



Let's Build Europe Together

2017-2019

Erasmus+

Active citizenship through history

2nd Cross Student Exchange in Croatia

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Definition

- ▶ a citizen who takes an active role in the community

Forms of being active citizen

- ▶ Voting
- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Helping the poors
- ▶ Sorting waste and reducing the food waste
- ▶ Taking care off abandoned animals and endangered animal species
- ▶ Blood donating
- ▶ Participating in activities of local community
- ▶ Protesting against illegal acts of authorities...

Voting rights

- ▶ One of main characteristic of democracy
- ▶ the entitlement of an individual to vote

- ▶ Questions that arise:

How many individuals can vote?

What are they voting for?

Examples in history

- ▶ Athenian democracy
- ▶ Roman Republic
- ▶ Modern age

Athenian democracy

- ▶ In the 6th century B.C. Democracy was introduced to ancient Athens by lawgiver Cleisthenes

- ▶ Athenian democracy

Athenian democracy

- ▶ Direct democracy
- ▶ in which participating citizens voted directly on legislation and executive bills.
- ▶ Participation was not open to all residents:

Athenian democracy	
Citizens	free male citizen who was from Athens and had finished military training (20 years old)
Not allowed to participate	Women, slaves, foreign resident
Percentage of Citizens	10-20%

Direct democracy (Athens)

Representative democracy
(today)

How many people can vote?

What are they voting for?

Who makes the law?

Advantages

Disadvantages

	Direct democracy	Representative democracy
How many people can vote?	Free Athenian men older than 20 years (10-20% of the population)	All adults
What are they voting for?	They are voting for the members of political bodies but also allowed to present their opinions and proposals	For their representatives in political bodies
Who makes the law?	Partially elected politicians, partially all free Athenian men	Only the legislative bodies (parliaments) in democratic countries
Advantages	Opinion of the majority is respected, everyone can bring their opinion in public, everyone speaks for himself	Easier to organize,
Disadvantages	Difficult to organize in countries with a large population, difficult to count the votes	The elected members often do not represent will of their voters, professional politicians

Roman Republic

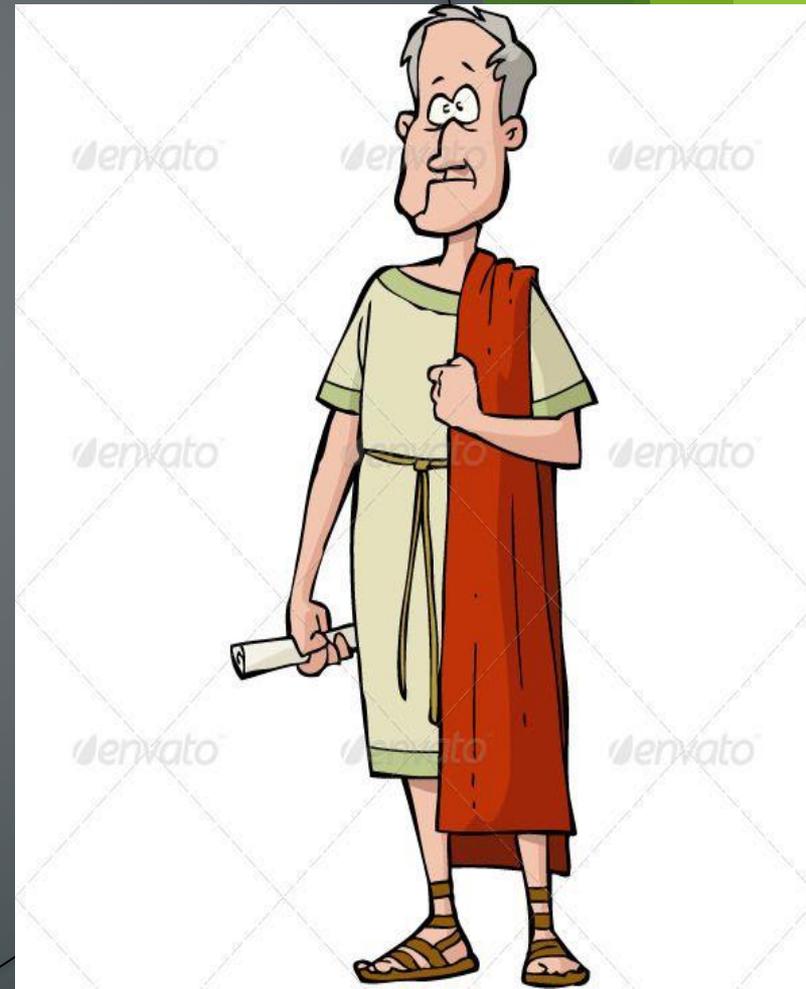
- ▶ Could vote: Roman Citizens
- ▶ Couldn't: women, slaves and foreigners

