

**World History** as the  
Story of **Democracy**

# The Story of Democracy

- ⦿ Democracy, like all other **human inventions**, has a history.
- ⦿ Democratic values and institutions are **never set in stone**; even the meaning of democracy changes through time.

# Embedding Civic Knowledge in World History

SUBJECT CONTENT	DISCUSSION POINTS
I. Heograpiya ng Daigdig	
Ang Pagsisimula ng mga Kabihasnan sa Daigdig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How transition from hunting-gathering societies to tribal societies established social organization/political order</li><li>• The necessity of politics and government</li></ul>
II. Pag-usbong at Pag-unlad ng mga Klasikong Lipunan sa Europa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ideals of classical democracy.</li><li>• The democratic values of political equality, participation, and deliberation.</li><li>• Republicanism/Representation</li><li>• Mixed Constitution/Separation of Powers</li></ul>

# Embedding Civic Knowledge in World History

SUBJECT CONTENT	DISCUSSION POINTS
Ang Daigdig sa Panahon ng Transisyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The disappearance of democracy</li><li>• Feudalism; Absolute government</li></ul>
Paglakas ng Europa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Rise of Liberal Democracy</li><li>• Capitalism</li></ul>
Ang Unang Digmaang Pandaigdig Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The “waves” of democratization</li></ul>

# *The Necessity of Politics and Government*

## **Hunting- Gathering**

Family/Band-  
level  
organization

No centralized  
source of  
coercion

## **Tribes**

Agriculture

Weak  
centralized  
source of  
authority

## **States**

Central source  
of authority

Monopoly of  
legitimate  
violence

# What is politics?

- ◉ the *process* and *activity* of ruling complex societies *without* the use of **undue** violence.
- ◉ It has the *humanizing* and *civilizing* task of resolving conflicts

# Classical Democracy

- ◎ Athenian population---250,000
- ◎ 30,000 on average were citizens - the adult males of Athenian birth and full status
- ◎ 5,000 might regularly attend about 40 meetings of the popular Assembly (ecclesia)

# *The Ideals of Democracy*

## Pericles' Funeral Oration:

“Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority, but of **the whole people**. No one, so long as he has it in him to be of service to the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty . . .

# *The Ideals of Democracy*

“Here each individual is interested not only in his own affairs but in **the affairs of the state as well**:—this is a peculiarity of ours: we do not say that a man who takes no interest in politics is a man who minds his own business; we say that **he has no business here at all**.

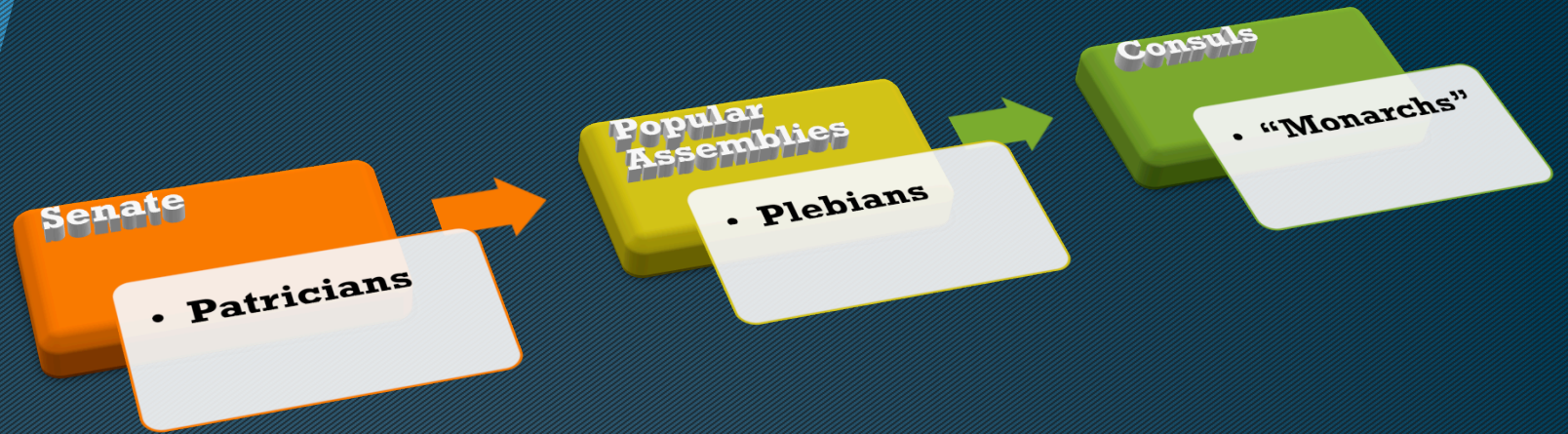
## *The Ideals of Democracy*

“We Athenians, in our own persons, take our decisions on policy or submit them to **proper discussions**: for we do not think that there is an incompatibility between words and deeds; the worst thing is to rush into action before the consequences have been **properly debated**.”

# ***Ideals of Democracy***

- ⦿ Political equality
- ⦿ Citizen participation
- ⦿ Deliberative

# *The Romans and Republicanism*



# **The Romans and Republicanism**

- ◎ People would elect representatives from their own areas, and these representatives would be members of a larger body which would govern the entire society
- ◎ Correspondence between the acts of the government and the interest of the governed

# **The Disappearance of Democracy**

- Dismissal of the viability of democracy as a political form
- Feudalism and Absolute Rule

# Capitalism Rises, Democracy Reappears

- In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, 80% of Europeans lived in communities of under 3,000 people, rural communities without much contact beyond their vicinity.
- Its economy, culture and politics were basically **subsistence** and **parochial**.

# Capitalism Rises, Democracy Reappears

- The discovery of the New World in 1492
- The development of European interests in India and Africa, and
- The sudden opportunities that offered for capital profits on a grand scale

# Capitalism Rises, Democracy Reappears

Europeans started to become rich, very rich. A vastly accelerating trade resulted in **the creation of a robust middle class;** who did not possess **POLITICAL POWER.**

# **Ideals of Liberal Democracy**

- Elections that are *reasonably* fair, and free.
- A set of rights such as freedom of expression, of speech, of association, of information, of religion, and the right to property
- Rule of law

# Summing Up

## Greek

- Political Equality
- Participation
- Deliberation

## Romans

- Representation
- Separation of Powers

## 18<sup>th</sup> C Europe

- Elections
- Civil/Political Rights
- Rule of Law

# *The Story of Democracy*



# Disillusioned Democrats

“Kenneth Newton and Pippa Norris, for example, found out that of all 17 nations surveyed, all public institutions in these countries suffered considerable declines in the way people trust them.

# **A Strong Democracy**

“...a modern form of participatory democracy that rests on the idea of a self-governing community of citizens united by civic education and who are made capable of common purpose and mutual action by virtue of their civic attitudes.”

*Benjamin Barber*