

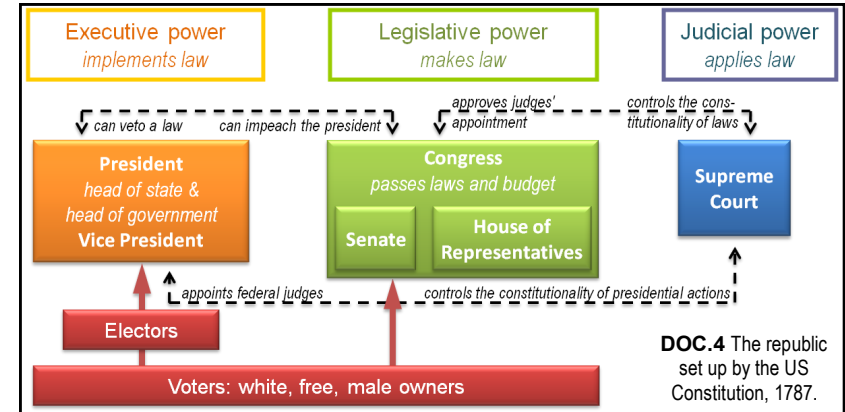
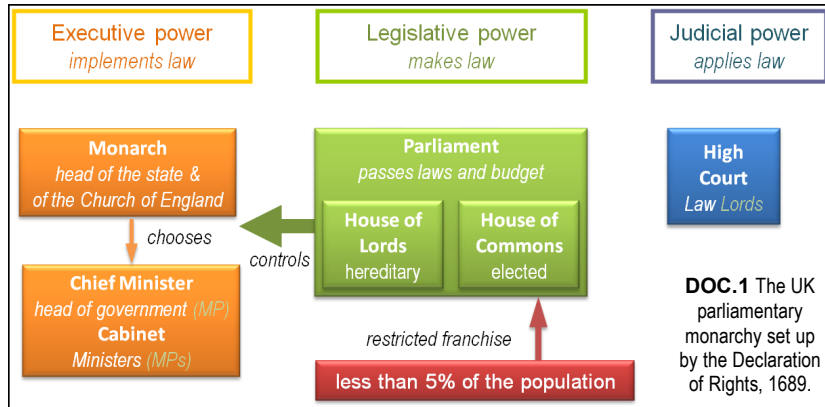
In the UK

POLITICS ◀ POLITICAL POWERS & THE RULE OF LAW ▶

In the USA

Historical context. In the UK, the 1688 Glorious Revolution led by Parliament overthrew King James II who had abused his power. Parliament gave the crown to William and Mary who accepted the 1689 Declaration of Rights which transformed the monarchy into a new political regime.

Historical context. During the War of Independence (1775-1783) which opposed Britain and its 13 North-American colonies, Americans wrote the Declaration of Independence on 4th July 1776 against King George III's abuse of power. In 1783, the USA became really independent and wrote the 1787 Constitution to set up a new political regime.



DOC.2.1 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.

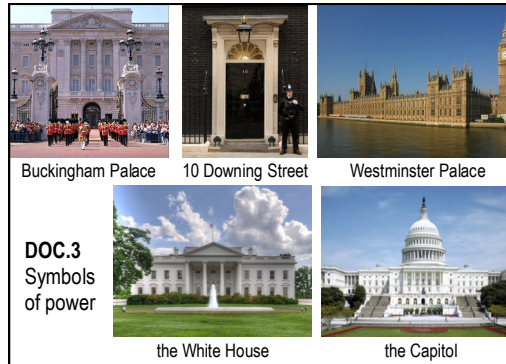
However, Britain was not the first to make that step. Several countries, including former British colonies, introduced votes for women earlier, like New Zealand in 1893 and Australia in 1902.

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

Doc.2.2 Since 1953, Queen Elizabeth II has reigned, not ruled: she doesn't govern; she does not begin wars or shape domestic policy. The Prime Minister governs and the government acts in her name. And so, what, in fact, has she achieved?

As head of state, her permanence has given the British the self-assurance and stability they have needed [...] As head of the Commonwealth, she contributed to the transformation of a racist British Empire into a multiracial Commonwealth.

"Why the Queen Matters", By Alan Watson, *The New York Times*, June 4, 2013.



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 first and foremost an unprecedented victory — a blow against 400 years of Black slavery, legal segregation and institutional racism.

The White House was built by Black men and women (most were slaves). Slavery, however, was not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. 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 win 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. 1689 UK and 1787 US : new political regimes (docs 1 & 4)

- 1. Political regimes** What are the differences between the British and US heads of state? Consequently what are the definitions of a monarchy and a republic?
- 2. The separation of powers** Which players (individual or institutions) held the executive, legislative and judicial powers to implement, make and apply the law? Give a definition of the 3 powers before answering the question. Associate one building of doc.3 to each player. Consequently, how could you define the principle of the separation of powers? What is it for?
- 3. The balance of powers** Were the executive and legislative powers equally shared or was one power stronger than the other? What did it mean for the British monarch? Consequently give the definition of a parliamentary monarchy.
- 4. The sovereignty of the people** means that legitimate power comes from the people, that the nation is the basis of power. How can you see

II. UK's parliamentary monarchy and US republic today (+ docs 2 & 5)

- 1. Democracies** What is a democracy? Were the US and the UK democracies in 1689 and 1787? What about today?
- 2. The Queen's role** Who has the actual/real executive power in today's UK? So what is the Queen's role?

METHOD. Comment on these documents using the method.

Method 1 - Commenting on 2 documents

GUIDELINE - THE EVOLUTION OF THE BRITISH MONARCHY (DOCS 1 & 2.2)

Method 2 - Commenting on 2 documents

GUIDELINE - THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (DOCS 4 & 5)