

2K

Humanities I

Unit 13: The Good City: Pericles' Democracy

Discussion questions and study notes.

- Question 1. What kind of government did Pericles defend in his speech?
- Question 2. How did Pericles defend Athenian democracy?
- Question 3. What assumptions did Pericles make about the purpose of government and the nature of man?
Do you agree with any of these assumptions?
- Question 4: Which of the two, Pericles or Plato, do you think makes the sounder argument? Whose assumptions about the purpose of government and the nature of man do you accept? Why?
- Question 5: Is it true that the more we are informed the better will be our opinions? Will the citizenry make better decisions if all facets of government are revealed?

Having tested the validity of Pericles' assumptions and after examining other democratic governments to see if they have achieved Pericles' purposes, ask yourself the questions, have citizens of these democracies demonstrated a capability to govern? Why is there a tendency toward revolutionary thought today? Why is there a need for revolution?