

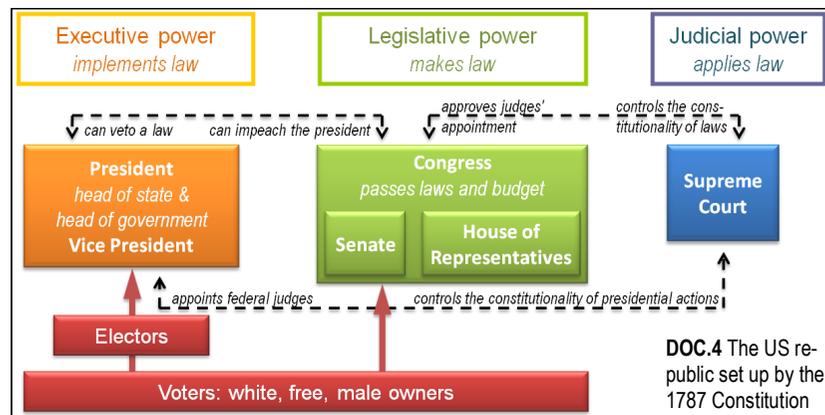
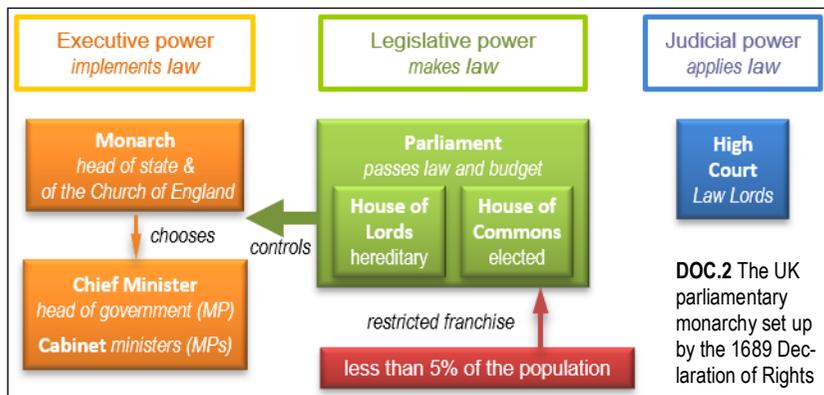
In the UK

POLITICS ◀ THE BRITISH MONARCHY AND US REPUBLIC TODAY ▶

In the USA



DOC.1
Symbols
of power



DOC.3.1 One hundred years ago, eight million British women secured the right to vote, though on a more limited basis than men. This discrimination was abolished ten years later in 1928 when women received full universal suffrage.

However, Britain was not the first to make that step. Several countries, including former British colonies, introduced votes for women earlier, like New Zealand in 1893, Australia in 1902 and Canada in 1918.

Chris Baynes, *The Independent*, Tuesday 6 February 2018.

DOC.3.2 This morning King Charles was formally proclaimed as the new King as, on 8th September 2022, the UK's longest-serving monarch, who reigned for 70 years, Queen Elizabeth II, died. Charles III is now the UK head of state, but his powers are largely symbolic and ceremonial. The government acts in his name but the Prime Minister governs. The King is also head of the Commonwealth and head of state for 14 Commonwealth realms.

"King Charles III: Charles 'officially proclaimed' the new King", BBC Newsround, bbc.co.uk, 10 September 2022.

DOC.5 Americans elected Barack Obama today, turning their backs on a past of slavery and segregation and electing the first African-American to the US presidency. The significance and scale of his historic victory was recognised today by the outgoing president George W. Bush. For most African Americans Obama's election is an unprecedented victory — a blow against 400 years of Black slavery, legal segregation and institutional racism.

Black people were not part of "We the people" in the Declaration of Independence, much less citizens for the Constitution. President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1865 abolished slavery but Blacks didn't really get the vote and the right to be elected to public office until President Johnson's 1964-5 Civil and Voting Rights Acts after a century of intimidation and a decade of civil rights battles.

'America's first black president', Michael Eric Dyson, *The Guardian*, 5 November 2008.

QUESTIONNAIRE. Give structured and justified answers to the following questions.

I. UK parliamentary monarchy today (docs 1, 2 & 3)

- 1. Government buildings.** Associate one building of doc.1 to the executive and legislative powers and give its holder's position and name today.
- 2. A democracy.** Was the UK a democracy in 1689? Why? What type of franchise was it? When did the UK become a democracy? How? What kind of franchise is it now and what does it mean for the election?
- 3. The monarch's role.** In the UK, who is the head of state? Who is the head of government? Who actually/really holds power? Name three former British colonies. Give the name and the head of the association they belong to today. Research what are the political regimes of these three countries. Consequently who are their heads of state and of government?

II. US republic today (docs 1, 4 & 5)

- 1. Government buildings.** Associate one building of doc.1 to each power (executive, legislative or judicial) and its US holder's position and name today.
- 2. A democracy.** Was the USA a democracy in 1787? Why? What kind of franchise was it? How did the USA progressively become a real democracy? Who votes today? So what type of franchise is it now?
- 3. The President's role.** Who is the head of state and who is the head of government? What is the consequence?

Notions & vocabulary

democracy : system of government based on the belief in freedom and equality, in which power is held by the people.

franchise : the right to vote. Can be restricted (in French: *suffrage censitaire*) or universal (in French: *suffrage universel*), -excluding or including citizens because or regardless of gender, wealth etc...

Commonwealth : current association between the UK and its former colonies, its former empire, spanning 2.5 billion people in 56 independent countries.

a voter: un électeur, Δ à ne pas confondre avec an elector: un grand électeur dans un suffrage indirect.