Roman republic	
Voters:	Roman Citizens
Not allowed to vote:	Women, slaves, foreign resident
Percentage:	10%

- ▶ What does it mean to be a Roman Citizen?

Cives Romanus sum!

- ▶ Only persons who had legal status of Roman Citizens had a right to:
 - vote in assemblies
 - participate in public services
 - own properties
 - to sue and stand trial
 - contract a legal marriages (Pater Familias)
 - immunity for some taxes
 - couldn't be sentenced to death, except for treason



Roman citizenship

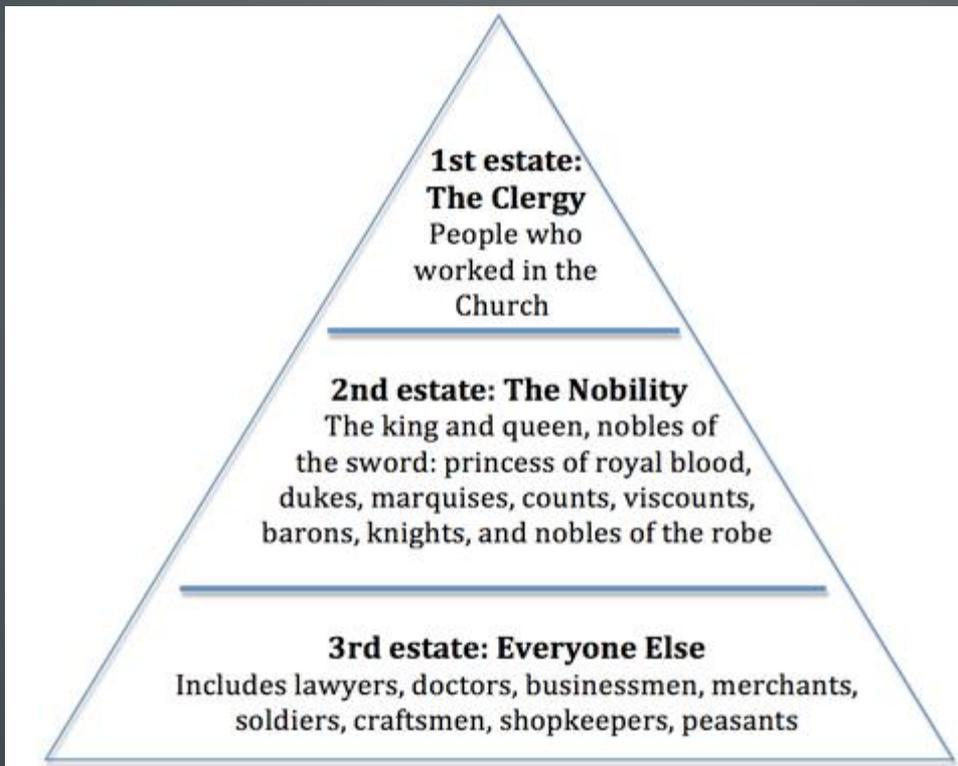
▶ Who were Roman citizens?

