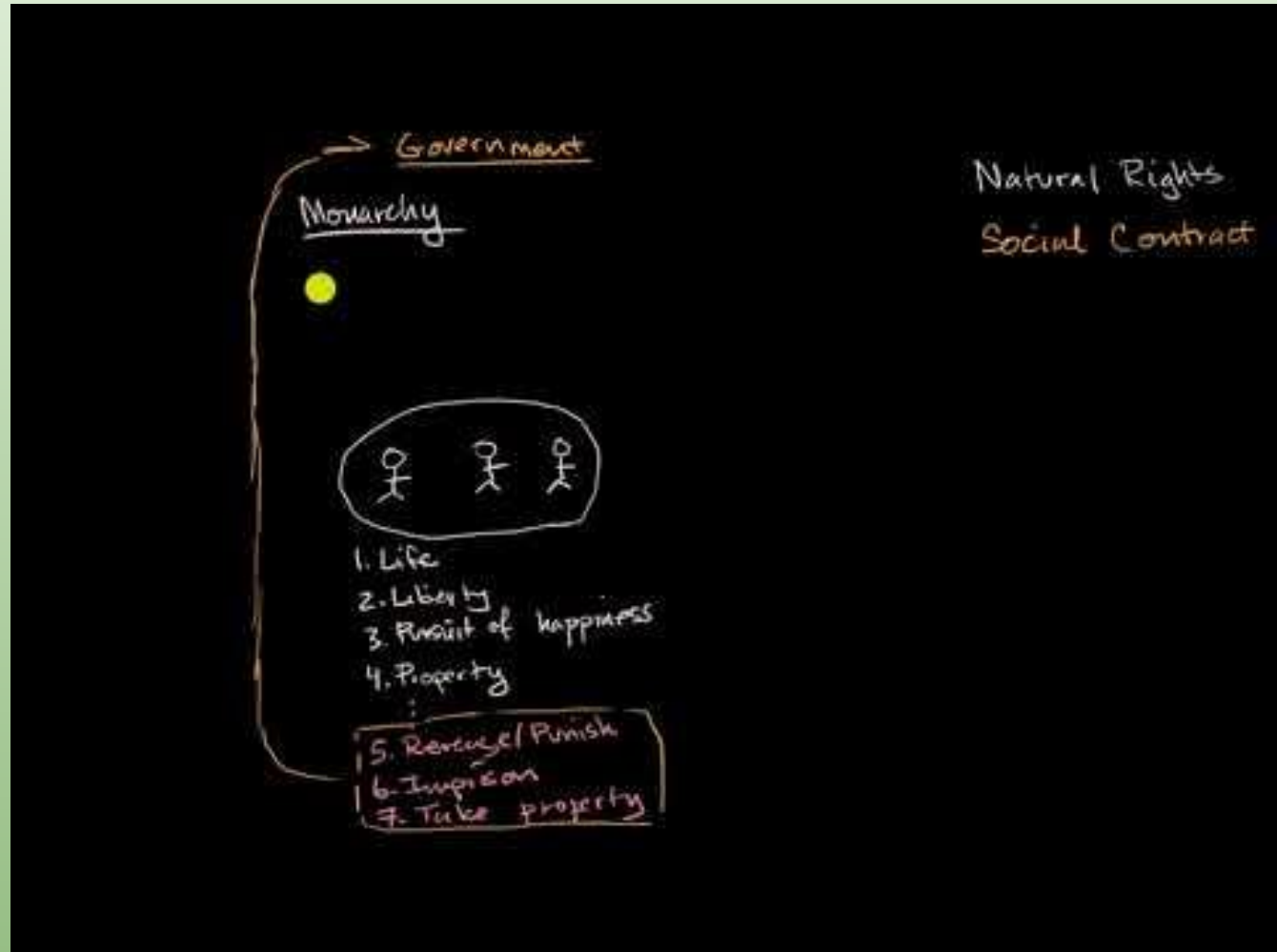
Learning Target (LOR-1.A) : Explain how democratic ideas are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Focus Area : Ideas of limited government, natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract

Click on this
Summary
video

Khan Academy Video:

Natural rights,
social contract,
democracy,
republicanism and
limited government



What ideals do you think of when
you think of democracy?

