Journal Assignment #1

Our modern government of today remains influenced in a number of ways by the governments of ancient Greece and Rome, the most prevalent of which has to be the concept of democracy. The rough outlines of democracy where started by Solon in the city-state of Athens, where “he allowed all citizens to vote” (Ancient Greece and Rome Notes 2a). The ideas of democracy where then improved on by Cleisthenes who “Allowed all citizens to present laws to assembly and balance power between rich and poor” (Ancient Greece and Rome Notes 3a). Some of these powers have passed over into our modern society such as “political power exercised by citizens” and “Three Branches of government” (Ancient Greece and Rome Notes 2b). The three branches of government system that Perides created in Athens helps maintain the democracy in the United States since it stops any one governmental body from gaining too much power. There is one big difference between the democracies of ancient Greece and Rome from that of the United States, in the United States both men and women can be citizens whereas in Greece and Rome citizenship was reserved for males only. This small distinction between each society’s definitions of citizenship makes a world of difference when considering the social implications for their respective democracies. Despite the multitude of improvements that it has made to the original design of democracy the United States government has been heavily influenced by the governments of ancient Rome and Greece.