Political Systems Are About Control.

Republic has control by the people.

<u>Commonwealth</u> is a community founded for the common good. <u>Oligarchy</u>: power effectively rests with a small number of people.

- a. US is an oligarchy Northwestern study concludes
- b. German Oligarchs financed Hitler.

Polyarchy has decentralized rule where many smaller government tailored to the needs and desires of the local populations.

Fascism a form of is a form of radical authoritarian nationalism is considered by some to be right-wing as it is social conservatism and uses authoritarian means to oppose egalitarianism.

Totalitarianism: the state holds total authority over society

and seeks to control all aspects of public and private life.

Libertarianism wants to limit power.

<u>Dictatorship</u> has rule by a person.

<u>Federation</u> are organizations composed of states coming together for a single common purpose

Our Democratic Federalist Republic

<u>The Basics Video</u> 13:28 <u>Liberalism, Constitutionalism and Democracy Political System</u> consists of a government and politics.

Republic government exists when a constitutionally determined government of elected leaders operating according to laws to protect individual rights which include equality, liberty, property and necessity of consent.

- a. There are many application of Republican concepts. What constitutes a right and their relative importance of rights has been continually debated
- b. John Adams "a government, in which all men, rich and poor, magistrates and subjects, officers and people, masters and servants, the first citizen and the last, are equally subject to the laws."
- c. In <u>United States v. Cruikshank</u> (1875) the Supreme Court ruled that "equal citizens" was inherent to the republic ideal.
- d. Colonial America developed in an untamed wilderness far from the mother country. This was a unique historical circumstance resulted in the concept of <u>American Exceptionalism</u>.

<u>Federalism</u> divides powers between member units so that political order is constitutionally decentralized between at least two units. Each level has

some final authority and has some areas of self government.

- a. Federalism in the United States protects states rights with a concept of <u>Dual Federalism</u> but hardships caused by the Great Depression led some toward the concept of <u>Cooperative Federalism</u>.
- b. A conservative look at Federalism video 1.38
- c. The political Revolution of 1800 entailed Jefferson's Republicans taking over for the Federalist Washington, Hamilton and Adams. It began a 200 plus year battle concerning Federal Government power.

<u>Democracy</u> exists when government power resides in a constitutionally determined electorate each with an equal say in determining majority will. Political decisions

are such that majority's power is absolute and unlimited. The most difficult issue concerning democracy success has always been controlling <u>Majority Factions</u> as states in The Federalist Papers

Kinds of Democracy

Presidential Democracy has a president and the legislative body whose functions are separated with checks and balances limiting their power. Concerning American Politics Are we a Democracy? A Republic? Polyarchy? In this 7.04 video Noam Chomsky breaks down his view of politics today and the politics that our founders envisioned. See Current Political Economy Controversies Parliamentary Democracy as practiced in Great Brittan has an executive branch that derives its legitimacy from and is held accountable to a legislature (parliament). The executive and legislative branches are thus interconnected. A Head of state is normally a different person from the <u>head of government</u>. Called a <u>prime minister</u>, they are appointed from the majority party or from a coalition of parties when no one party has a majority. Heads of state have varying digress political responsibility. England's Queen has only ceremonial responsibilities. Democratic Republic vs. Parliamentary Democracy by President Wilson's. His comparison would make many founding fathers unhappy as they feared budget instability and anarchy similar to that of the French Revolution

Making Laws in a Democracy

<u>Direct Democracy</u> also known as pure democracy is when the electorate votes directly on policy initiatives.

<u>Indirect democracy</u> or representative democracy as in the U.S. is when the electorates chooses officials to make laws on their behalf. <u>Initiatives and Referendums</u> exist in some states.

- a. Part of the early 20th century Progressive Movement
- b. Allowed a state to put a proposed law on the ballot for approval and to void existing state law.
- c. DC and 27 states have direct democracy tools. Constitutional Amendments expanded the "we" for "We the people..." and moved US federal government closer to being a Republic.
- a. The 1911 <u>17th Amendment</u> changed the election of Senators from the House of Representatives to voters.
- b. The 1919 19th Amendment gave women voting rights.
- c. 1971 26th Amendment lowered voting age to 18.
- d. Electoral College removal from the presidential election process favored by some would move the process closer to the people which is a move toward Republicanism and democratic majority rule.

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5 Decades of Problems Under Construction and needs help. Interested? 1p

e-mail

more readings and videos

Student participation welcome contact antonw@ix.netcom.com

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