Explain how democratic ideas are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. **LOR-1.A**

DEMOCRATIC IDEALS

Limited Government

The Constitution limits the government's power

Natural Rights

People have rights to "life, liberty, and property"

Popular Sovereignty

Government of the people, by the people, for the people

Republicanism

Representative Democracy


Social Contract

An agreement among the members of a society to cooperate for social benefits, for example by sacrificing some individual freedom for state protection



Republican
DOES NOT =
Republicanism

Can you find examples of each of these in the Declaration and Constitution?



We did this
in class in
January!

DEMOCRATIC IDEALS

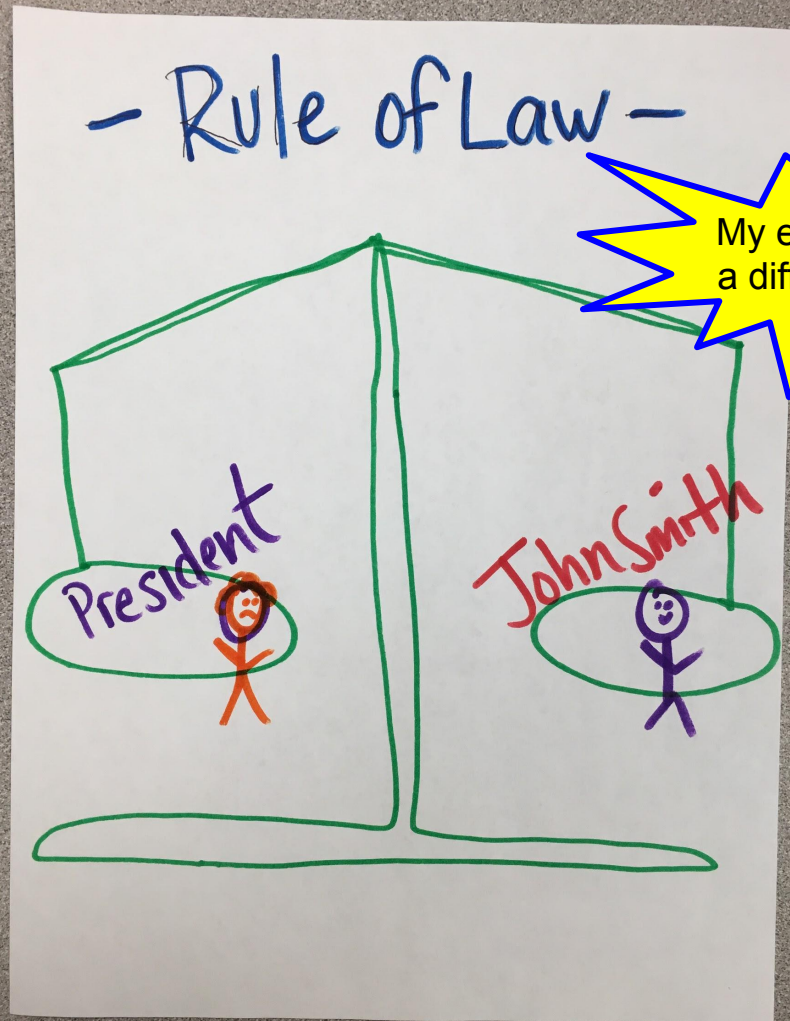
Limited Gov
Natural Rights
Popular Sovereignty
Republicanism
Social Contract

- # Group Anchor Chart
- Sketch out the **BEST** representation of your the **FIVE** democratic ideals
- can be a symbol or a picture
 - must include the essential attributes of the ideal

DEMOCRATIC IDEALS

Attributes:

