WORLD HISTORY notes

Roman Republic

* elect leaders to make decisions
* prevent one man from abusing power
* Checks and Balances

“CURSUS HONORUM”

* “ladder” of political advancement
* offices based on merit / experience
* to begin ladder needed to:
  + serve in military
    - revealed if you had leadership qualities
  + own land
* generally served 1 year terms

QUAESTORS – Executive Branch

* beginning of “Cursus Honorum”
* assisted Consuls
* assisted with finances

AEDILES – Executive Branch

* supervised entertainment (games)
* supervised distribution of grain
* popular office

PRAETOR – Judicial Branch

* served as “Attorney General” of Rome

CONSULS – Executive Branch

* 2 Consuls
* Veto power
* Prepare/pass new laws
* Commanded armies

CENSORS (2) – Executive Branch

* Took Census (taxes, military service)
* Classified citizens according to wealth and tax status (Registrar)
* Enforced “Public Morality” – could remove officials for acts of immorality

DICTATOR (1) – Executive Branch

* appointed in times of crisis
* 6 month term
* “Total” power
  + Make decisions quicker
* Cincinnatus

PONTIFEX MAXIMUS (1)

* Patrician
* Head of religion
* Maintain “Pax Decorum”
  + Peace with gods
* Today = Pope

POLITICAL ASSEMBLIES

SENATE –– Legislative Branch

* served for life
  + maintain “continuous” policies
* wise, experienced, wealthy, educated
* advised Consuls
* advice carried the weight of law

CENTURIATE ASSEMBLY – Legislative Branch

* political side of Roman Military
* made up of soldiers
* appointed officials

PLEBEIAN ASSEMBLY – Legislative Branch

* Originally no power
* 287 BC – Lex Hortensia Law
  + won right to make laws for ALL Romans
  + could not be vetoed by Senate