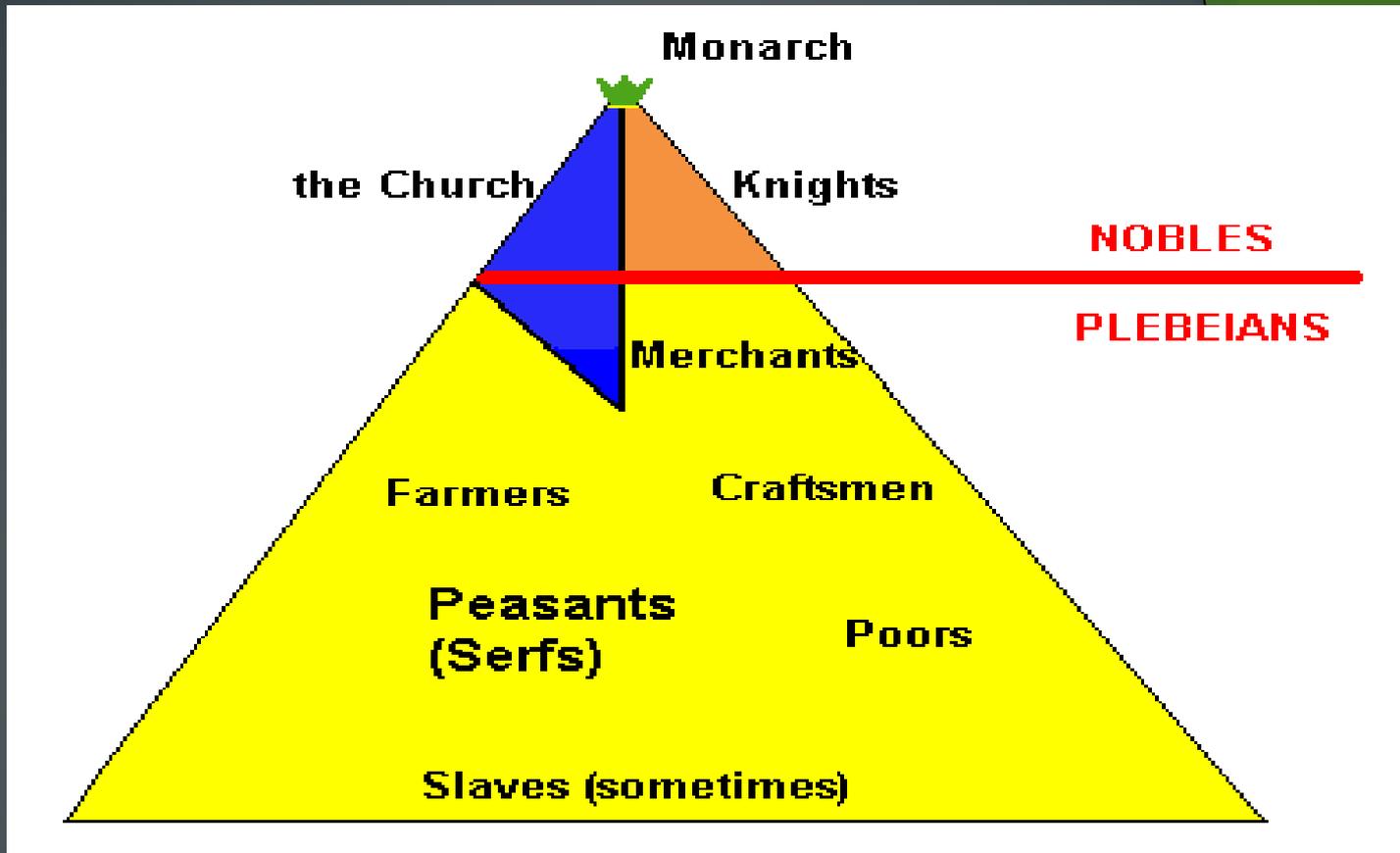
-At first only the members of oldest roman tribes but later (91 BC) it was granted for the all inhabitants of Italian peninsula

Other ways to become citizens:

- freed slaves
- military success
- Emperors will

Middle ages (5th-15th century)





- ▶ Only first two classes were considered as citizens and had a right for political participation, not more than 5% of population

Modern age

18th century - Age of Enlightenment

- ▶ the philosophical and the intellectual movement which influenced on the foundation of modern Western political and intellectual culture.
- ▶ Main ideas: freedom
 - equality
 - tolerance
 - division of power

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experiences hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, inconvenient, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with intire Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migration hither; and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

- For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;
- For granting them, by a mock Trial, from Parliament for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;
- For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;
- For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;
- For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;
- For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;
- For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;
- For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;
- For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Barbidity, scarcely parallelled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brothers, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every Stage of their Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

No man have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Colonization and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have begged them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commissions, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

- ▶ USA- the oldest modern democracy
- ▶ It is a type of representative democracy
- ▶ Federation from 1787.
- ▶ For the first time the Enlightenment ideas became reality



Everyone are
equal in front
of the Law!

