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History & Geography



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HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1204

HISTORY OF GOVERNMENTS

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HISTORY 1204

HISTORY OF GOVERNMENTS

What is needed to establish a government? A group of settlers arrive in a new land teeming with fish, game, and forests. There are natural resources in abundance, and there is no doubt that this is the place to start a new colony. But where do you go from here? Who sets up the government? Should the society be democratic or socialist? What ingredients make up a good government? If you were to establish a colony, what principles would you need to know? By examining the many forms of government that were established by tribes and nations, we can gain an idea for some of the building blocks required to make a government successful. There are simple foundational truths that are consistent with almost any government—good or bad—that help organize and strengthen the structure.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the elements necessary for a successful and effective government.
2. Explain the history and direction of democracy in ancient Greece and Athens.
3. Explain the concept of a “republic” and be able to compare and contrast Roman and Greek forms of government.
4. Explain the concept of “feudalism” and its effect on people in the Middle Ages.
5. Describe a theocracy.
6. Describe a democracy.
7. Describe fascism and give examples from history of fascist leaders and countries.
8. Describe and give a brief history of Nazism.

Survey the LIFEPAAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. ANCIENT GOVERNMENTS

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section you should be able to:

1. Describe the elements necessary for a successful and effective government.
2. Explain the history and direction of democracy in ancient Greece and Athens.
3. Explain the concept of a “republic” and be able to compare and contrast Roman and Greek forms of government.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

colony	A group of people settled in a particular area who carry the same interests
decimated	To reduce the amount in blocks or sizeable amounts
democratic	A government or organized group that strives to be fair and equal to all people
natural resources	Available supply of goods made possible by God’s creation; not man-made
production	The making of goods that can be used or worn for protection or well-being
settler	An emigrant who has arrived in a new area to create a home
socialist	Form of government where goods and services and the political power are distributed among the people
sustenance	Food and drink; necessary foods in order to stay alive

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

A PRIMITIVE GOVERNMENT PRIMER

What is needed to establish a government?

1. Leadership is needed. Whether they want to be governed by a group of leaders or a solitary decision-maker, any group of people who want to establish themselves in an orderly manner must have leadership. The Bible shows us many examples of leaders who took their responsibility seriously, through good and bad times. Moses, Aaron, and David are just a few of the leaders who were able to enhance the growth of their governments by being the proper point of authority. Any government needs a leader to whom the people can turn. There must be a stopping place in the decision-making process where the population can feel satisfied that someone is taking responsibility. As many organizations will say, “The buck stops here!” Who is in charge? Whether it is a monarchy, democracy or even oligarchy, there must be a final point of authority. Sam Houston of the **Republic** of Texas is a fine example of a leader who kept a government strong and active.





2. Safety is a priority. Measure must be taken to be safe. Think of it—who would want to be part of an organization that could not assure a secure surrounding? People settling in an area want to feel safe from outside attacks. What if an enemy creeps in and tries to destroy the group? Protection might not be in the form of a **standing army** or a powerful navy, but any population that seeks to be independent needs to have a guarantee that the citizens could be free from damage or danger. A good government needs to organize a group that would ensure its protection. Founded in the wilderness, areas such as Fort Pitt (which would later become the city of Pittsburgh) made safety one of their top priorities.

3. Production and sustenance should be provided daily. Food is needed for people to live. People need to eat, and they must be given the opportunity to take care of themselves and their families. Does your government have farming in the community or will the food be shipped from another area? Are goods and services readily accessible? People need to feel assured that provisions are available. If they do not, they will seek other places that will sustain them. A good example of this need is seen in the Sinagua Indian tribe of over 600 years ago. They left an intact village, including a 20 room 5-story dwelling in what is now Camp Verde, Arizona. Experts believe they abandoned the village for no other reason than that they could not maintain enough supplies with the abilities and resources they had.

4. Law and order must be maintained. The apostle John wrote of the lack of order in a church in 3 John 1:9—“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the church.” Diotrephes is an example of how even one person can cause great disorder. By his gossip and desire for being the “take charge” man, Diotrephes was actually causing a lot of problems in the growth of the **assembly**. The same principle is true in any organization or government: if there is not order, problems will arise. John was using Godly wisdom in pointing out the problem. Problems that are not addressed will grow larger until they become almost insurmountable. If a city is not organized it will disintegrate. If a colony has no policing, it will soon be **decimated** by crime. Any government which does not take its law and order seriously will soon find itself in a precarious position. A number of Western mining towns that established a safe, orderly environment in the late 1800s were able to survive the closing of the mines, simply because people enjoyed living in a community with such privileges. Conversely, even a large city with a steady population can be in danger of collapsing if law and order become an insurmountable problem. An example of a city government learning the need to establish law and order is the city of East St. Louis, which experienced the travesty of near bankruptcy because of the loss of self-discipline and order.

5. The government should have a goal. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18). This is especially true when governing a group of people. If there are no set goals or challenges, where do the people aim? Is the group to grow, or merely to exist as they are? The dynamics of New York City’s harbors made it a business area with a goal for international trade. It grew at an incredible rate. Jerusalem was and is a city of worship and still flourishes today. Many researchers believe that one of the main factors of Rome’s decline was simply that there were no more goals.



Write the letter of the correct answer on the line.

- 1.1 One of the foundational rules for any government is to have a goal. What is the reference that tells us “where there is no vision, the people perish?” _____
- a. Proverbs 3:5,6
 - b. Psalm 119:1,2
 - c. Proverbs 29:18
 - d. Proverbs 28:1
 - e. Psalm 1:4



Complete the following sentences.

- 1.2 A _____ is a group of people settled in a particular area who carry the same interests.
- 1.3 In a _____ form of government, the goods and services are equally shared, and the political power is distributed among the people.
- 1.4 There must be a final point of authority in a government. _____ of the Republic of Texas is a fine example of a leader who kept a government strong and active.
- 1.5 _____ and _____ should be provided daily to the population.
- 1.6 Measure must be taken to be safe. People settling in an area want to feel safe from outside attacks. A previously mentioned example of a city which was founded as a fort with safety as a high priority was the city of _____ .
- 1.7 Law and order must be maintained in order for a government to be strong. Problems must be addressed. John gave us the example of dealing with disorder when he addressed the problem of one man named _____ .



Match each word with its correct definition.

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 1.8 | _____ decimate | a. civilization that may have fallen due to lack of goals |
| 1.9 | _____ sustenance | b. to reduce the amount in blocks or sizeable amounts |
| 1.10 | _____ Sinagua Indian tribe | c. settlement that relocated due to lack of resources and sustenance |
| 1.11 | _____ Rome | d. food and drink; necessary foods in order to stay alive |
| 1.12 | _____ New York City | e. grew due to the goals of increasing its international trade |