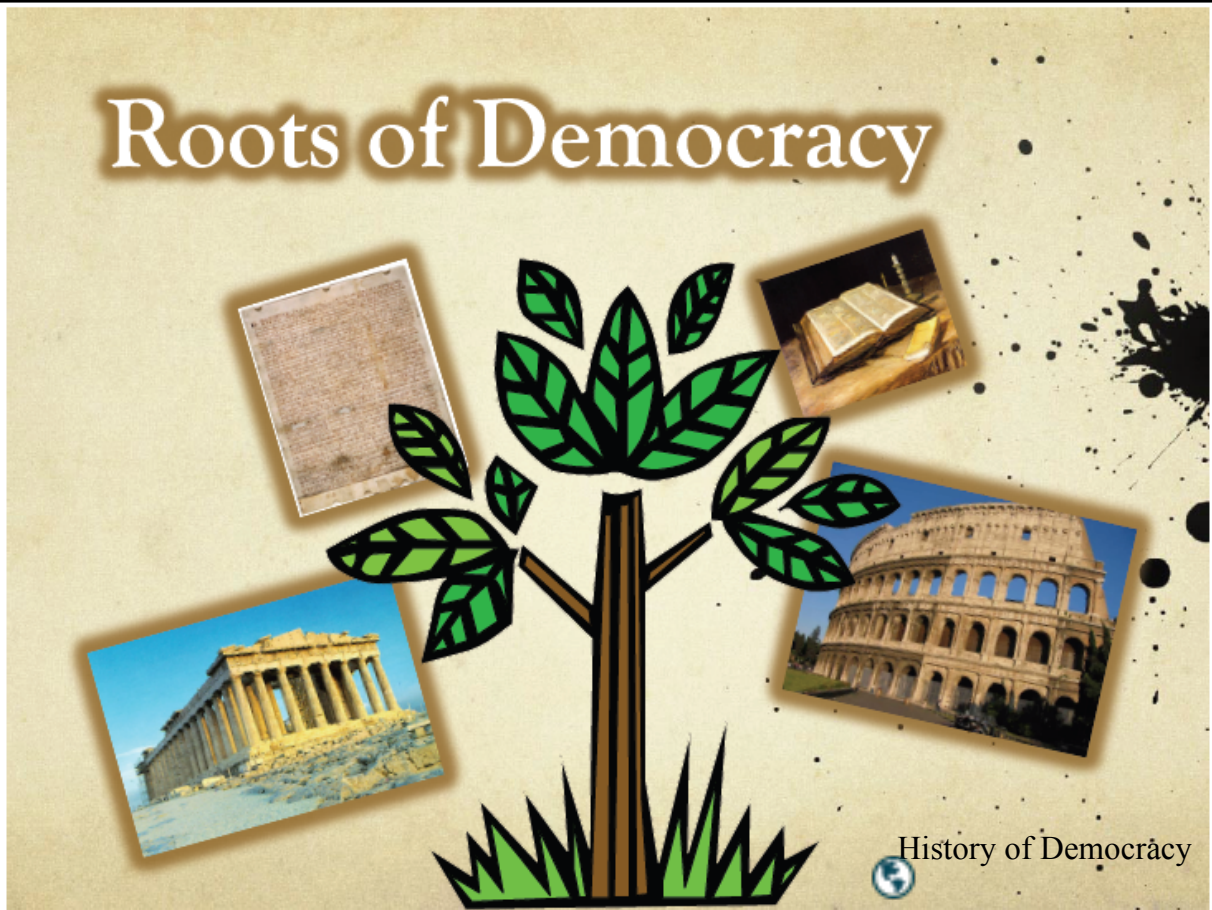


# Agenda

1. Quiz
2. Roots of Democracy
3. Elements of Democracy
4. Chapter 1 Reading Assignment

# Roots of Democracy



History of Democracy



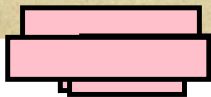
## Democracy came from many sources:

1. The Ancient Greeks
2. The Ancient Romans
3. The Magna Carta
4. The Bible



## The ancient Greeks :

- Athens is often called the cradle of democracy or direct democracy.
- Between 700 and 350 BCE, the people who lived in some Greek city states gradually won the right to share in decision making.
- All citizens were expected to participate in the city's affairs except slaves, women, children and anyone not born in the city. These people had no political rights at all.
- In 510BC a new way of government was invented in Athens. 'Demokratia', from which we get our word 'democracy', means 'rule by the people'. Any man with full citizen rights could go to the assembly, where they could speak and vote freely. Public debates like this decided how the city was run.



