

2.1.6 Democracy or Mob Rule

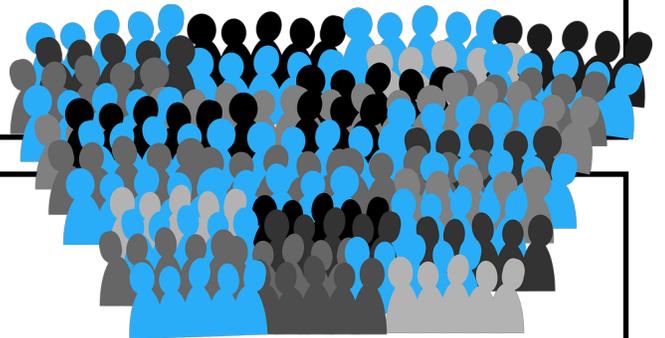


In the game One Night, Werewolf, what problems came about when guilt and innocence was determined solely by the vote of the people?

People did not have any rights. Staying silent or talking too much could get you voted out by the mob or majority.

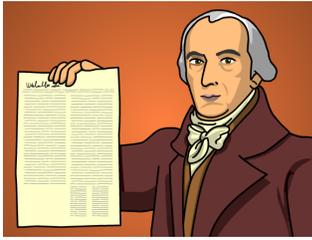
What could have been done to prevent the mob from forming?

Rules to follow or a process (due process) like staying silent didnt prove you were guilty. You were able to defend yourself. There had to be evidence.



What do you see as the positives of democracy?

People have a voice or power within their government. They choose who their representatives will be.



In Federalist #10 (written to support the Constitution), the author, James Madison is concerned about factions (political parties) developing in democracy who promise & make laws for to win votes to win in the moment rather than considering if it was the public good or if it would be good for the long term.

Selections from “America is Not a Pure Democracy” by James Huffman
(Read the quotes and answer the questions)

“By a faction,” wrote Madison, “I understand a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or minority of the whole, who are united and actuated (cause to act) by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse (negatively) to the rights of other citizens or to the permanent and aggregate (total) interests of the community.”

What is a “faction”?

A group who believe the same thing, like a political party

How can a faction lead to mob rule?

When a simple majority begins to increase their power by taking rights away from others.

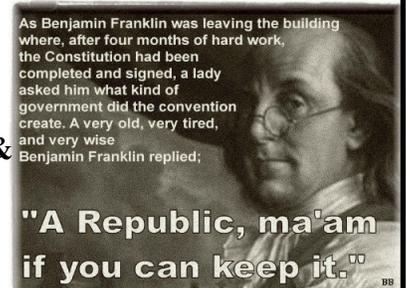
A “pure democracy,” explained Madison, “can admit of no cure for the mischiefs of faction.” But a republic, he continued, “by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, . . . promises the cure for which we are seeking.” The Framers believed that cooler heads would prevail if the people’s impulses were funneled through elected representatives in government. And, in fact, representation was only one part of the Founders’ remedy for the mischiefs of faction. They also separated the powers of government among three branches, established a Senate in which states, not people, have equal voice, established the electoral college rather than direct popular vote for the selection of the president, divided powers between the national and state governments, and allowed that individual rights would prevail over national (and later state) power.

How does the author state a Republic with representatives making decisions serve as a “cure” to democracy?

Representative cool the mob down by not giving in to their desire to take away the rights of the minority.

List other ways the Founding Fathers placed a check & balance on democracy in the Constitution.

- *3 Branches of Government**
- *Not a Direct Vote For President (Electoral College)**
- *Divide Power Between National & State Government**
- *Listing of Individual Rights**



It is not that the Constitution excludes democratic principles. The House of Representatives was set up to be directly & democratically elected & it is why its nickname is “The People’s House”