- ▶ Really?
- ▶ Except for:
 - women
 - slaves
 - native Americans
 - foreigners



Elections 1788.

- ▶ Right to vote had less than 400.000 men out of 3.000.000 population
- ▶ The turnout was 43.782 (11,6%, but only 1.8% of total population)
- ▶ George Washington was elected as the first president



In Europe...

- ▶ French revolution 1789.
- ▶ “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.”
- ▶ Declaration of Rights of Men and Citizen

- ▶ „All males over the age of 21 who worked, owned land or other property in France, lived in France for over a year, or had family ties to a French person, or those specifically named by the legislative body, could be considered as Citizens”

- ▶ For the first time the universal suffrage was introduced on the election

- ▶ During the 19th century the right to vote in European countries depended mostly on property requirements (less than 20%)

Example:

United Kingdom 1832. householders paying more than £10 in annual rent were given the vote. Reforms in 1867. (included working class) and 1884. reduced the property requirements for voting (not more than 30% of population)

20th century

Emily Davison

Which were the arguments for women's suffrage?

Which were the methods used by suffragettes in order to achieve their goals?

What do you think of such methods?

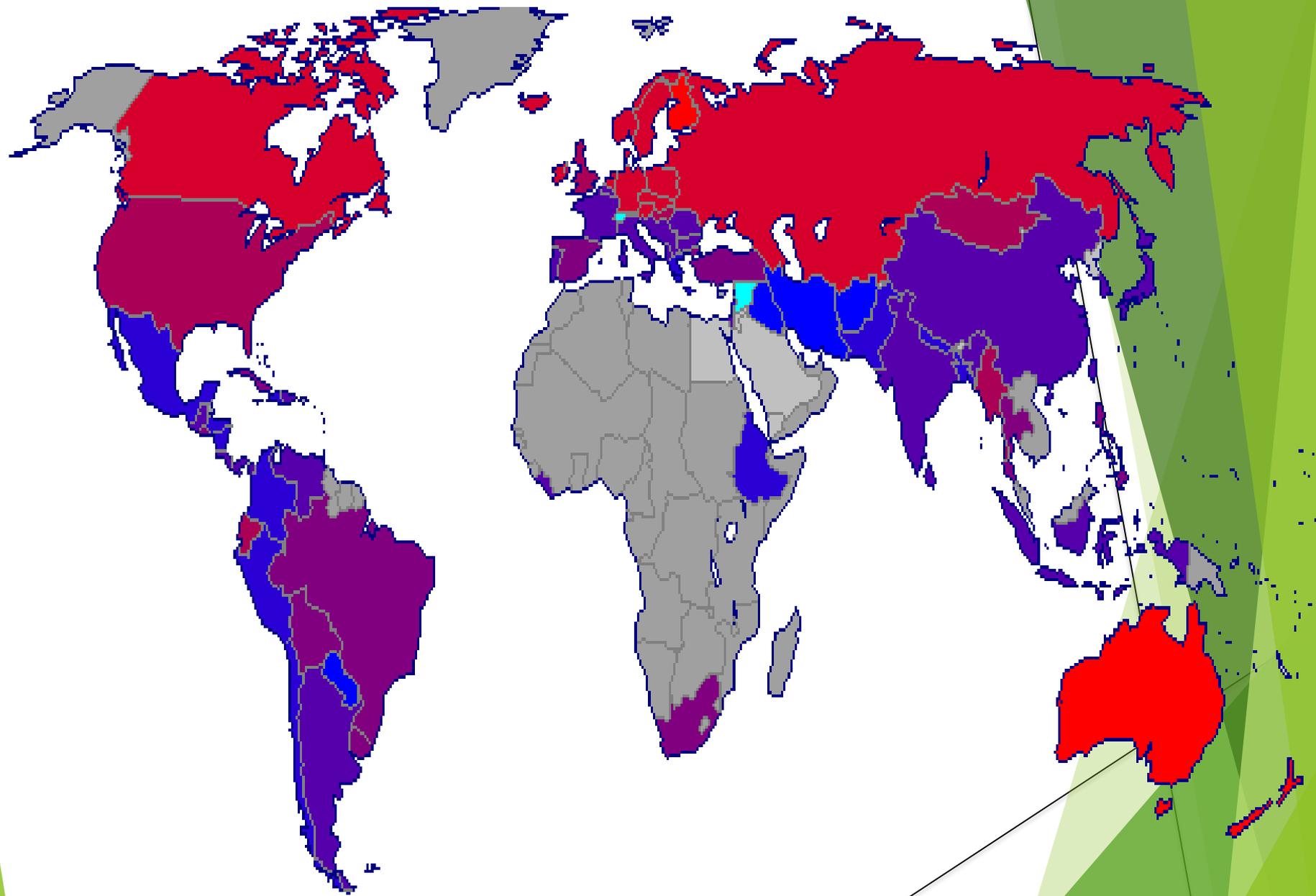
What is your opinion on Emily Davison?

