

DEMOCRACY TIMELINE

What follows are some of the ideas and events that have contributed to the development of democracy over the years.

Democracy continues to evolve in different forms around the world.

What is the meaning of AD, BC, BCE and CE?

- “The meaning of AD is Anno Domini or Year of our Lord referring to the year of Christ’s birth. The meaning of BC is Before Christ. CE is a recent term. It refers to Common Era and is used in place of A.D. the dates are the same ie 2009 AD is 2009 CE. BCE means Before Common Era. For example 400 BC is 400 BCE.”
- http://agards-bible-timeline.com/q4_ad_bc_ce.html

1750 BCE

Babylon:

(an ancient city in Mesopotamia, present-day Iraq)

The Code of King Hammurabi is created, the first known written code for its city members.



508 BCE

Athens, Greece:

Democracy is established. Citizens are guaranteed the right to membership in the Assembly, freedom of speech, and equality before the law.



400 BCE

India:

Public decisions are made by committees of citizens who vote in special assemblies.



1215

England:

King John signs the Magna Carta, which states that no one, not even the king, is above the law.



1350

North America:

The Iroquois Confederacy of five (later six) nations is founded, practising decision making by consensus (agreement).



1776

United States:

Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal" and that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed."



1789-1794

France:

The French Revolution ends absolute monarchy (complete control by the king) and introduces Declaration of the Rights of Man, emphasizing liberty, equality and fraternity.



"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity"

"Liberty represents freedom, being able to make ones own decisions freely and having the opportunity to be able to express ones own beliefs without fear."

"Equality can stand for being equal in law and so to maintain a sameness of rules, status, rights, respect, opportunities and privileges, that must be applied to all."

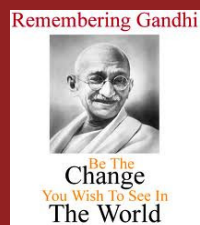
"Fraternity is a word associated with the idea of community, which is a body of people that share a common interest or purpose. Also, a fraternity can be recognised as a group viewed as a forming a distinct segment of society."

http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_does_Liberty_Equality_and_Fraternity_mean#ixzz1mw9JtTBY

1919

India:

Mahatma Gandhi begins a passive resistance campaign to win India's independence from Britain.



Gandhi - His Triumph changed the World Forever

(The movie trailer)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVwCeGxTN-A&feature=related>

The Power of One

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QzjqOI2N9c&feature=related

1948

The United Nations issues the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, defining basic rights that all people should have.



United Nations Headquarters, New York City (New York) - Travel Guide

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfhhowHSuo&feature=related>

1982

Canada:

Charter of Rights and Freedoms is added to Canada's Constitution.



Pierre Trudeau: Charter of Rights and Freedoms

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngYEcae6ndE>

The Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms

(A school project)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tVmolJ43Nw&feature=related>

1990s

Pacific-Asia:

Asian-style democracies established in many countries in the area.



1994

South Africa:

Democracy is established after a long fight against Apartheid, a policy that prevented Black citizens from voting.



Invictus

(The movie trailer)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNsm8uka6B4>

2011 - 12

Tunisia

Egypt

Libya

Syria

and other Arab countries want autocratic governments replaced.

