


Rule of the People or Mob Rule?
Strengths and Weaknesses of Athenian Government


DEFINITIONS

- ▷ **Democracy**
 - ▷ = People
 - ▷ = power
- ▷ **Monarchy**
 - ▷ Mono = one
 - ▷ Archos = rule
- ▷ **Oligarchy**
 - ▷ Oligoi = few
 - ▷ Archos = rule



DEFINITIONS

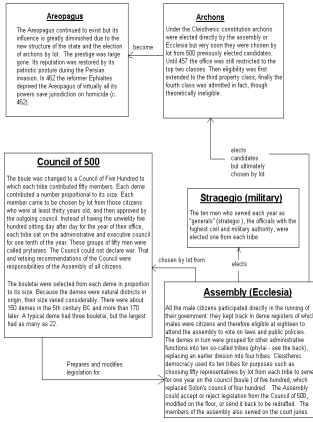
- ▷ **What is "the mob" or "the rabble"?**
- ▷ **What is Mob-Rule?**



GOVERNMENT

- ▷ **Legislative**
 - ▷ - Assembly of all free males
 - ▷ - Elected tribes' officials, prepare/modify legislation
- ▷ **Executive**
 - ▷ - 10 Men, highest civil/military authority
 - ▷ - Generals
- ▷ **Judicial**
 - ▷ (people's courts)
 - ▷ - Former Archons who serve as highest court
- ▷ **Emphasis:**
 - ▷ Responsibilities vs. Rights

Athenian Gov't After Cleisthenes



- ▷ **Yearly election**
- ▷ **Remained citizens and kept property**



JAMES MADISON ("father of the Constitution" and 4th President of the US)

"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."



- ▷ "Democracy was the right of the people to choose their own tyrant"
- James Madison 4th President



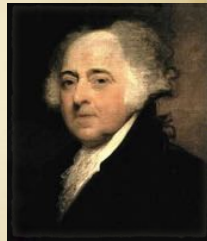
- ▷ "The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness which the ambitious call, and ignorant believe to be liberty."
-Fisher Ames, 1st US Cong. Rep. from Mass.



- ▷ "Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos."
-John Marshall, 4th Secretary of State, 4th Chief Justice US Supreme Court



- ▷ "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself."
-John Adams, 2nd President of the US



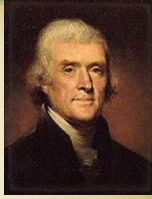
- ▷ "That the desires of the majority of the people are often for injustice and inhumanity against the minority, is demonstrated by every page of the history of the world." -John Adams

- ▷ "We are a Republican Government, for real liberty is never found in despotism or in the extremes of democracy...it has been observed that a pure democracy, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved that no position is more false than this. The ancient democracies in which the people themselves deliberated never possessed one good feature of government. Their very character was tyranny; their figure deformity." - Alexander Hamilton, 1st Sec. of Treasury

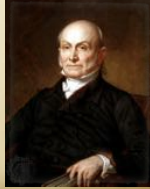


▷ "A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where 51% of the people may take away the rights of the other 49%."

- Thomas Jefferson



▷ "The experience of all former ages had shown that of all human governments, democracy was the most unstable, fluctuating and short-lived." - John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the US



WINSTON CHURCHILL

(man, myth, & legend)

▷ "The best argument against true democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter."

-Winston Churchill



LEGISLATIVE POWERS

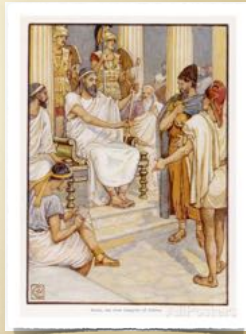
▷ Athens

- ▷ All male citizens
- ▷ All issues decided by the Assembly
- ▷ Oversight of the rest of government (no checks or balances)
- ▷ Simple majority on all issues
- ▷ Decides responses emergencies of state



EXECUTIVE POWERS

- Athens
- Very weak in scope and intent
- Chosen by lottery
- All members of bureaucracies chosen by lot from citizens at large
- One year terms
- Overseen by and a part of the Assembly
- Refers emergencies of state to assembly
- Doesn't administer foreign affairs – Assembly does



JUDICIAL POWERS

- Athens
- No lawyers or judges
- Limited procedure
- Juries large (501-1501) chosen by lot
- Simple majority decides the case
- Trial lasts one day



MILITARY POWERS

- Athens
- Generals elected, one from each tribe
- Share power – rotate overall command daily
- Directed and overseen by the Assembly



How would Athenians view our system of government?