Arguments for women suffrage

- ▶ Women progressive era 1890-1920
- ▶ Majority of women were employed and paid taxes
- ▶ Many of them were educated
- ▶ It was a matter of human rights and equality



- ▶ Eventually, the struggle was successful
- ▶ In many European countries women got the right to vote after WW1, and in other after WW2



1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

Universal right to vote

- ▶ During 20th century in vast majority of countries the universal right to vote was given to men and women older than 18 years

	Universal vote for men	Universal vote for women
Austria	1896.	1918.
Croatia	1920.	1945.
Greece	1844.	1952.
Italy	1912.	1945.
Spain	1869.	1931.

21st century

- ▶ Today, the majority of UN members have a universal voting right for all men and women aged over 18
- ▶ Two questions arise:
 1. Does this mean that the fight for voting rights is over?
 2. Should this right be compulsory?

- ▶ **Austria (from 2008), Malta (from 5. of March 2018), Scotland, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, some regions in Germany lowered down voting age on 16 years**
- ▶ **In Greece voting age was lowered to 17 in 2016**

What is your opinion on this question?

- ▶ Should the voting age be lowered down on 16 in your country?
- ▶ Which are the arguments for?
- ▶ Which are possible arguments against?

Arguments for	Arguments against

Arguments for	Arguments against
Young people are expected to follow the law, but have no say in making it	Young people tend to be easily swayed.
Lowering the voting age will help increase voter turnout	They may not be mature enough to vote
Lowering the voting age will improve the lives of youth	They are not informed enough to vote
Knowledge and experience are not criteria for voting eligibility (18 years is an arbitrary age)	
Teenagers spend more than half their day sitting in a class room, hearing about what their country is doing	
It's more democratic	

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WOMEN WORK

WOMEN VOTE

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**We are ready
 to Work beside You, Fight
 beside You and Die beside You**

Let Us Vote beside You

VOTE FOR

Candidates for the legislature
 who stand for

**WOMAN
 SUFFRAGE**

Women
 Working
 in
 Munition
 Factory

WOMEN
 bring all
VOTERS
 into the world

Let Women Vote

VOTES FOR WOMEN

For the work of a day,
 For the taxes we pay,
 For the Laws we obey,
 We want something to say.

6542

We Can Do It!

WAR PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

POST FEB. 15 TO FEB. 28

THIS IS OUR
CITY TOO!
#VOTE16SF


YOUTH
POWER
#Vote16SF

MOVEMENTS
IN SOLIDARITY
W/SF 16 RALLY

OUR VOICES
MATTER
#16&V

16...17...
vote now

16
of

Should it be optional or compulsory

Turnout on last elections:

Croatia: 52% (2016)

Greece: 56% (2015)

Italy: 73% (2018)

Spain: 66% (2016)

Austria: 80% (2017)

Belgium

- ▶ Voters are obliged to present themselves in their polling station, while they don't have to cast a vote, those who fail to present themselves (without proper justification, or appoint a proxy) on election day (always a Sunday) at their polling station, could face prosecution and a moderate fine. If they fail to vote in at least four elections, they can lose the right to vote for 10 years. Non-voters also might face difficulties getting a job in the public sector.[[]

- ▶ Do you believe that is important to vote? Why?

Arguments for	Arguments against

Arguments for	Arguments against
Increase voter turnout	Violate freedom of choice
It broadens representation and legitimacy	It may result in more spoiled ballots or randomly selected votes, so wouldn't necessarily improve representation of views
Encourage voters to better educate themselves	

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