

1. J.J. Rousseau on representatives (*The Social Contract*, III, XV, adapted)

As soon as public service stops to be the chief business of the citizens, and they would rather serve with their money than they themselves, the State is not far from its fall. When it is necessary to march out to war, they pay troops and stay at home: when it is necessary to meet in council, they send deputies and stay at home. By reason of idleness and money, they end by having soldiers to enslave their country and representatives to sell it. (...)

The idea of representation is modern; it comes to us from feudal government, from that unjust and absurd system which decreases the value of humanity and dishonours the name of man. In ancient republics and even in monarchies, the people never had representatives; the word itself was unknown. (...)

In Greece, all that the people had to do, it did for itself; it was constantly assembled in the public square. The Greeks lived in a mild climate; they had no natural greed; slaves did their work for them; their great concern was with liberty.

<https://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/socialcontract/full-text/book-iii-chapter-xv/>

2. Montesquieu on discrimination of powers (*The Spirit of Laws*, XI, 6, adapted).

One great fault there was in most of the ancient republics, that the people had a right to active decisions, such as require some execution of a criminal, a thing of which they are absolutely incapable. They ought to have no share in the government but for the choosing of representatives, which is something they are capable of. For though few can tell the exact degree of men's capacities, yet they are capable of knowing in general whether the person they choose is better qualified than most of his neighbors. Neither ought the representative body to be chosen for the executive part of government, for which it is not so suitable, but for the making of laws, or to see whether the laws in being are rightly executed, a thing suited to their abilities, and which none indeed but themselves can properly perform. (...)

The legislative power is therefore committed to the body of the nobles, and to that which represents the people, each having their assemblies and discussions apart, each their separate views and interests.

<https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/montesquieu-complete-works-vol-1-the-spirit-of-laws>

Historical source	Information about the author and his work	Questions created by the students
Rousseau	Nationality Occupation Era Works Famous opinions Evaluation of the source	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Montesqieu	Nationality Occupation Era Works Famous opinions Evaluation of the source	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.