



SPQR

SENATUS POPULUS QUE ROMANUS
"THE SENATE AND THE ROMAN PEOPLE"



ROME'S REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT

Aristocratic Elements

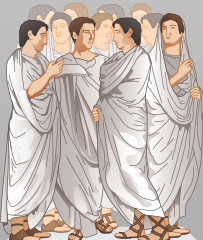
Like the rulers of Ancient Rome, the creators of the United States Constitution created a republic—a system of government in which sovereign power is held by those eligible to vote and political power is exercised by representatives chosen by those citizens. The concepts of checks and balances between branches of government, the veto, and limiting terms of office are also borrowed from the Roman Republic.



Senate

Chief governing body that consisted of 300–600 officials and ex-officials who served for life unless expelled by Censors. The Senate controlled finances and foreign affairs, debated and proposed laws, and advised the Consuls.

Monarchical Elements



20 Quaestors

Financial officers who served in the treasury or with army commanders making payments to troops and ordering supplies and equipment.



2 Aediles

Officials who administered the city of Rome itself including its public buildings, aqueducts, public games, and religious festivals.



2 Consuls

Chief officials who presided over the Senate and assemblies. Consuls initiated legislation, served as the chief generals of Rome's armies, and conducted civil activities within Rome. The consuls could veto each others' actions.



2 Censors

Officials who oversaw public contracts, tax collection, and conducted a census of citizens to create voter lists.



8 Praetors

Chief law officers who took over for Consuls when they were absent from Rome. Praetors also governed the provinces.

Democratic Elements



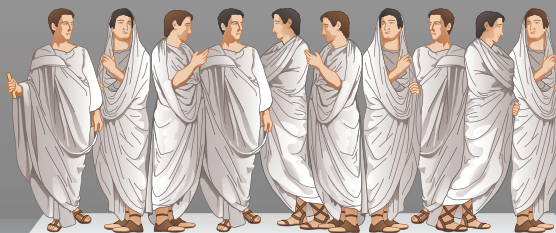
Assemblies

10 Tribunes

Officials elected by plebeians to protect their lives and property and to propose legislation. Tribunes could veto (Latin, "I forbid") the act of any official or the Senate and could arrest other officers, including the Consuls.

Assemblies

All full Roman citizens were members of the assemblies and could vote when present. The assemblies accepted or rejected laws passed by the Senate, declared war, and elected all officials.



10 Tribunes



Assemblies

Thinking Critically

1. **Identify Main Ideas** Cite three examples of checks and balances in the Roman Republican government.
2. **Identify Central Issues** List three institutions created to protect Plebeians. **H-SS 10.1.1**