

STAR Journal

Social Science Texts and Academic Research

<https://star-journal.org/>



Volume 3 | Number 1

January 2020

Editor-in-Chief: Matthew Schuster

STAR Journal
www.star-journal.org
Vol. 3, No. 1, January 2020

Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief:

Matthew Schuster: matthew.schuster@anokaramsey.edu

Editorial Board:

Anthropology

Lisa Becker: lisa.becker@anokaramsey.edu

Michelle Birnbaum: birnbaummichelle@msn.com

Ralph Koziarski: koziarskir@gmail.com

Economics

Jane Ruliffson: jane.ruliffson@anokaramsey.edu

Drew Mattson: drew.mattson@anokaramsey.edu

Joe Schoen: Joseph.Schoen@anokaramsey.edu

Geography

Victory Downey: Victoria.Downey@anokaramsey.edu

History

Bruce Homman: Bruce.Homann@anokaramsey.edu

Paul Anderson: Paul.Anderson@anokaramsey.edu

Matthew Schuster: Matthew.schuster@anokaramsey.edu

Psychology

Kendra Miller: Kendra.Miller@anokaramsey.edu

Hisayo Tokura-Gallo: Tokura-Gallo.Hisayo@gaston.edu

Lauri Wolfe: Laurie.Wolfe@anokaramsey.edu

Barb Ludins: Barbara.Ludins@anokaramsey.edu

Ann Pelzel: Ann.Pelzel@anokaramsey.edu

Jennifer Liberty-Clark: Jennifer.LibertyClark@anokaramsey.edu

Hillary Gokey: Hillary.Gokey@anokaramsey.edu

Melissa Sollom: Melissa.Sollom@anokaramsey.edu

Masa Nunokawa: Masataka.Nunokawa@anokaramsey.edu

Political Science

Robin Datta: rdatta@email.edcc.edu

James Andresen: James.andresen@saintpaul.edu

John Herbert: John.Herbert@anokaramsey.edu

Matthew Schuster: Matthew.schuster@anokaramsey.edu

Sociology

Jordan Ruble: Jordan.Ruble@anokaramsey.edu

Copy Editor:

Jasmin Ziegler and her fall 2019 ENGL 0990 03 (Cross-Current Composition) students:

Khadija N Abbas

Ashley Anderson

Brayden Buttweiler

Justin Corcoran

Hailey Dellis

Liberty Morrice-Bartlett

Adela Rossie

Joseph Yangtz

Submission Information for Authors:

Please follow the submission guidelines on the journal website (www.star-journal.org). Submission of a paper for publication implies the transfer of the copyright from the author(s) to the publisher as far as the copyright may be transferable. Submissions should be made electronically to the Editor-in-Chief. Initial drafts are not considered final versions until they are approved as such by the editors.

Subscription and Copyright Information:

The journal is free for personal use through electronic access on the journal website (www.star-journal.org). All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise without a prior permission of the copyright holder.

Table of Contents

Editorial

Special Thank You

Paper:

Republicanism: The Face of Tomorrow

Jenna Buse

Page 6

Editorial

In this edition we only have one submission. It is an original piece by a student of mine during the spring semester in 2019. In other words, it took nearly a year to get this piece published. It shows not only the patients of the student involved but the dedication as well. There were several other students with papers that were of similar quality but those students at various points failed to do what was asked of them – for now at least; they still could resubmit their papers per the reviewers' comments. This piece, by Jenna Buse, was not only of high enough quality to pass through two anonymous reviewers, Jenna followed through with what was asked of her at every step of the process.

As the editor of this journal, there is something I have learned – or really had reinforced -- since I took on this role. Namely, community students are often faced with the twin obstacles of living busy lives and living them during transitional periods of time. They are often being pulled in many different direction and they may only be our students for short periods of time. This is not to say that these are not obstacles for students at four-year universities, students in graduate programs, or even college/university professors. It is my hunch, though, that these are more likely to be a more salient set of obstacles for students at two-year colleges.

Special Thank You

I would like to offer my great appreciate to Jasmin Ziegler. I asked Jasmin to help copy edit the following paper. Not only did she agree, she got into the spirit of undergraduate research and asked the students in one of her sections of Cross-Current Composition to help with this; she used it as a teaching tool and included this task as an assignment in her class. I would also like to thank the students for their efforts. I am certain, with Jasmin's guidance, they learned a lot as they helped make this edition possible. Thank you!