- no one is above the law
- laws are fair
- written law
- equality
- accountability



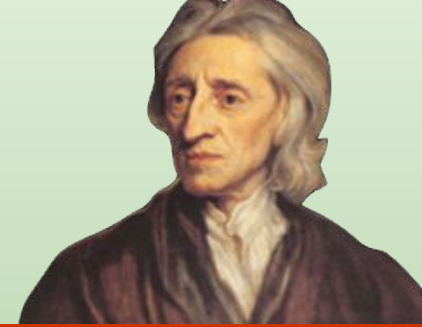
TWO
TREATISES
OF
Government:
In the Former,
The False Principles and Foundation
OF
Sir Robert Filmer,
And His FOLLOWERS,
ARE
Detected and Overthrown.
The Letter is an
ESSAY
CONCERNING
The True Original, Extent, and End
OF
Civil-Government.

LONDON: Printed for Awnsham and John Churchill, at the
Black-Swan in Pall-Mall-Road. s 6 p 8.



John
Locke!

MDCLXXXIX



LOCKE'S SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

STATE OF NATURE



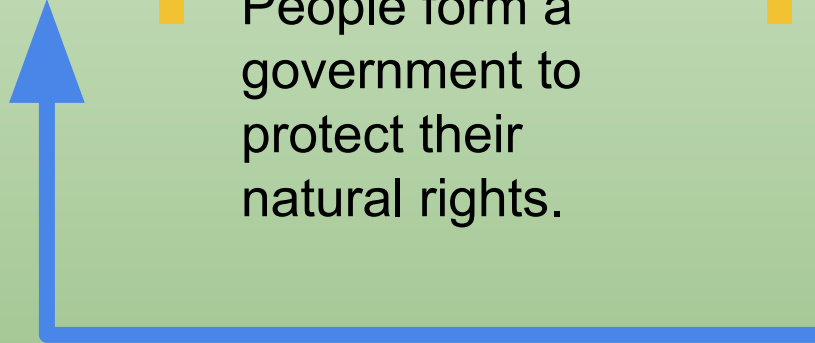
- State of Nature existed before government
- People had complete freedom but also had the natural rights of **“life, liberty, and property”**

SOCIAL CONTRACT

- People form a government to protect their natural rights.

DISSOLUTION

- If a gov doesn't protect its citizens' natural rights, the people have an obligation to dissolve it





Non est potestas Super Terram quae

Comparetur ei Job. 41. 24.

Hobbes' Social Contract model = You always have someone looking out for the people

SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY



They get it...leaders
chosen by the
people!

MONTY PYTHON

AND THE HOLY GRAIL

Government “derives
from a mandate from
the masses, not from
some farcical aquatic
ceremony.”



What is a social contract?

For the government to protect the natural rights of American citizens, people would have to see the government as an authority they must respect. They would enter into a **social contract** with each other, meaning that American society as a whole would agree to give up some freedoms to be protected by the federal government. Thomas Hobbes, an English political philosopher, theorized that the social contract was the foundation of government.

If the people did not give up some freedoms, then the government would have no way to rule over them. For instance, you can't just walk into someone's house if the door is open and claim that the house is now yours. That is a freedom that you give up so the government can protect you from someone else doing the same thing to you. However, by ensuring that the government was limited, the Founders created a system that protected the freedoms granted to the people.

Still, the Founders were concerned about a strong central government turning into a tyrannical monarchy again. They faced yet another question: how do the people ensure that the government does not get too powerful and start restricting all of their freedoms?

