

# The Rise of Democratic Ideas

From Ancient Greece to modern East Timor, governments have struggled over issues of power, fairness, balance, and representation.



*Scene at the Signing of the Constitution, Howard Chandler Christy.*



Origins of Democracy



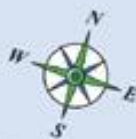




## Origins of Democracy



ATLANTIC OCEAN



0 300 600 Miles

0 300 600 Kilometers

Azimuthal Equidistant Projection

North Sea

Baltic Sea

**EUROPE**

- Athens, first democracy, 508 B.C.
- Rome, first republic, 509 B.C.
- England, English Bill of Rights, 1689
- United States, first modern democracy, 1789
- France, monarchy replaced by republic, 1792

Adriatic Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Athens

Rome

## Section 1

# **The Legacy of Ancient Greece and Rome**

The Greeks develop democracy, and the Romans add representative government.



# The Greek City-States, 500 B.C.

DIRECTIONS 



# Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

## Greek City-States

- Greeks establish city-states in fertile valleys near coasts
  - each has own type of **government** or system for controlling society
- **Monarchy** is rule by a king or monarch
- **Aristocracy** is rule by small group of noble, land-owning families
- **Oligarchy** is rule by a few powerful people (nobles, merchants)
- **Democracy** is rule by the people
- Dictatorship is rule by a single person



# Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

## Building Democracy

- Athens emerges as largest, most powerful city-state
- Three elected nobles rule each year, then join council of advisers
- Around 600 B.C., economic crisis forces citizens into slavery

## Reforms of Solon [Visual]

- 594 B.C. Solon outlaws debt slavery, cancels debts, avoids civil war
- Creates four citizen classes based on wealth, also Council of 400
- Free adult males (1/10 of population) are citizens



 *Solon Justifying His Laws to the Athenians* (1699), Noël Coypel.

# Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

## Cleisthenes Enacts More Reforms

- Cleisthenes considered founder of democracy in Athens
- Reorganizes assembly to balance power of rich, poor
- Allows all citizens to submit laws, increasing power of assembly
- Creates Council of 500 to propose laws, counsel the assembly
- Still, only 1/5 of Athenian residents are citizens



# Greek Democracy Changes

## Pericles Strengthens Democracy

- Greek city-states fight, defeat Persian invaders, 490–479 B.C.
- Pericles leads Athens 461–429 B.C.
- Increases number of paid public officials, pays jurors *[Visual]*
  - enables poorer citizens to participate in government
- **Direct democracy**—citizens rule, make laws themselves
- War weakens Athens, Sparta; Macedonia invades Greece, ends democracy

**INTERACTIVE**

**SOMETHING IN COMMON** *across cultures*

### Making Legal Judgments

The rule of law is an essential feature of democracy. In a democracy, everyone, from the most powerful government official to the poorest citizen, must obey the law. While legal systems have existed in some form in most societies, only in democracies are laws made and enforced by the people themselves or by their representatives. For much of history, the law has often been nothing more than the wishes of an absolute ruler or a ruling elite and has been arbitrarily executed by them. In ancient Athens, however, nearly 2,500 years ago, citizens were first given the right to administer justice—by serving on juries.

Click the countries on the map to learn more.



**Connect to History**  
Comparing and Contrasting  
What is similar and what is different among the ways legal judgments are made in the examples?

**SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK**

**Connect to Today**  
Researching Read about the trial system in the United States today. Then write two paragraphs explaining which example on these pages is the forerunner of the U.S. system.

**a closer look**  
ATHENIAN LAW

Click on tab to learn more.

