World History Notes

1/25/2024

* Over time, the Romans set up a representative democracy to govern their republic.
* In a representative democracy, public decisions are made by leaders who are elected by the citizens to represent their interests.
* These ancient ideas of direct democracy and representative democracy inspired revolutionaries to challenge monarchies and other forms of authoritarian rule.
* **Revolution and Religion**
* Monarchs often claimed to have authority from God, which they called the divine right of kings when they justified their rule.
* Enlightenment thinkers were influenced by the concept of natural law.
* This is the belief that there exists outside of human laws a set of moral principles that can be applied to any culture or system of justice.
* A human law that violated natural law, many philosophers believed, was wrong and should be changed.
* Drawing from this concept of natural law, numerous Enlightenment thinkers developed the idea of the social contract.
* Thomas Hobbes introduced the idea that government was the result of a social contract between people and their rulers.
* John Locke argued that the social contract was conditional.
* If a ruler failed to protect the people’s life, liberty, and property, then the people should overthrow that ruler.
* [Social Contract and Liberalism](https://youtu.be/1stnkcSzmBE)
* In his book The Social Contract, Jean-Jacques Rousseau extended the concept of a social contract further.
* He proposed that a government formed by a social contract must be based on popular sovereignty, or the general will of the people.
* These various views of the social contract theory would inspire revolutionaries for the next few centuries.