

Democratic Ideals: Applying Democratic Ideals to the Practice of Governing

In the 5th century, Athens was one of the most powerful and advanced city states in the ancient world. In Athens, culture, art, architecture and the creation of a wonderful body of literature occurred. The Athenians (the people of Athens) were among the first peoples to attempt to create and live in a democratic society. Before proceeding to the assignment you are to carefully examine the government features of 5th century Athenian democracy.

Government Structure – 5th Century Athens

<p>Head of the Assembly (one man) Powers - was leader of the Assembly and the Athenian Government Selection - one man was picked by lot each day from the Executive Committee (a new man each day)</p>	<p>Generals (10 men) Powers - each general was in charge of soldiers and ships from one of the 10 areas within Athens Selection - elected by the Assembly each year and could be re-elected</p>		
Assembly			
<p>Powers - met 40 or more times per year - passed laws, had the authority to declare war</p>	<p>Selection -only male citizens over 18 years old -of 43,000 possible members only 6,000 attended at any one time</p>		
<p>Allowed to Vote Adult Male Citizens: - over 18 - male - born of Athenian parents (approximately 43,000)</p>	<p>Not Allowed to Vote - Athenian Women and Children (approximately 128,000) - Foreigners (approximately 24,000) - Slaves (approximately 115,000)</p>		
Council of Five Hundred	Government Departments		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Powers - most powerful branch of the government - controlled finances, public & Military matters, foreign affairs - prepared laws for the assembly</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Selection - 50 men chosen by lot from each of 10 areas Athens - must be over 30 - could serve only one year in a row</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Powers - most powerful branch of the government - controlled finances, public & Military matters, foreign affairs - prepared laws for the assembly</p>	<p>Selection - 50 men chosen by lot from each of 10 areas Athens - must be over 30 - could serve only one year in a row</p>	<p>Government Departments were made up of employees paid by the Government to take care of roads, temple construction, trade, naval construction, economic planning, and the other government initiatives</p>
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Executive Committee (50 men)			
<p>Powers - saw that government officials and employees carried out the laws and took care of the “day to day” administration of government limited to services</p>	<p>Selection -50 men chosen by lot from the Council of Five Hundred - term 1/10 of a year</p>		

