

Infosource 1-6 ▼ SOME STEPS IN THE TIMELINE OF DEMOCRACY

Below are some of the ideas and events that have contributed to the development of democracy in many forms in different parts of the world. Democracy continues to evolve in different forms around the globe.

c. 1750 BCE

Babylon (an ancient city in Mesopotamia, or present-day Iraq): The Code of King Hammurabi is created, the first known written code for its city members.

508 BCE

Athens: Democracy is established. Citizens are guaranteed the right to membership in the Assembly, freedom of speech, and equality before the law.

c. 500 BCE

India: Public decisions are made by committees of citizens who vote in special assemblies.

England: King John signs the Magna Carta, which states that no one, not even the king, is above the law.

c. 1350

North America: The Iroquois Confederacy of five (later six) nations is founded, practising decision making by consensus (agreement).

1776

United States: Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal" and that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed."

1789-1794

France: The French Revolution ends absolute monarchy (complete control by the king) and introduces Declaration of the Rights of Man, emphasizing liberty, equality, and fraternity.

1919

India: Mahatma Gandhi begins passive resistance campaign to win India's independence from Britain.

1948

The United Nations issues the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, defining basic rights that all people should have.

1982

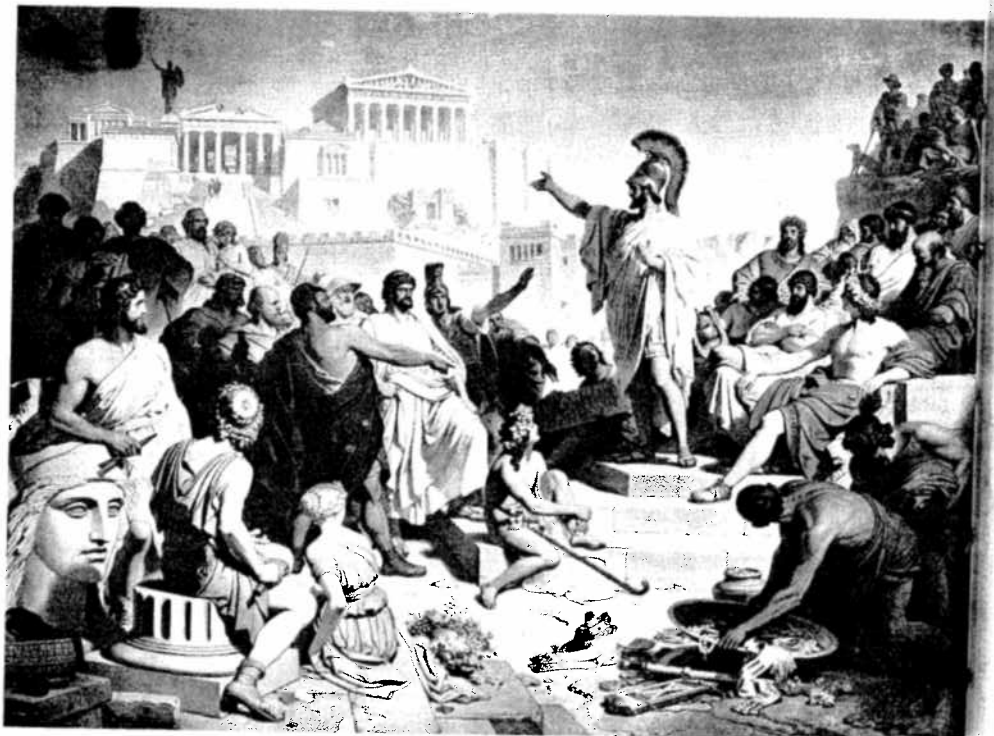
Canada: Charter of Rights and Freedoms is added to Canada's Constitution.

1990s

Pacific Asia: Asian-style democracies established in many countries in the area.

1994

South Africa: Democracy is established after a long fight against Apartheid, a policy that prevented Black citizens from voting.



A TIME LINE OF DEMOCRACY

Babylon (Ancient City-Present Day Iraq) 1750 BCE

- King Hammurabi writes a code of laws for its city members

Athens, Greece- The World's First Democracy, 508 Century BCE

- Adult male citizens organized themselves into a democracy
- Women, slaves and foreigners were not allowed to vote
- Citizens of Athens were given rights and responsibilities and guaranteed equal treatment before the law; the catch was-ONLY MEN WERE CITIZENS

India, 400 BCE

- Public decisions are made by committees of citizens who vote in special assemblies; still no women

England, 1215

- King John signs the MAGNA CARTA, which states that no one, not even the KING is above the law

North America, 1350

- The Iroquois Confederacy of Five nations is founded and practice decision making by consensus

United States, 1776

- United States' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE states that " all men are created equal" and that government derived" their powers from the "consent of those being governed"

France 1789-1794

- A revolution is held where the ABSOLUTE MONARCHY/CONTROL BY THE KING is replaced by the DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN- which emphasizes the ideas of: liberty, equality and fraternity (brotherhood)

India, 1919

- Ghandi leads campaign to win India's independence from Britain

Canada, 1920

- Women in Canada gain the right to vote in Manitoba, later other provinces

United Nations, 1948

- The United Nations issues the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, defining basic rights that all people should have regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, etc.

Canada, 1982

- Charter of Rights and Freedoms is added to Canada's Constitution

South Africa, 1994

- Democracy is establish after a long fight against apartheid. A policy that prevented Black citizens from voting