



5th Century BC: The earliest known Direct Democracy was in Athens (in Greece). In the Athenian Direct Democracy the people controlled the entire political process.

1258: In Britain the first parliament was held. It took some power away from the King to try and give the people more power.

1800's: PROTESTS

- *1816 Spa Fields Riots* - people were unhappy because their wages were low, taxes were high, bread was very expensive. 300 rioters arrested.
- *1817 Derbyshire Rising* - the poor couldn't afford to buy bread or find work.
- *1819 The Peterloo Massacre* - 60,000 people (most unemployed or very poor workers). Henry Hunt made a speech demanding that the government share power more equally by giving more people the vote. He was demanding political change. The Army killed 11 people and badly injured 400 of the defenceless crowd.
- *1820 the Cato Street Conspiracy* – unhappy with the extreme hunger being suffered by so many. Plotted to blow up the leading ministers of the government.
- *1830 Swing Riots* – People were desperate because their jobs were disappearing because of machines. Farm machines all over the south of England attacked. 2,000 people were put on trial, of whom 19 were executed and 481 transported to Australia.
- *1839 The Chartists* - The Chartists wanted to change the political system so that it was more fair, not just rich landowners in power. Britain was not democratic yet and they wanted to change that.

1914-18: THE GREAT WAR

Many women took over the jobs that men did. This proved that women should have the same political rights as men because they could do the same work as men.

1928: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

All women over the age of 21 were given the vote.

27BC – 476AD: The Roman Empire is an early example of a Representative Democracy. The citizens (the people) elected representatives who then decided on the laws.

1800's: INDUSTRIALISATION

- Introduction of machines changed people's jobs and their way of life.
- Many people moved from the country to the city – 1700's: 85% people lived in the countryside, by 1900's: 85% people lived in cities.
- Living conditions in cities were really bad and cramped.
- Huge increase in population – more people wanted jobs and wages got lower so people continued to struggle to feed their families.
- Transport improved – much easier to communicate and travel.

1832: THE GREAT REFORM ACT

The government changed the law so that more people could vote – the working classes could still not vote. It changed the voting system to try and stop the rich and powerful abusing it. It allowed areas to have the vote for the first time.

1867: THE SECOND REFORM ACT

Increased the number of people who could vote from 366,000 in 1851 to 8 million in 1885 (still only 35% of the population).

1918: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

All men over the age of 21 were given the vote. All women over the age of 30 who owned property worth a certain amount were given the vote.

1969: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT

Everyone over the age of 18 was given the vote.

| Key words and definitions | |
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| Direct Democracy | everyone has the right to make important decisions |
| Representative Democracy | The citizens (the people) elected representatives who then decided on the laws. |
| Democracy | a system or rule in which the people choose their government/rulers. |
| Parliament | Group of elected people who agree to laws suggested by the government |
| Government | the group of people who make the laws and decisions for the people. |
| Industrialisation | When a country starts to use machines to do work that people used to do. This changes how people live and work. |
| Protest | a demonstration when many people come together to support a cause. |
| Riot | violent action of a group in a public place. |
| Chartists | group of people who wanted to reform Britain's politics. |
| Suffrage | the right to vote. |
| Reform | change something to make it better. |