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Ancient Greece and Rome: The Roots of Democracy\*\*

# **Contributions to Democracy**

- Greece: Established the world's first known democracies with principles of citizen participation, free speech, and the rule of law.
- Rome: Developed the concept of representative democracy through the establishment of a republic with elected officials.

### Differences between Greek Democracy and Roman Republic

- Greek Democracy: Direct democracy where all eligible citizens had a say in government decisions.
- Roman Republic: Representative democracy where elected officials, known as consuls and senators, made decisions on behalf of the people.

#### Was Ancient Greece a Republic or Democracy?

Ancient Greece was a direct democracy.

# **Participants in Ancient Greek Democracy**

Only free male citizens over the age of 18 could participate in the assembly, which made laws and voted on key issues.

#### Influence on Modern Governments

- The principles of democracy established in ancient Greece and Rome form the foundation of modern democratic governments worldwide.
- Concepts such as citizen participation, representative democracy, and the rule of law have been adopted by many nations.

# **Impact on Government Systems Today**

- **Direct Democracy:** Elements of direct democracy can be found in initiatives and referendums where citizens vote directly on laws.
- Representative Democracy: The Roman Republic's model of an elected legislature and executive branch has been adopted by most modern democracies.

#### Similarities between Ancient Greece and Rome

- Emphasis on citizenship and participation in government.
- Systems of checks and balances to prevent tyranny.

#### **Ancient Rome's Type of Democracy**

Representative democracy

#### **Biggest Difference between Ancient Athens and Rome**

Athens had a direct democracy with citizen participation, while Rome had a representative democracy with elected officials.

#### **Greek Contributions to Democracy**

- Direct democracy
- Free speech
- Rule of law

# **Direct Democracy in Rome and Greece**

False. Rome practiced a representative democracy, while Greece had a direct democracy.

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#### Influence of Ancient Rome on Modern Governments

- Representative democracy
- System of law
- Division of power into branches

# **Transition to Democracy in Rome**

Rome gradually transitioned to a more democratic government by granting citizenship and voting rights to more citizens and by establishing a system of elected tribunes to represent the interests of the people.

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