

Democracy





What is it?

- a form of government that gives people the right to choose people to represent them and their interests as well as being involved in the civic process.
- The key components that define democracy are free and fair elections, equality, and protection of rights and liberties , such as freedom of speech and religion, for all people.

Types of Democracy

Direct Democracy

- the people directly meet and vote on issues pertaining to their interests. Instead of electing people to make decisions, the people make those decisions directly.
- Examples include initiative, recall, and referendum.
 - Initiatives allow voters and the people to pass laws that they are passionate about
 - referendum results in interaction with the legislature and the community in approving or rejecting legislation. When voting comes along, people can vote on propositions that people or the legislature proposes.
 - Recall is when people are unhappy with the elected officials, so they can petition and remove them from office.

Representative Democracy

- electing individuals to represent our interests, which is known as a republic.



Federal Democracy

Unitary Democracy

- protecting the rights of individual states or political units in a larger country. These political units have their own laws and government separate from the national government, and the national government does not have the right to interfere with the laws unless they confront the state government.
 - An example of this would be the United States.
- consists of one central power, which is the national government. There are presence of political units, but they administer the laws and do the work that the central government enacts and calls for.
 - An example of this would be Great Britain.



History of Democracy





Athens and Rome

- Democracy first originated in ancient Athens. Athenian democracy was one of the earliest forms of democracy.
 - Voters and the people directly voted on laws, rather than choosing politicians to vote and craft legislation.
- Romans developed the Senate, which consisted of people who advised the king.

Middle Ages



- In 930, Vikings were known to create the first legislative assembly, presently known as the Parliament. They called it the Althing, but it basically brought people together to discuss issues in their community and find solutions to those problems.
- As cities began to develop in the Middle Ages, city-states were created to help govern and control the social and economic life of the people. Cities in Italy elected people to serve in councils.
- This did not last that long because several city states were going into wars with other city-states over land and power. Later on, the nation-state was created to unify cities together and have a strong government., lectures, speeches, reports, and more. It is mostly presented before an audience.

European Influence on America

Europeans principles of democracy and representation spread to America in which the Founders, who recently achieved independence from Britain in 1776, were creating the constitution.

01

PIONEERS

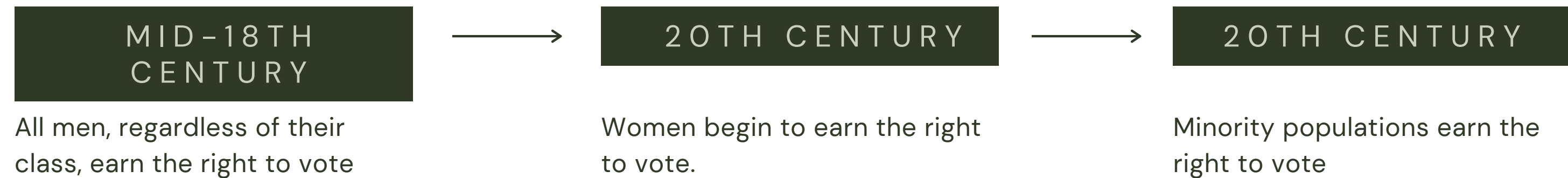
Town halls in New England brought people together to talk about issues, and the colonial governors and councils were elected by the people before America was independent.

02

REPRESENTATION

They wanted to have a government that represents the people. Thus, the three branches of government were created as well as defining the election process on how to choose the president.

Suffrage--Voting Rights



- In 18th century Europe, improvements were being made in people participating in democracy. Previously it used to be upper class men who could serve and vote in several European countries, but universal male suffrage was given to all men, regardless of their class. However, women still did not have the right to vote.
- Later on throughout the years, suffrage has been granted to several populations, such as people of color, women, and other minorities.



20th Century

- 20th century hits, and results in several countries shifting to democracy.
- With facism in Italy and Germany and military dictatorships in Latin America, these ideologies had a heavy damage onto the government and its institutions.
 - These leaders in those regions took full control over the people and wanted to advance their interests rather than caring about the people.

Conclusion

Today, according to Pew Research, 96 out of 167 countries with populations of at least 500,000 (57%) had some form of democracy. With the end of colonization and wars, several countries shifted to democracy in order to represent the community and the people.