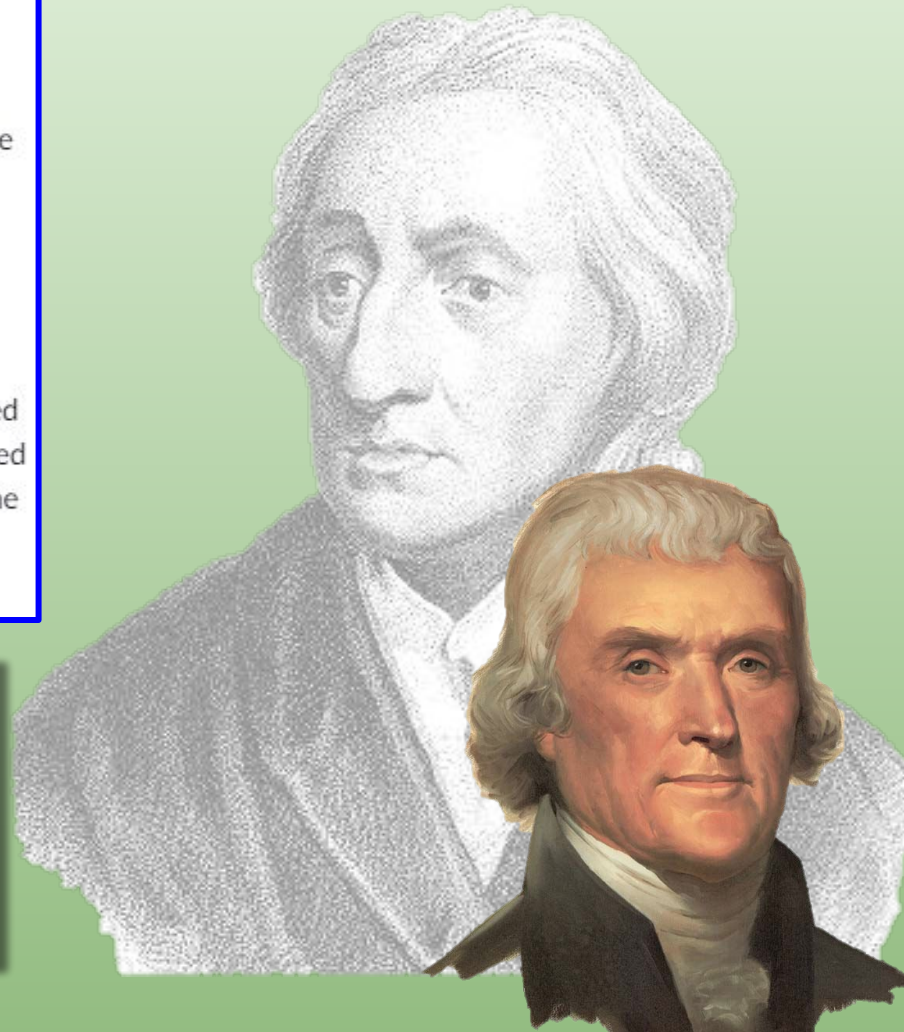
What are natural rights?

The main argument in the Declaration of Independence was that the British monarchy violated the natural rights of the American people. **Natural rights**, sometimes called unalienable rights, are rights the Framers believed all people are born with and can never give up. The Founders argued that the government's central purpose should be to protect and uphold these rights.

John Locke, an [Enlightenment](#) philosopher, described natural rights as the rights to one's own "life, liberty, and property." His work inspired Thomas Jefferson, the main author of the Declaration of Independence, who described unalienable rights as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Having defined these natural rights, the Founders of the United States then had to answer the question: "How do we make sure society safeguards natural rights without giving the government too much power?"



What's the
ORIGINALITY
score on the
**DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE**





Not all of republicanism is noble.

Voter suppression and hurdles for minorities have tarnished this.



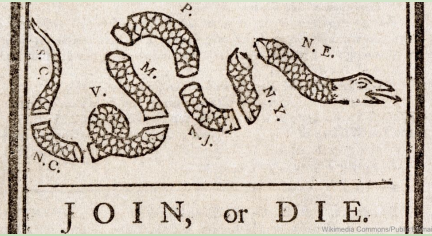
What is republicanism?