Matt Schuster
Editor-in-Chief
STAR Journal

Republicanism: The Face of Tomorrow

Jenna Buse

Abstract

Those who came before learned from those even before them, as to ensure a safe and promising future. The republicanism of the ancients is still applicable in today's day and age. Knowing that mistakes were made by the ancients before them, they knew that the best way to keep the peace between the citizens would be to document rules and to give the people a choice. Without the complete dedication of the first British-Americans, the country known today as the United States would not be the same. When reviewing Lincoln's life, there is not a single moment where he was not a complete encompassment of the republican ideology. When looking back at Ancient Rome, it is good to consider that, while many good revelations were made, power and corruption are possible when there are no checks and balances to keep power equal among all people. When studying the Athenian democracy, it is good to reflect that citizenship should not be so difficult to come by, and that women and minorities should have an equal voice to men. Though the Founding Fathers began the United States with morals that are still held today, there have been many advancements to the country. In fact, new advancements on gender equality and gay rights are being made every single day.

Key Words: Republicanism, Democracy, Government, Ancient

"As we look at the state of our federal union 211 years after the Founders completed their work, there is cause for satisfaction that we have avoided many of the plagues afflicting so many other societies" (NCC 1). This is the society that Americans made for the generations to come. Those who came before learned from those even before them, as to ensure a safe and promising future. Though there were mistakes made by the ancients, there were also memorable moments and, more importantly, memorable beliefs. The republicanism of the ancients is still applicable in today's day and age. In order to move forward in the making of history, America must not step back as the ancients did before them. In the case of the ancient Roman Republic, the citizens had the voice they had longed to have, and yet a major setback crumbled the republic (Wasson 1). During the time of first Athenian democracy, many powerful ideologies were born. The citizens of Athens were the first to adopt the mentality of "We the People..." (U.S. Constitution, 1). Even centuries after both powerful examples, the Founding Fathers adhered to the mistakes and unintentional teachings of those who came before and wrote one of the most influential documents in the history of the United States of America. Knowing that mistakes were made by the ancients before them, they knew that the best way to keep the peace between the citizens would be to document rules and to give the people a choice. Without the complete dedication of the first British-Americans, the country known as the United States today would not be the same.

The city of Rome was founded in the year 753 BCE (Augustyn 1). After conquering the surrounding land, a newly established city of Rome decided to rid themselves of Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the last Roman ruler (Augustyn 1). After this important decision, the people of the city needed to take a step to make a change in the way that the city made their decisions. The people

decided to create an atmosphere where the people, both plebeians and patricians alike, could partake in the decision making of their new form of government. After much deliberation, the people decided to “avoid the possibility of one individual seizing control” (Wasson 1). At the beginning of the republic, the patricians, who had the political and religious power in the city, were to be the only class of citizens that could have a vote in government decisions. Due to constant bickering and political tension, the lower class refused to be a part of the army that would only benefit the rich and privileged. After the patricians realized how much they needed the lower class, they came up with “The Council of the Plebs.” Though the original exclusion of the lower class was a serious problem in their town and in their history, their inclusion of the lower class and of women in all of the decision making was incredibly ahead of its time. The ancients in Rome set an example for modern everyday life to give an equal voice in how government should represent all people, and not just those of one gender, race, or monetary class. The ancient Roman Republic also began and perfected the idea that it is best for a group of people in one small area to vote together as one, as to secure an easier voting term for all that were involved. Even in modern democracy, groups of people in specific regions can vote toward two separate parties, and in the end a region decides on one common candidate. Without such an example from the Roman Republic, modern day voting could quite possibly be different.

While Rome had many great advancements in a new era of government, the first republic was not the only memorable new government of its own time. The Athenian democracy, which began during the fifth century BCE, stood out compared to other governments in the area at that time (Cartwright 1). The Athenian government could be considered the first democracy, shaping the very definition of the word, democracy. In Athens, all men considered to be a citizen had all rights in government and in speech. Though it seemed like a flawless type of government, only 20% of the city’s population was free men who were eligible to be citizens. Those who were not included or considered for citizenship were women, slaves, and foreigners. In addition, not only were male citizens eligible to vote, voting was required by law and punishable by physical harm, with no lawyers to defend them (ushistory 1). They believed that every citizen “pulled their weight” when it came to the decisions the city had to make. While violence should not be considered for city-wide decisions, the Athenian government in their prime had many good lessons that modern day democracies should learn from. One thing Athens taught this century is that citizenship is extremely important and teaches those eligible for citizenship pride in the place called home. In addition, they taught that it is crucial to voice a free opinion when it comes to governmental decisions. Without a voice from each individual, the popular opinion won’t be truly publicized. Though not an obvious lesson, Athens showed modern democracy to not be sexist towards women. In Athens, not only were women not allowed to vote, they were not even allowed to leave the house or venture to certain areas of the house (ushistory 1). Now, women should be able to have free speech both in the home and in government.