Something In Common Across Cultures—Making Legal Judgments

# Greek Democracy Changes

## Greek Philosophers Use Reason

- Greek thinkers base their philosophy on assumptions
  - universe is orderly, subject to absolute, unchanging laws
  - people can understand laws through logic, reason
- Three principal philosophers: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle

## Legacy of Greece

- Greeks use reason, intelligence to discover natural laws
- Develop 3 branches of government: legislative, executive, judicial

# Rome Develops a Republic

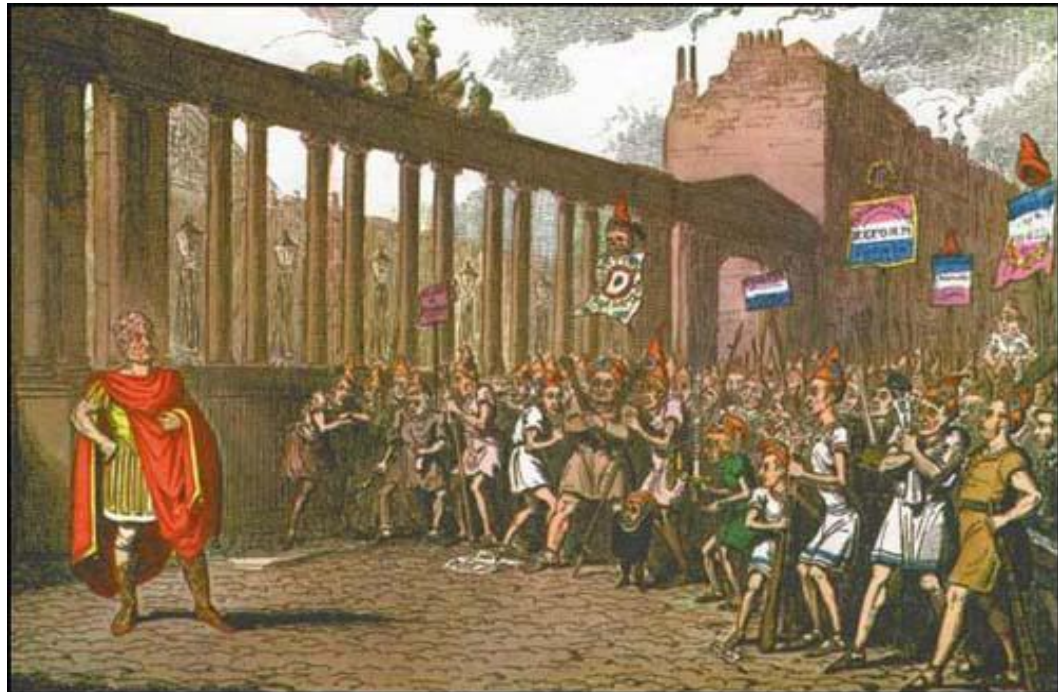
## From Kingdom to Republic

- Romans gain control of Italian peninsula between 1000–500 B.C.
- From about 600 B.C., kings rule Rome
- Aristocrats set up **republic**—government by elected leaders—509 B.C.
- Only free-born males have citizenship with voting rights
- Patricians—aristocratic landowners—have most power
- Plebeians—farmers, artisans—can vote, can't hold powerful positions

## Twelve Tables

- Plebeians force written law code; Twelve Tables displayed publicly
  - all citizens gain legal protection, fair administration of laws





## 2. Patricians and Plebeians made up the population


- ◆ Patricians = rich powerful families in senate, **200** patrician families
- ◆ Plebeians = most of the people in Rome: farmers, merchants. Free citizens, but no say in government
- ◆ Years later... A walk out! A revolt!
- ◆ Tribunes: people elected to protect plebeian's interests. 10/year

# Rome Develops a Republic

## Republican Government

- Two consuls elected yearly; command army, direct government
- **Senate**—all patricians; controls foreign, financial policies [Visual]
- Plebeians included in two assemblies; dictator permitted in crisis
- Roman expansion creates problems; 27 B.C. emperor takes over



