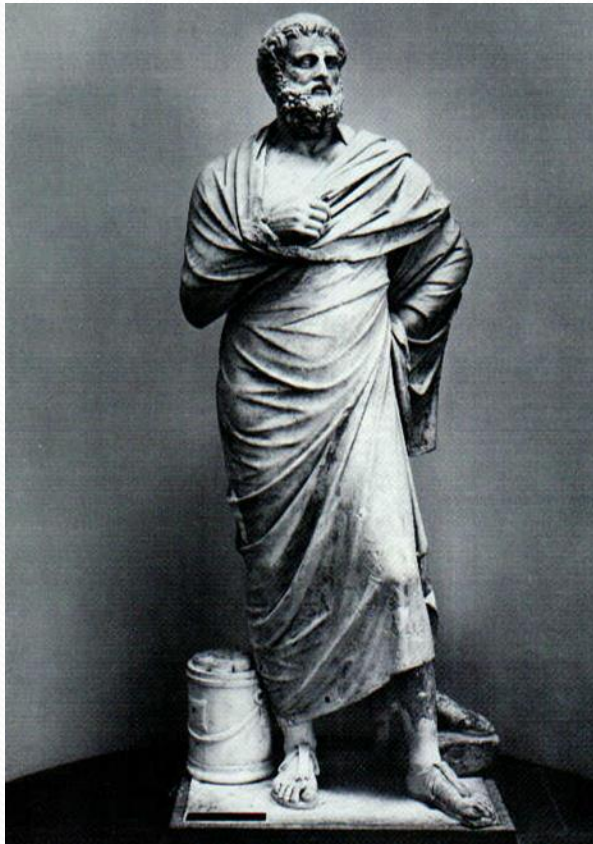


# Intro to Politics



# Democracy





# *Demokratia*

## **‘people power’**

From Ancient Greece

(The Greeks also gave us ‘polis’ for city)



“Politics”

# DEMOCRACY:



# 'People Power'

How do the 'people' exercise this power?

They rule or govern by making the decisions  
(**direct democracy**)

or

by electing representatives to make the decisions  
(**representative democracy**)





WHAT'S DEMOCRACY?

DEMOCRACY IS  
THE FREEDOM  
TO ELECT OUR  
OWN DICTATORS

TH.

# ‘Demokratia’ in the ‘polis’

About 500 BC – 322 BC (Alexander the Great)

250,000 people in Athens

30,000 ‘citizens’

5000 citizens would attend the Assembly

*So population size*  
allowed direct democracy in Athens



# Who was a citizen?

- Adult male
- 'Double descent'  
Athenian mother AND Athenian father





# Who were excluded?

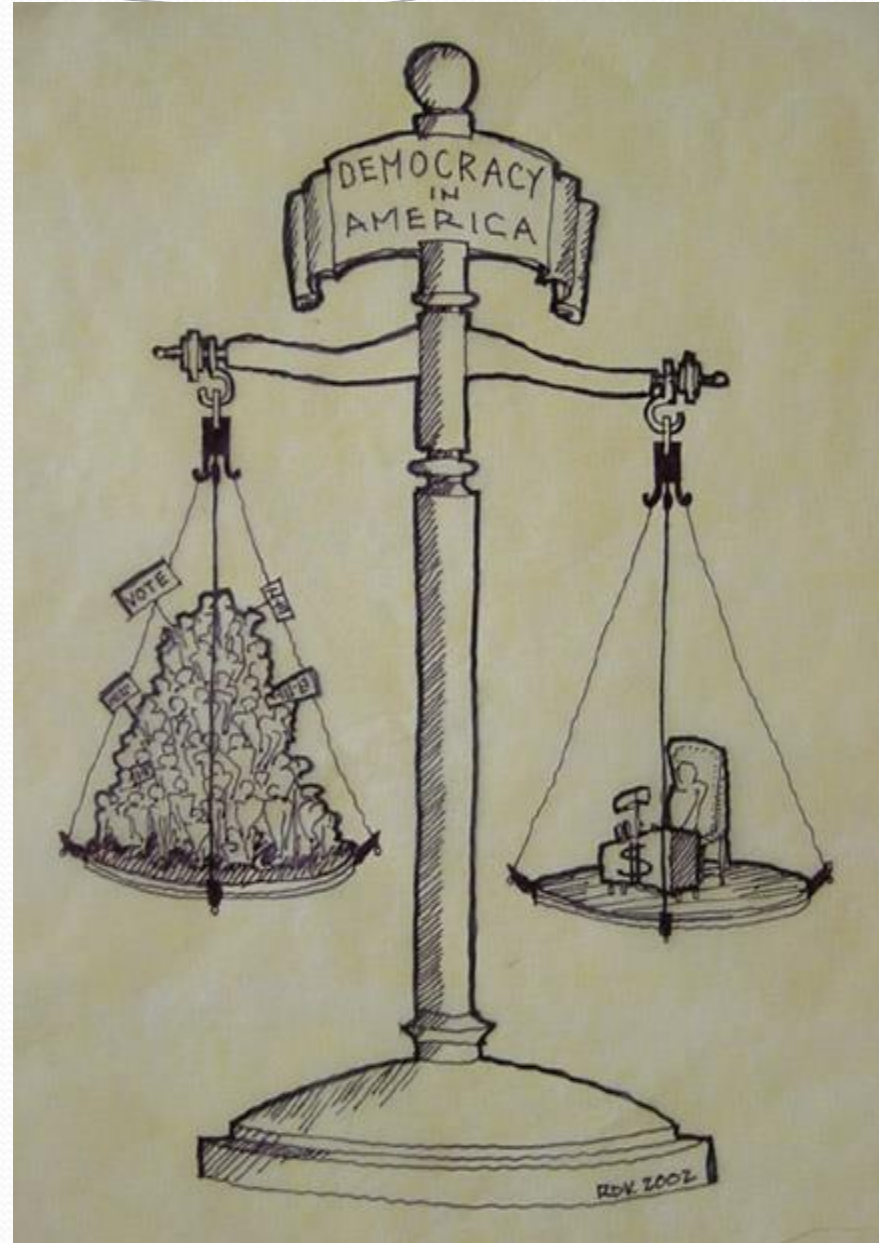
- Women
- Children
- Slaves
- Other Greeks