Leading up to the Revolutionary War, a famous phrase was "No taxation without representation!" To feel like their wants and needs were being heard by the government, the colonists wanted direct representation, but the British were unwilling to grant that to the colonies. Keeping that in mind, the Framers wanted to make sure that they were creating a political system that represented the people. But how do the people get the government to listen to their will?

The Framers believed that the best form of government is one in which elected leaders represent the interests of the people. This is known as republicanism.

The Framers wanted the will of the people to be reflected in the daily decisions of government and to prevent a tyrannical government from rising. By creating a system of government in which the people elected their leaders, the Framers believed that there was less of a chance of a government that would hold onto power and refuse to give it up.

Despite the Framers' desire to create a representative government, they extended the privilege of voting only to a small portion of US citizens: white, landowning men. It took nearly 200 years to extend voting rights to all people in the United States, meaning that not every person's needs and wants were heard or represented in government for a lot of American history.



Limited government is a political system in which there are certain restrictions placed on the government to protect individual rights and liberties. This decision to create a limited government was a deliberate departure from the British monarchy, which the Framers felt violated their rights. They intentionally created a limited government that would have to abide by a set of rules designed by the people of the country.

Now that the Framers had a plan for the type of government they were going to have, they had to decide a few things:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of this government?
- How will the government respond to the will of the people?

To answer these questions, the Framers turned to political philosophers like **Thomas Hobbes** and **John Locke**, whose ideas about what makes a government successful inspired the current system of government in the United States today.





What is popular sovereignty?

The Founders believed that the United States should be founded on the principle of popular sovereignty. **Popular sovereignty** is the idea that the government's power comes from the will of the people or the "consent of the governed." If the government started to violate the will of the people, Americans would have the right to change that.

This idea is the main argument within the Declaration of Independence, which claimed that the British monarchy had become too powerful and was not listening to the needs and desires of the colonists, who therefore had the right to rebel.

In the United States, we see popular sovereignty at a smaller level in most elections when the power of the government shifts from one political party to another. When control of the government shifts from one party to another, it shows that the will of the people has also changed.

Changes in leadership gives us insight into what the people want from their government. Political parties play a vital role in American politics, as they represent the opinions and needs of the people to the government.



Activity

Read aloud the [Declaration of Independence](#) and complete a list of Locke's ideas as well as the others. Try to find AT LEAST ONE quote for each of the 5 Ideals.

If you're really struggling, use [this cheat sheet](#) in modern translations.

1990's Celebrities Read the Declaration Aloud

Declaration of Independence **ANSWERS** :
broken down [Quote Sorter](#) by ideal

Click on Blue
texts for links!



Practice Question #1

Which of the following best illustrates the concept of limited government?

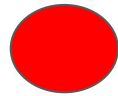
Choose 1 answer:

- (A) The president vetoing a bill from Congress
- (B) The federal government restricting commerce within a state
- (C) The federal government replacing state curricula in public schools
- (D) The president appointing state and federal judges

Answer
to
Question
#1

Which of the following best illustrates the concept of limited government?

Choose 1 answer:



The president vetoing a bill from Congress



The federal government restricting commerce within a state



The federal government replacing state curricula in public schools



The president appointing state and federal judges

Practice Question #2

Several oil companies donate to a pro-fracking interest group after hearing that the federal government plans to pass a law banning fracking in the United States . The interest group then appeals to members of Congress in attempt to get them to vote against the bill.

Which of the following democratic ideals does this scenario best exemplify?

Choose 1 answer:

- (A) Social contract
- (B) Natural rights
- (C) Limited government
- (D) Republicanism

Answer to Question #2

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- (A) Social contract
- (B) Natural rights
- (C) Limited government
- Republicanism

Practice Question #3

Read the passage and answer the following question.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

-Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*

Based on the text, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?

Choose 1 answer:

-
- (A) There is no such thing as a just government
-
- (B) Society would be better if there were no governments
-
- (C) A government is only just if citizens have a voice in it
-
- (D) Citizens should rebel against governments they disagree with
-

Answer to Question #3

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Practice Question #4

Read the passage and answer the following question.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

-Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence*

Which of the following ideas does the author of the passage advocate?

