

The Roman Republic



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Western Civ II

Vocabulary

Republic – a government where representatives are chosen to represent the people

Patricians – wealthy landowning class, ran much of the government, 10% of citizenship

Plebeians – small landowning working class, limited government participation, 90% of citizenship

Roman Republic

Branches of the Government

CONSULS:

- Co-Rulers (2)
- 1 year term
- Administered laws
- Ran military

PRAETORS:

- Judges who defined & interpreted laws

CENSORS:

- Tax collectors

SENATE:

- Most powerful
- 300 men
- Life time appointment
- Controlled money
- Made foreign policy
- Advised consuls

ASSEMBLY OF THE CENTURIES:

- 19,300 men
- Law-making body
- Elected consuls

ASSEMBLY OF THE TRIBES:

- 35 tribes, size based on population
- Gained some power, eventually could pass/veto laws

PATRICIANS

PATRICIANS

PATRICIANS

PLEBEIANS

DICTATOR: Appointed to lead government in *times of crisis*, 6 month term

In NORMAL Times

A System of Checks and Balances

Monarchical	Aristocratic	Democratic
<p>2 Consuls and other Magistrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Directed government and army •Acted as judges •Issued edicts •Acted as chief priest 	<p>Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Controlled state budget •Could pass laws (this changed later on) 	<p>Assembly of the Tribes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Approved/rejected laws •Decided on war •Acted as final court
<p>Basis of Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Possess imperium, the right to rule 	<p>Basis of Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Members were richest men in Rome 	<p>Basis of Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provided most of the soldiers
<p>Limits on Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •One year term •Each could veto 	<p>Limits on Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Couldn't control army •Needed most as soldiers 	<p>Limits on Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Couldn't suggest laws •Paid as clients by elite

Problems Between Patricians and Plebeians

1. Less money coming into Rome from provinces brings high taxes and inflation
2. Food shortages widespread
3. Overcrowding in cities due to farmers losing land
4. Growing middle class demands greater political voice
5. Patricians sympathetic to the needs of plebeians often assassinated
6. Classes not held to same standards and punishments under the law



The
End

