

ORIGINS
OF THE CONSTITUTION

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What kinds of governments are possible?



Democracy



Monarchy



Aristocracy



And the rest. . .

- Chiefdom, Autocracy, Dictatorship, Military Junta, Plutocracy, Theocracy, Representative Democracy, Police State, Totalitarian State, Menocracy, Oligarchy, . . .

Which is “best”?

The Death of Socrates



The Parable of the Cave

- Plato's Republic is governed by the enlightened.



Aristotle started with concrete examples—the cities of Greece.



Aristotle

- "The end of politics is the best of ends; and the main concern of politics is to engender a certain character in the citizens and to make them good and disposed to perform noble actions."

• *Nicomachean Ethics* 1099b30

The *telos* of politics. . .

- Is to create an environment in which we can fulfill our own *telos*.
- Do we really want the government interested in making us “good”

The question is not how many people rule. . .

- But whether they govern in the interest of the citizens—that they should achieve their *telos*—or in their own interest.