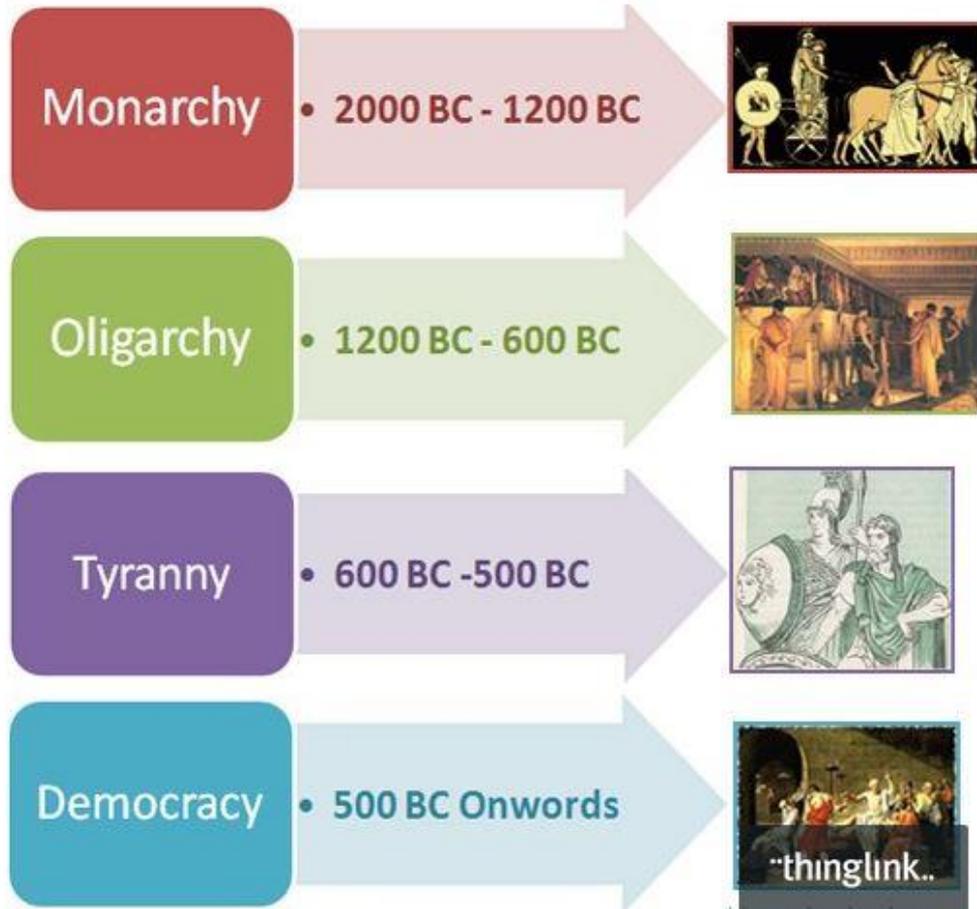


The Rise of Democracy



Timeline





The Polis

- A **polis**, or city-state, was like an independent country. City-states varied in size and population.
- An **acropolis**, located at the top of a hill, was the main gathering place of the city-state.
- An **agora**, or open area, served as a market and as a place for people to meet and debate issues.



Monarchy

- Under a monarchy, the power to make political decisions is in the hands of **ONE PERSON**

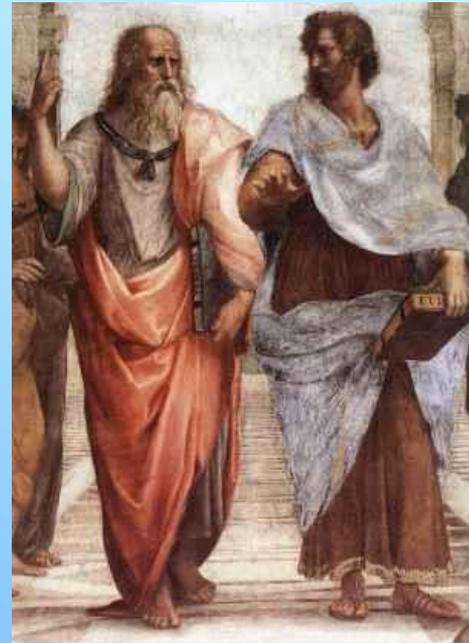


I ruled by making laws, acting as judge, conducting religious ceremonies, and leading the army. I punished people who disobeyed me or didn't pay their taxes. I had a council of aristocrats who advise me. I lost power because I depended on the aristocrats to help me during war, but they demanded more power & finally overthrew me

Oligarchy

- Under an oligarchy, the power to make political decisions is in the hands of a **FEW PEOPLE**

We ruled by passing laws that protected and increased our own wealth. We lived comfortable lives, while the poor worked all day in the fields. WE lost power because we ignored the needs of most of the people. We passed unpopular laws & used the army to enforce them. We passed laws that protected our wealth. The rich got richer, the poor got poorer, & eventually the poor turned to leaders in the army. These new leaders overthrew us.



Tyranny

- Under a tyranny, the power to make political decisions is in the hands of **ONE PERSON** who is **NOT** a lawful ruler



I ruled by force, though I was not always unpopular. I promised people more rights and made changes to help the poor. I lost power because sometimes I ruled harshly & ignored the needs of the people, and the people forced me out.

Democracy

- Under a democracy, the power to make political decisions is in the hands of **ALL CITIZENS**



We ruled by having an assembly. Any free man could speak at an assembly and vote on a new law or proposal to go to war. Free men also ran the city's day-to-day business. Not all Greeks thought democracy was a good idea because powerful speakers sometimes Persuaded ordinary citizens to vote unwisely. Often, an assembly reversed important decisions after just a few weeks. Most city-states returned to earlier forms of government.

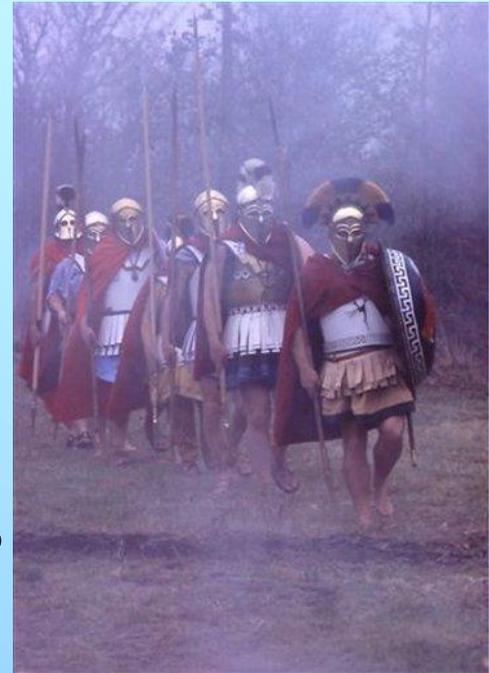
- The Greeks were the first people to develop the idea of **citizenship**, in which citizens of a country are treated equally and have rights and responsibilities.



- In Greek city-states, only free, native-born, land-owning men could be citizens.

The Polis

- Citizens could vote, hold office, own property, and defend themselves in court.
- The military of the city-states was made of ordinary citizens, not nobles. These citizens were called **hoplites** and fought each battle on foot instead of on horses.



- The soldiers would march in rows together, shoulder to shoulder. They would use their shields to create a protective wall. They gave their enemies few openings to defeat them.
- Hoplites made good soldiers because, as citizens, they took pride in fighting for their city-state.

