

The Roman Republic

509-27 BCE

democracy:

1. government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.
1. a state having such a form of government: The United States and Canada are democracies
1. a state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges
1. political or social equality; democratic spirit.
1. the common people of a community as distinguished from any privileged class; the common people with respect to their political power.

The Roman Republic



The Roman Forum in 2004

Civil Unrest



An 1849 engraving depicting the Secession of the Plebs in 494 BCE

Central Historical Question

To what extent was the Roman Republic democratic?