

The Roman Republic: Checks & 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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directed government and army ▪ Acted as judges ▪ Could issue edicts ▪ Acted as chief priest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Controlled state budget ▪ Could pass laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approved/rejected laws ▪ Decided on War ▪ Tribune could veto actions of magistrate ▪ Acted as final court
Basis of power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possess <i>imperium</i>, the right to rule ▪ Need for leadership 	Basis of power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members were richest men in Rome. 	Basis of power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provided most of the soldiers
Limits on power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One year term ▪ Each could veto 	Limits on power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could not control army ▪ Needed majority as soldiers 	Limits on power: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could not suggest laws ▪ Often paid as clients by the elite

Source: Chart by Paul Halsall