# Ancient Rome

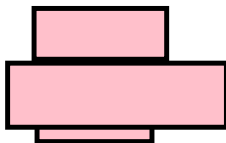
The people of Rome waged a long struggle to win the right to participate in their own government.

- The city was ruled by kings. However, the king was driven out and Rome became a Republic.
- A Republic is: a state that is not ruled by a hereditary monarch. People from rich and powerful families took over governing. They were called patricians. However, we still saw the imbalance of power especially with the plebeians (ordinary citizens).



## Ancient Rome

- In 494 BCE, the plebeians were fed up and decided to call a general strike. They packed up their belongings and walked out of Rome.
- This strategy worked because the patricians gave in to the demands of the plebeians. However, the real making power in Rome belonged to a separate assembly called the Senate—and only patricians could be members of the Senate.
- The Romans granted many of the rights of citizenship to the male residents of the lands they had conquered.



## The Bible:

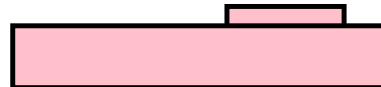
- Hebrew prophets developed the idea of all people being equal, created in the image of God.
- The idea caring for the weaker members of society.



# The Magna Carta



- British Document
- King John forced to recognize his power was limited by the Barons
- First step toward limited government



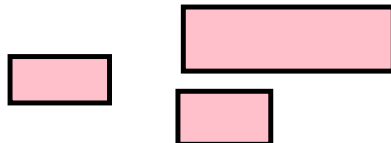


# The Magna Carta


- In 1251, a group of nobles forced King John, the tyrannical reigning monarch, to sign a document that placed important limits on his power.
- This document was known as the Magna Carta.
- It required the King to respect certain rights of his subjects and exercise power fairly.

It also forced King John and his noble supporters to stop:

- Forcing widows to remarry
- Forcing villagers to build bridges over rivers
- Forcing knights to pay money to excuse themselves from guarding castles
- Confiscating the horses or carts of freemen
- Helping themselves for firewood that did not belong to them



# THE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy is... 



country  
majority  
cross  
share  
cultural  
zone  
choice  
without  
social  
choice  
life  
speech  
freedom  
rights  
citizens  
society  
participate  
opinion  
free  
system  
others  
ability  
participation  
expressions  
decisions

**democracy**  
**freedom**  
**government**  
**right**  
**vote**  
**people**

## ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

There are four main factors that account for the global appeal of a democratic government.

These elements include...

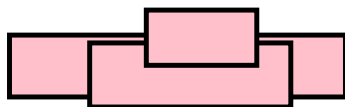
1. Decisions are made for the good of most citizens
2. Legal and Political Equality
3. Democracy protects minorities
4. Democracy encourages peace, respect and tolerance



## THE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

1. Democratic decisions are made for the good of most people, most of the time

- Citizens vote for representatives to make decisions and pass laws which they support
- Frequent elections helps give everyone a voice
- If the wishes of the voters are not met, they have the opportunity to elect a new representative at the next election



## THE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

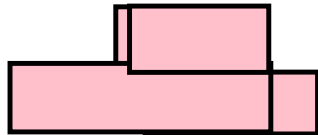
### 2. Democracy emphasizes legal and political equality.

→ In theory, in a democracy all citizens are equal before the law and no one is above the law

→ All citizens can vote and hold office

→ Most democracies have a constitution, which is known as the law of the land.

→ The constitution lays out the rules and principals of government power and the rights of the people



## THE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

### 3. Democracy protects minorities

- Although there are many laws in place, the idea that minorities must be protected from the majority can be difficult for citizens to accept.
- This is because in democracies the majority, “50 percent plus 1” make the decisions
- Ex. Japanese Internment Camps



## THE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY

### 4. Democracy encourages peace, respect, and tolerance in citizens.

→ Typically, a democratic government requires people to persuade others to accept their points of view.


→ This often means that citizens must learn to compromise

→ Democratic decision making can also be used in families, schools and workplaces to reduce disagreements and eliminate out conflicts



# OBSTACLES TO DEMOCRACY...

Obstacles that may prevent democracy from taking root.

1. Ethnic differences and conflicts.
  2. A large gap between rich and poor.
  3. A low literacy rate.
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# Chapter 1

## Reading Assignment

Use your notes and the textbooks to complete this assignment.