

What are the three branches of the United States Federal Government?



This image of the United States Capitol is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the White House's Truman Balcony is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



This image of the west front of the United States Supreme Court was taken by Robert Housch facing east on July 2, 2009.

What are the three branches of the United States Federal Government?

Legislative



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Executive



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Judicial



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What is the Best Type of Government?



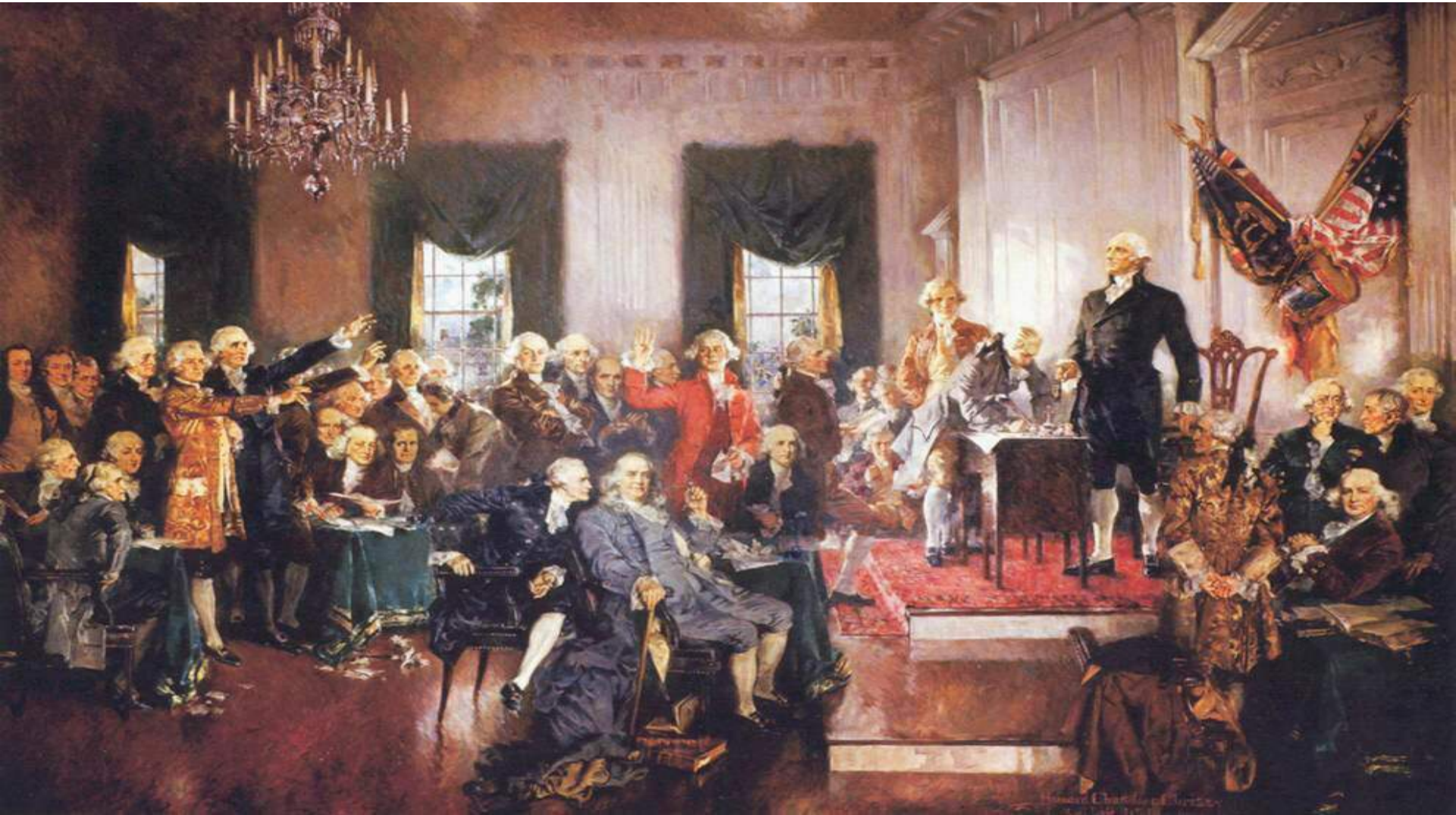
One of the political philosophers
who influenced the Framers of our
Constitution was an ancient Greek,
Aristotle.



Aristotle lived, taught and wrote more than 2,000 years ago



His writings helped guide the Philadelphia delegates in writing the new American Constitution.