# Important Jobs

- Government officials and jurors (501 people on a jury) were chosen 'by lot' (raffle)
- This was seen as the fairest way, and stopped money, power or influence deciding who held key positions





# Modern Democracy

- American and French Revolutions in late 18<sup>th</sup> century against British and French monarchies
- The people argued that they should have a say, and overthrew the governments.
- 'Taxation without representation is tyranny'

## Populations:

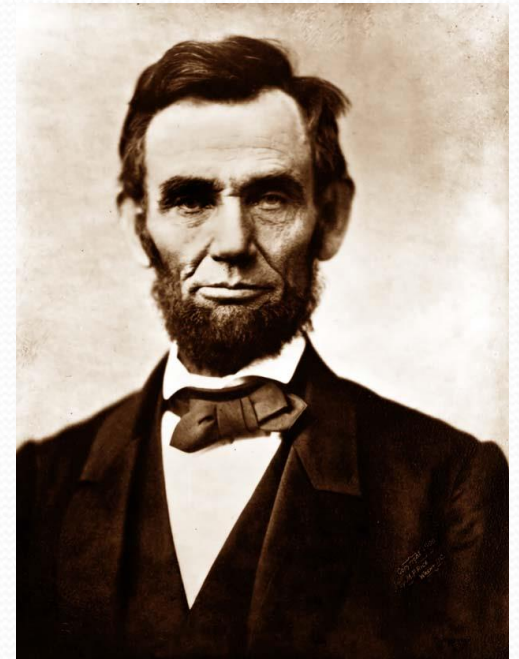
- America 1770s: 3 million (12x Ancient Athens)
- France 1770s: 25 million (100x Ancient Athens)

# Representative Democracy

Due to the massive numbers of ‘citizens’ (still only some adult males could vote!), the people needed ‘representatives’ to speak for them

“Democracy is government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

Abraham Lincoln





# Democracy in Australia

Who can vote:	Who cannot vote
<p>Adult male citizens 1843 – 1000 pounds worth of property; 1857 – all British subjects over 21;</p> <p>Adult female citizens 1895 – (SA) other states later. 1902 – all non-Aboriginal women</p> <p>Aboriginals 1949 – if served in Defence force 1962 – all</p> <p>1973 – Adult = 18 &amp; above 1984 – “Australian citizens” not “British subjects”</p>	<p>People who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• are not 18 years of age or over;</li><li>• are not an Australian citizen;</li><li>• are of unsound mind (incapable of understanding the nature and significance of voting);</li><li>• have been convicted of treason or treachery and have not been pardoned.</li><li>• are a permanent resident but not an Australian citizen</li><li>• prisoners serving &gt;5 year term</li></ul>

## THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA



Three levels of government in Australia.  
PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION OFFICE (PEO.GOV.AU)





## The **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

raises money through taxing incomes, spending and businesses.



### FEDERAL MATTERS SUCH AS

MEDICARE DEFENCE

IMMIGRATION

FOREIGN POLICY



## **STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS**

receive more than half their money from the federal government and also collect taxes.



### STATE MATTERS SUCH AS

ROADS HOUSING PRISONS

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

POLICE and AMBULANCE SERVICES



## **LOCAL COUNCILS**

collect taxes (rates) from all local property owners and receives money from the federal and state governments.



### LOCAL MATTERS SUCH AS

TOWN PLANNING

SEWERAGE LOCAL ROADS

RUBBISH COLLECTION



# Australian Parliament

- House of Representatives
  - 151 Members, 151 electorates
  - About 90,000 voters per electorate
- Senate
  - 76 Senators, 8 electorates
  - Electorate size ranges from 165,000 (NT) – 400,000 (Tas) – 5 million (NSW)
- Compulsory enrolment for all citizens over 18



“The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with an average voter.”



Winston Churchill

# Revision

- What does democracy mean?
- Where did democracy start?
- Where did modern democracy start?
- Who can vote in an Australian election?
- What are the two houses of Federal Parliament?
- What are some issues that are discussed in Federal Parliament?
- What are some issues that are discussed in State Parliament?
- What are some issues that are discussed at a local council?



# Australian Parliament



# Parliamentary Committees





# Voting

- First Past the Post
- Preferential
- Proportional Representation

# First Past the Post

- KFC
- Domino's
- McDonald's
- Hungry Jack's
- Zambrero's



# Preferential Voting

CC YEAR 7
<i>Number the boxes from 1 to 5 in order of your choice.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> KFC
<input type="checkbox"/> Domino's
<input type="checkbox"/> McDonald's
<input type="checkbox"/> Hungry Jack's
<input type="checkbox"/> Zambrero's

Spreadsheet

# Proportional Representation

- First past the post:
  - Winner may win less than a majority of first preferences
- Preferential voting:
  - Good compromise, but generally works against minor parties and independents
- Proportional Representation
  - Multiple winners
  - More aligned to the % of first preferences
  - Gives a wider range of voices in Parliament
  - Difficult to gain a majority

[Spreadsheet](#)