Even after all the pros and cons of governments before, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America wanted to form a government that was for the people, yet not about wealth and stature. Those who met together felt it was important for all to have equal rights, an equal chance to have their voice heard, and also to live in a world where their opinions matter. Though any citizen can vote, the Constitution makes it very clear that, “No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at a time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President” (US Constitution, Section X, Article II). Through this point, they were able to convey that,

though any citizen could have free speech, the President of the United States must be completely dedicated to their country; so dedicated in fact, that they must have spent their entire life learning more about the country. An interesting take away from the Founding Fathers is just how contrasted their new democracy was from the old form of government. In Britain, they had to adhere to the king due to the oligarchy rule. Those who had wealth and high stature in the communities were the only ones to hold any true power (Lambert 1). In the newly founded country, all could have an equal say in government, no matter wealth or popularity with other settlers. Similarly, however, women were not granted the right to vote until much later in the 1900s. Because of this, women during this time in history were no better off than the women of the Athenian times. Thankfully, women now are equal in society, and can vote at the age of 18, just as their male counterparts. Without the constant development of a republican democracy, no progress could have been made in equal rights for both women and minorities.

Throughout the history of the United States, there are many great leaders that stand out more than others. One of those leaders is Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was born in a small and modest one-room log cabin. Though there was very little economical influence by his family, Abraham never let his life be held back by regrets. Of course, one of his most well-known feats was the writing and the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation (Basler 1). Through this very important document, Lincoln was able to liberate the slaves of the South, freeing them from the masters they once belonged to. With the words, "And upon this act... I invoke... the gracious favor of Almighty God," (Emancipation Proclamation, 1) Lincoln saved not only the lives of the slaves in the South, but their souls as well. Through his works as a man, as a leader, and as a hero, he was able to use his influential status to touch each life in the United States. Even in modern times, Lincoln has taught adult and child alike that, "Mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice" (Lincoln 1). When reviewing Lincoln's life, there is not a single moment where he was not a complete encompassment of the republican ideology. His developments on society were to benefit the people, not the government. In fact, he shaped the Republican Party as it is known in modern times, being a party for the people, for the country, and for those who still adopt the very morals the country was founded on.

Even after all of these years, the republicanism of the ancients is still applicable in today's day and age. Without constant reflection on those who came before, it is difficult to learn from previously made mistakes. If those in power now listen to how history has shown government and power over the generations, they can create an atmosphere of strong fellowship between all people. When looking back at Ancient Rome, it is good to consider that, while many good revelations were made, power and corruption are possible when there are no checks and balances to keep power equal among all people. When studying the Athenian democracy, it is good to reflect that citizenship should not be so difficult to come by, and that women and minorities should have an equal voice to men. Though the Founding Fathers began the United States with morals that are still held today, there have been many advancements to the country. In fact, new advancements on gender equality and gay rights are being made every single day. Without an open mind and knowledge of the past, no progress will ever be made in the name of republicanism.

Work Cited

- Wasson, Donald L. "Roman Republic." Ancient History Encyclopedia, Ancient History Encyclopedia, 24 Nov. 2018, www.ancient.eu/Roman_Republic/Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia.
- "Roman Republic." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 3 Apr. 2018, www.britannica.com/place/Roman-Republic.
- "Democracy Is Born." Ushistory.org, Independence Hall Association, 2018, www.ushistory.org/civ/5b.asp.
- Cartwright, Mark. "Athenian Democracy." Ancient History Encyclopedia, Ancient History Encyclopedia, 6 Dec. 2018, www.ancient.eu/Athenian_Democracy/.
- National Constitution Center." National Constitution Center – Constitutioncenter.org, National Constitution Center, constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/historical-documents/perspectives-on-the-constitution-a-republic-if-you-can-keep-it.
- Lambert, Tim. A Brief History of Britain, www.localhistories.org/govt.html.