Choose 1 answer:

- (A) Checks and balances
- (B) Constitutional monarchy
- (C) Pluralism
- (D) Popular sovereignty

Answer to Question #4

Read the passage and answer the following question.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

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(C) Pluralism

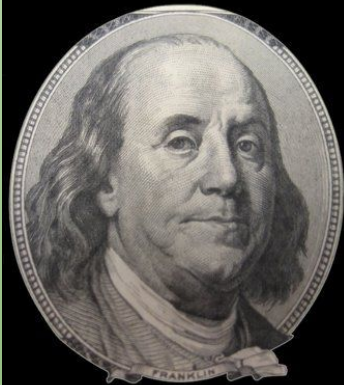
Popular sovereignty



Key takeaways from this lesson

Balancing liberty and order: From the beginning, the US government has attempted to balance individual rights and liberties with the government power necessary to, as the Constitution puts it, "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, [and] provide for the common defense."

The Declaration of Independence served as a statement of the Founders' beliefs in natural rights and individual liberties. With the Constitution, the early American statesmen attempted to build a government that was strong enough to sustain itself without infringing on citizens' rights and liberties.



"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."



Social Studies Virtual Learning

AP Government:

U1 Review

May 4, 2020



AP Government

Lesson: May 4, 2020

Objective: LOR 1.B

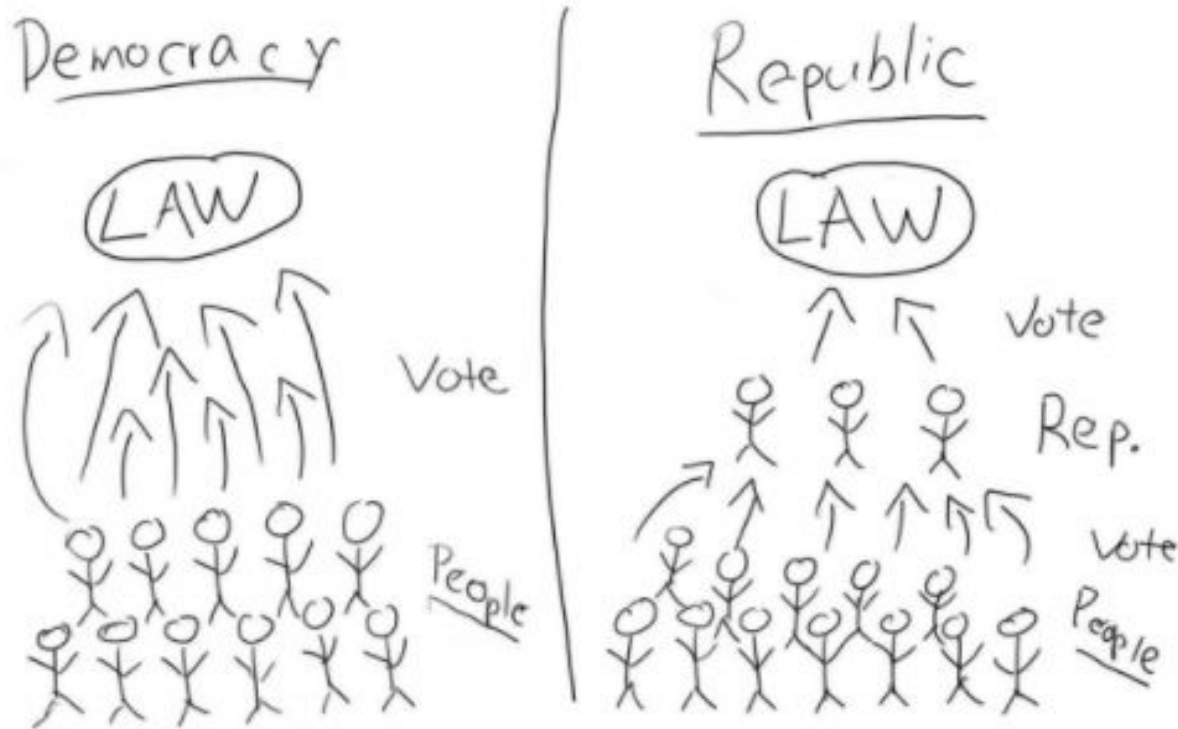
Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the US.

