

Ancient History Sourcebook:

The Roman Republic: Checks and Balances

American System -- based on *balance of powers/functions*

Executive	Legislative	Judicial
<i>President</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Supreme Court</i>

Note: The only legitimate *interest* is that of the *people*

Roman System -- based on *balance of interests*

Monarchical	Aristocratic	Democratic
<i>2 Consuls + other magistrates</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Assembly of Tribes Tribune</i>
Directed government and army Acted as judges Could issue edicts Acted as chief priest	Controlled state budget Could pass laws	Approved/rejected laws Decided on War Tribune could veto actions of magistrate Acted as final court
Basis of power: possess imperium, the right to rule need for leadership	Basis of power: members were richest men in Rome.	Basis of power: provided most of the soldiers
Limits on power:	Limits on power:	Limits on power:

one year term each could veto	could not control army needed majority as soldiers.	Could not suggest laws often paid as clients by the elite
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Source:

Chart by Paul Halsall

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