

Name: _____

World History 1/12/2023

How Democratic was the Roman Republic?

Your Role: Patrician

You are a Roman patrician, part of the ruling elite. You are a great landowner and a member of the aristocracy, giving you access to top government positions. Becoming a consul is the ultimate achievement and political goal for a patrician. Being a patrician also means you serve as a military leader in the army and can become a general if you prove your loyalty. As a landowner, you also value cheap labor, and Rome's conquests provide you with a source of inexpensive slaves. You can always use more free labor and a chance to expand your landholdings. Maintaining your political and economic power is important to you, and you feel you have earned (and must maintain) your superior position to the plebeians, who you feel are important to Roman society as long as they understand their subordinate position and duties and responsibilities to the Republic, including supporting the patricians.

Recently, many plebeians have returned from the wars of conquest in Italy to find their farms in disarray. You, on the other hand, find yourself in search of economic opportunity. You want to expand your own landholdings and investments. You'll also be in need of labor as you expand your holdings. During the conquests, captured enemies provided a steady supply of slaves, but now that the conquests are over, cheap (or free) labor is hard to come by, as slaves are almost always taken as prisoners of war since Roman citizens cannot be slaves.

For each situation, write your response/action based on your role. Then summarize the actual outcome.

Situation	Your response/action	Actual outcome
After the conquest of Italy		
The debt slavery law		
On to war?		

The Roman Republic: Make sure you understand the following elements

Magistrates (officials)	Senate	Assembly (there are actually multiple, but for simplicity, we simply refer to “the Assembly”)

How democratic was the Roman Republic after the Council of Orders?

Using the [documents](#), decide how democratic you think the Roman Republic actually was.

Document	Based on the document, how democratic was the Roman Republic?	Explanation: What made the republic democratic or not democratic? What evidence did you gain from the document?
Roman Republic Chart	 Basically an authoritarian dictatorship The most democratic	
12 Tables & Roman vs US Gov	 Basically an authoritarian dictatorship The most democratic	

Polybius	 Basically an authoritarian dictatorship The most democratic	
Professor Fergus Millar	 Basically an authoritarian dictatorship The most democratic	
Professor Alan Ward	 Basically an authoritarian dictatorship The most democratic	

1. How did Romans structure their government in order to ensure that those who governed had the consent of the governed?

2. How did Roman government reflect a system of checks and balances? What was the purpose of these checks and balances?

3. In your opinion, how democratic was the Roman Republic?