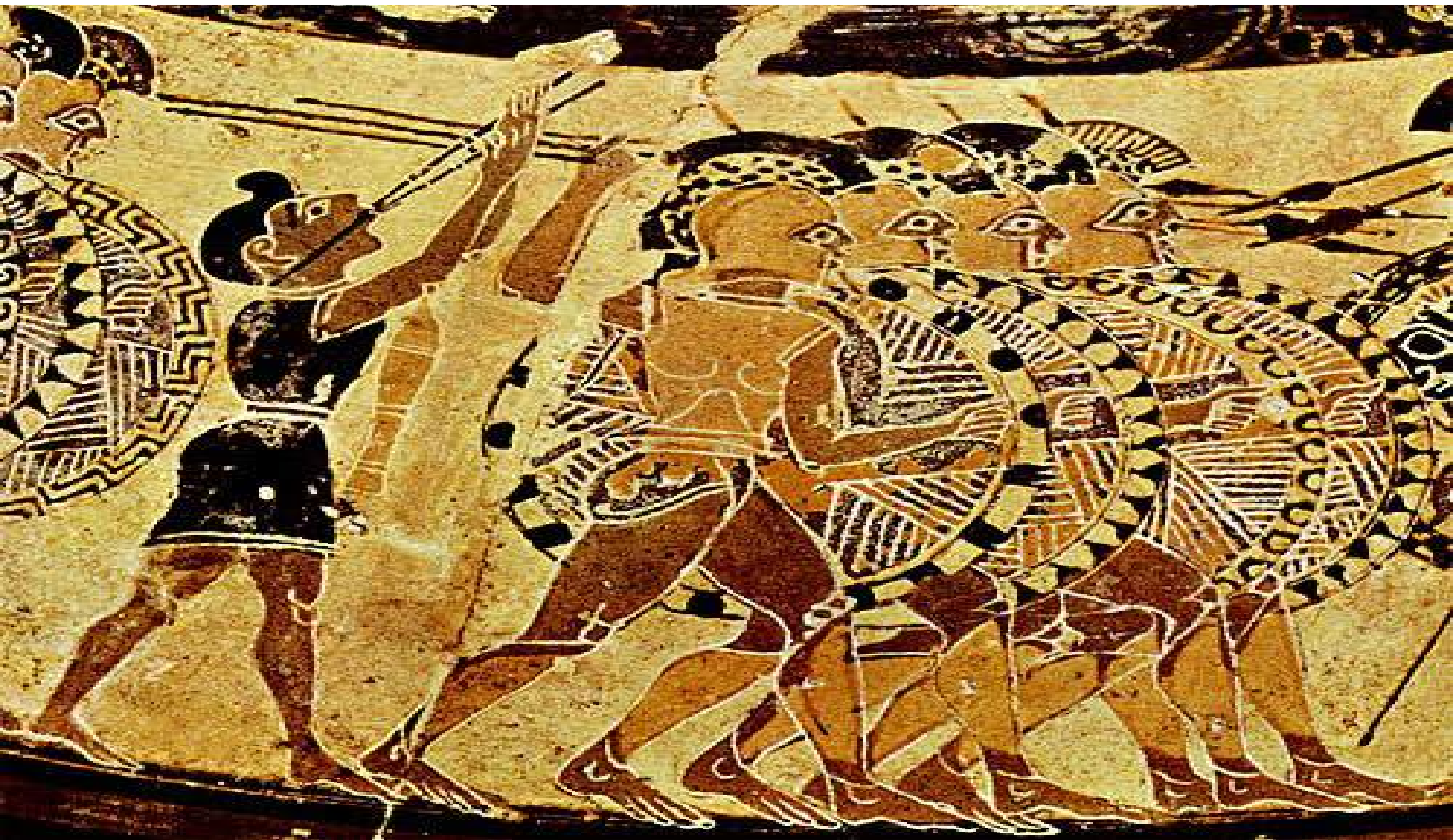
Aristotle catalogued, lectured, debated,
and wrote about every area of
knowledge known in the ancient world.



One of Aristotle's many interests was government.



Aristotle identified six different kinds of constitutions...