 *Cicero Denouncing Catiline Before the Senate (about 1888), Cesare Maccari.*



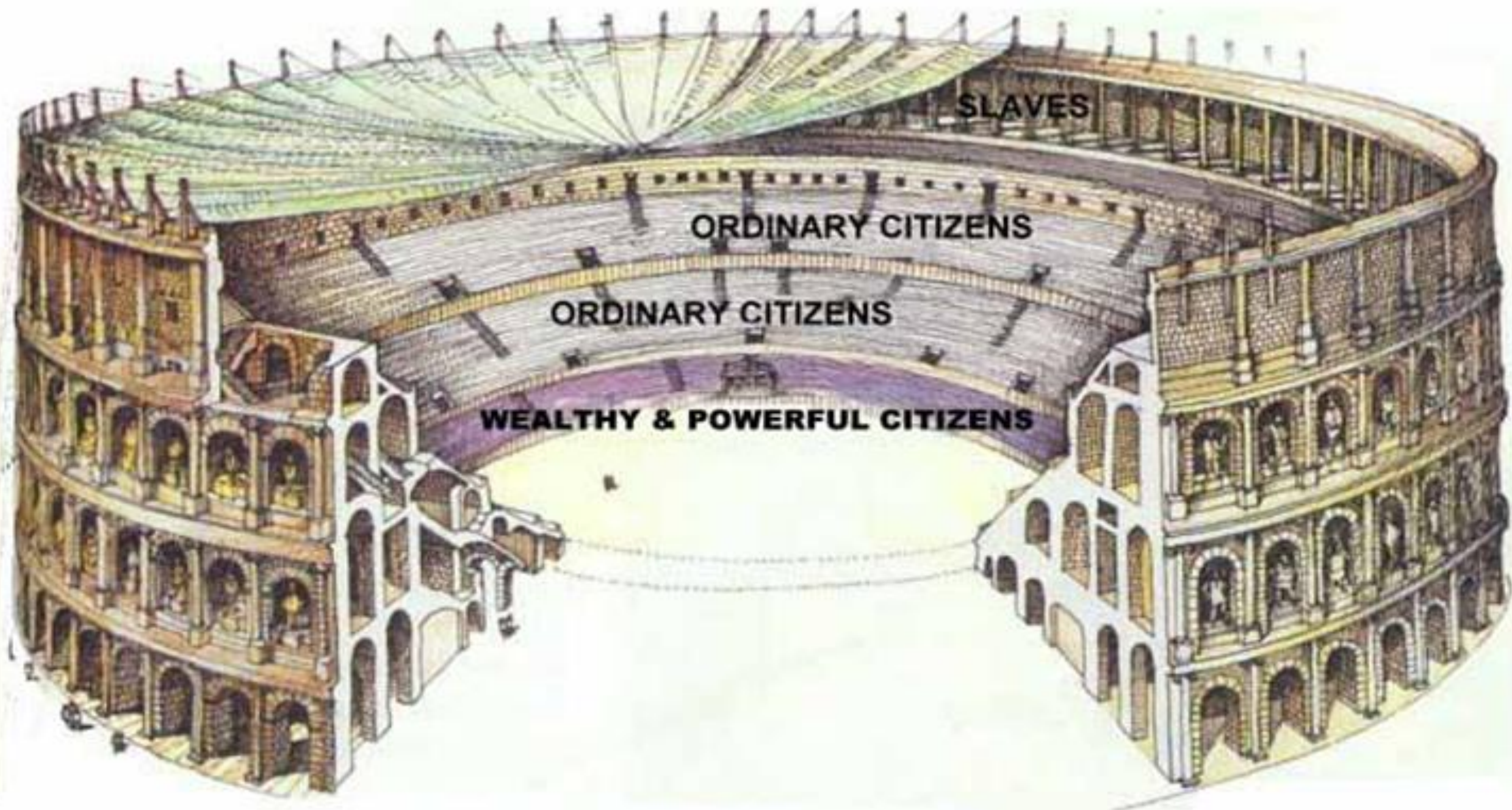




# Roman Law

## The Roman Empire and the Law

- Roman law applies to entire empire; protects citizens, property
  - all citizens have right to equal treatment under law
  - person considered innocent until proven guilty
  - burden of proof rests with accuser, not accused
  - unreasonable, grossly unfair laws could be set aside
  - A person should be punished only for actions, not thoughts
  - A law that seemed unreasonable or unfair could be set aside





# Roman Law

## A Written Legal Code

- In A.D. 528, Justinian has laws since previous code compiled
  - *The Code* has nearly 5,000 laws; *The Digest* summarizes legal opinions
  - *The Institutes* a legal textbook; *The Novellae* is post-534 laws

## Legacy of Rome

- Rome gives the world the idea of a republic [Visual]
- Greatest legacy is a written code fairly, equally applied to all
- Rome preserves, passes on Greek democratic tradition



Model of ancient Rome.







*Thanks!*