Lesson Focus Area:

Models of representative democracy

Warm Up

Explain the difference between these two pictures as well as why this distinction is important.



Lesson: Two Types of Democracy (“Rule by the People”)

Direct/Pure Democracy

Ancient Greek style
where all “citizens”
had a vote.

“...and to the
REPUBLIC for
which it stands.

Indirect Democracy (Republic)

1

2

3

3 lenses through
which we look at our
indirect democracy,
which you’ll review in
this lesson

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY THEORY #1

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

The idea that there should be **BROAD** participation in politics.

RECALL: An election to “un-elect” a government official

REFERENDUM: Legislation is put on the ballot for voters to approve or vote down

INITIATIVE: Same as a referendum but the issue is placed on the ballot by the people (through a petition process) instead of by the government.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY THEORY #2

PLURALIST DEMOCRACY



One person's
voice can
only be so
loud.

The idea that our democracy is characterized by many (plural) interest groups.

Groups compete with each other to influence the government to enact the policies they desire.

PLURALISM

Today is viewed very positively; however, not everyone has always agreed.

BRUTUS No. 1 ANTI-FEDERALIST PERSPECTIVE

How do the highlighted sections show the Anti-Federalists believed Pluralism was bad?

The territory of the United States is of vast extent; it now contains near three millions of souls, and is capable of containing much more than ten times that number. Is it practicable for a country, so large and so numerous as they will soon become, to elect a representation, that will speak their sentiments, without their becoming so numerous as to be incapable of transacting public business? It certainly is not.

In a republic, the manners, sentiments, and interests of the people should be similar. If this be not the case, there will be a constant clashing of opinions; and the representatives of one part will be continually striving against those of the other. This will retard the operations of government, and prevent such conclusions as will promote the public good. If we apply this remark to the condition of the United States, we shall be convinced that it forbids that we should be one government.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY THEORY #3

ELITE DEMOCRACY



Critics of American Democracy point out the Constitution was created by 55 white men. Of which 33 were lawyers, 7 were former governors, 7 owned plantations, and 25 owned slaves.

Of the Rich & Powerful, by the Rich & Powerful, for the Rich & Powerful

Activity: Practice Question

There are different approaches to representation within a democratic political system.

- a. Define direct democracy.
- b. Define republican democracy.
- c. Describe **one** reason the Framers of the US Constitution chose a republican form of government over a direct democracy.

Activity: *Federalist 10* Quote

“A [pure] democracy... can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction... Such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths...

The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are: first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens, and greater sphere of country, over which the latter may be extended.

...It may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representatives of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose. On the other hand, the effect may be inverted. Men of factious tempers, of local prejudices, or of sinister designs, may, by intrigue, by corruption, or by other means, first obtain the suffrages, and then betray the interest, of the people.:

- James Madison, *Federalist 10*

What does James Madison see as the benefit to a republic, over a pure democracy?

What is a potential problem to a republic that Madison alludes to?

Reflection

Identify two ways that the models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the US.



Discuss & Explain
Often include listing + defining + describing. The highest hurdle verbs.

Describe
What are the most significant characteristics of a word or concept? Make sure you include how or why the word or concept is important to the question.

Define
Write the meaning of a word or concept. Adding an example can't hurt.

List
A simple enumeration of some factors or characteristics that are clearly labeled.

High Hurdle Verbs

Low Hurdle Verbs

Most students pay attention to the nouns in a question. Pay attention to the verbs and earn higher FRQ scores.