

Writing Assignment 2:

In ancient times, people in places like Assyria, Persia, India, and China thought that monarchs were chosen by the gods to rule. They believed this gave monarchs the authority to keep society stable, fair, and orderly. Back in ancient Assyria, they had kings for a few main reasons that kept their society running smoothly. One of the big reasons was that they strongly believed that monarchs were chosen by the gods themselves. People then saw them as the direct representatives of gods on earth. The idea that monarchs were chosen by god was made even stronger by religious ceremonies. The religious approval legitimized the monarch's authority that it was backed up by divine will. Moreover, having a monarchy ensured a centralized government that could make decisions and manage resources efficiently, leading to smoother functioning overall. Furthermore, the big Assyrian army was really important for the empire to take over and keep new lands, and the Assyrian kings were crucial for controlling it. How strong the empire was and how much it controlled the area mostly depended on how well the king led in battles and made clever decisions. In Assyrian culture, people saw that monarchs were vital for the stability and security of the society. To keep the enemies away and to maintain the order of the society in place, monarchs' strong control and military leadership were key. People felt secure as they trusted the king as a capable leader. Also, Assyrian kings managed provinces, taxes, and trade, which helped to keep the society stable economically and politically. The Assyrian folks appreciated monarchy because it meant quick and effective government decisions. Besides valuing the king's qualities, Assyrian culture and history were deeply tied to monarchy. The Assyrian empire had a tradition of passing down the throne through family lines, showing continuity and togetherness. This tradition influenced how people saw monarchy as a way to govern. Lastly, in the Assyrian kingdoms, the

king's authority brought people together and made them proud of their nation (Bang, 2012).

In ancient Athens, they had a direct democracy called *demokratia*, where eligible citizens could directly impact laws and decisions, instead of relying on elected officials.

“ Not without reason Athens has been an inspiration for modern democrats since the nineteenth century ”. (Pritchard, 2010)

The rulers were a group of people who made decisions through bodies like the Assembly and the Council of 500. Most folks in Athens were middle-class merchants, but they were also thinkers who didn't want to give up their shared authority and social responsibility to any one king or monarch. So, instead, they set up a system where authority was shared among the men of Athens. People in public jobs took turns, so everyone got a chance to serve. This way, power didn't end up in just a few hands. Leaders had to answer to the Assembly, where every citizen could speak up, vote on laws, and decide what happened in the city. *Demokratia* was all about getting citizens involved in politics. Every eligible guy could go to the Assembly, vote on laws, suggest ideas, and even serve on juries. According to Pritchard(2010), around the early 450s BC, Athenians really beefed up their democracy by giving people more say in public matters, how justice was handled, and keeping an eye on officials. This move towards more public involvement helped strengthen Athenian democracy. The big involvement of citizens made them feel like they owned the city-state and were responsible for how it was run. In the Assembly, every citizen could talk and suggest things. Democracy in Athens pushed the ideas of freedom and fairness. It made sure

everyone, no matter rich or poor, could speak up about what was happening, which boosted a feeling of equality and freedom. Moreover, the democratic system made officials answer for what they did, making sure they stayed honest and didn't misuse their power. Additionally, demokratia also encouraged Athenians to get involved and learn. People talked, debated, and made decisions, which made everyone feel like they had a duty to their city. With democracy, different ideas could be heard, making room for creativity and progress. The democratic process and sharing of ideas helped Athens come up with new and helpful ideas. Also, unlike other Greek cities that had fights and unrest, Athens stayed pretty stable, except for a few times when there were short periods of monarchy. This stability for over two hundred years is what made Athens' democracy stick around.

Reference

- Bang, P. F., & Kolodziejczyk, D. (Eds.). (2012). *Universal empire: a comparative approach to imperial culture and representation in Eurasian history*. Cambridge University Press.
- Black, A. (2016). *A World History of Ancient Political Thought: Its Significance and Consequences*. Oxford University Press.
- Pritchard, D. (2010). The symbiosis between democracy and war: the case of ancient Athens. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/15073965.pdf>