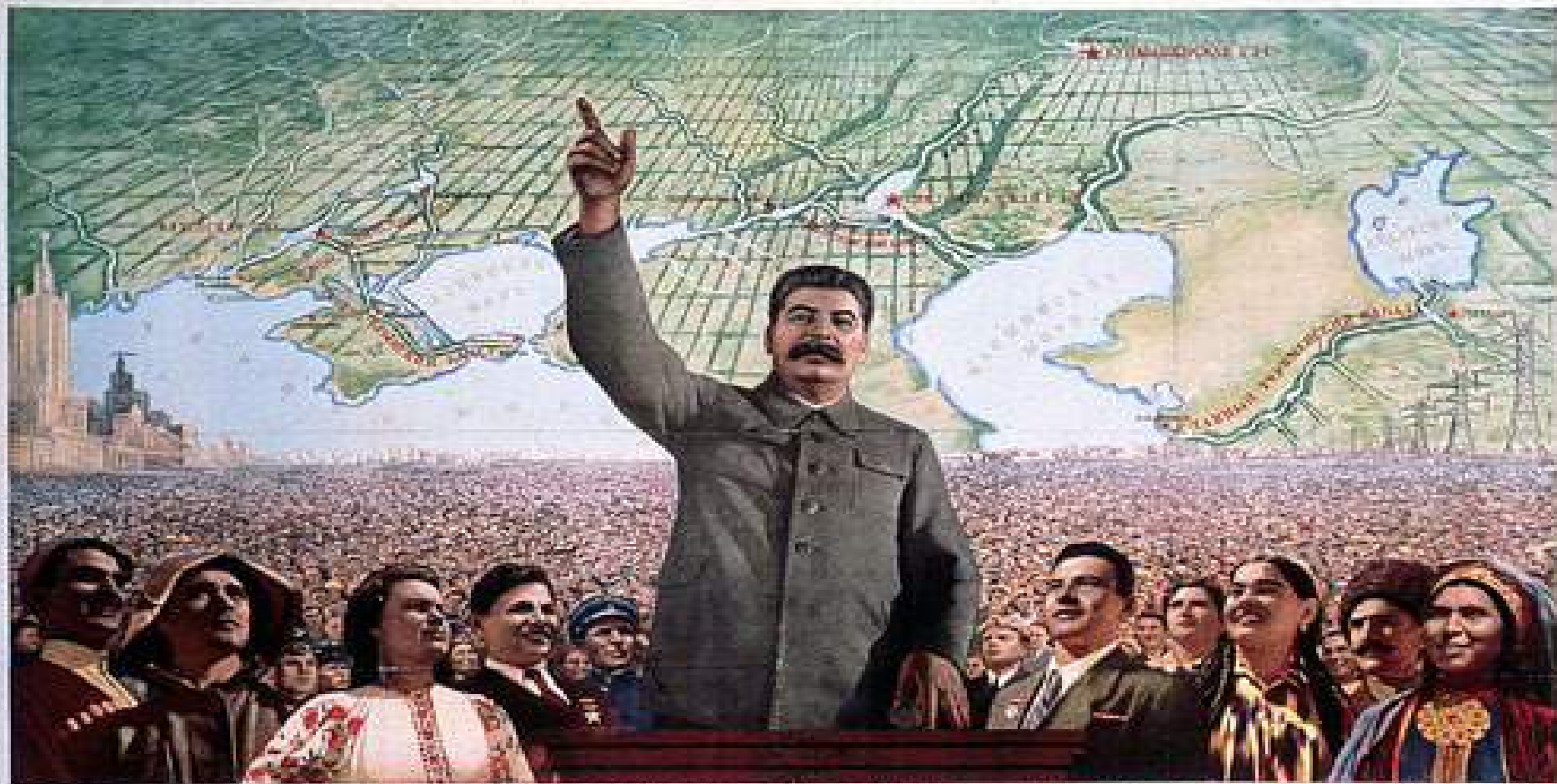
1. **Kingship** is rule by a single man who became a ruler through heredity or election.



A **king** was supposed to use his power to benefit his people.



2. A **Tyrant** is when a ruler uses his power to only benefit himself.



ПОД ВОДИТЕЛЬСТВОМ ВЕЛИКОГО СТАЛИНА—ВПЕРЕД К КОММУНИЗМУ!

3. **Aristocrats** are men of wealth and leisure who have developed their minds so that they have superior intellects.



3. **Aristocrats** were to rule for the benefit of everyone.



4. But when an aristocracy rules for the benefit of the rich, it becomes an **oligarchy**.



5. **Aristotle** believed democracy meant that every free-born man had the right and duty to help rule the city.



5. Aristotle saw danger in a democracy.



The poor majority would always be able to outvote the wealthy and the best.



The poor could ruin a state by
overtaxing the rich and confiscating
their property.



6. Aristotle also feared the rise of demagogues in a democracy.



Demagogues are power-seekers who gained influence by appealing to the emotions of the people.



Today we are going to decide what
is the **best government**.



Imagine that at some time in the future only two countries exist in the world: **Freeland** and **Leaderland**.



Since you have nowhere else to go, you must choose one of these countries in which to live.



Which one would you pick? Why?



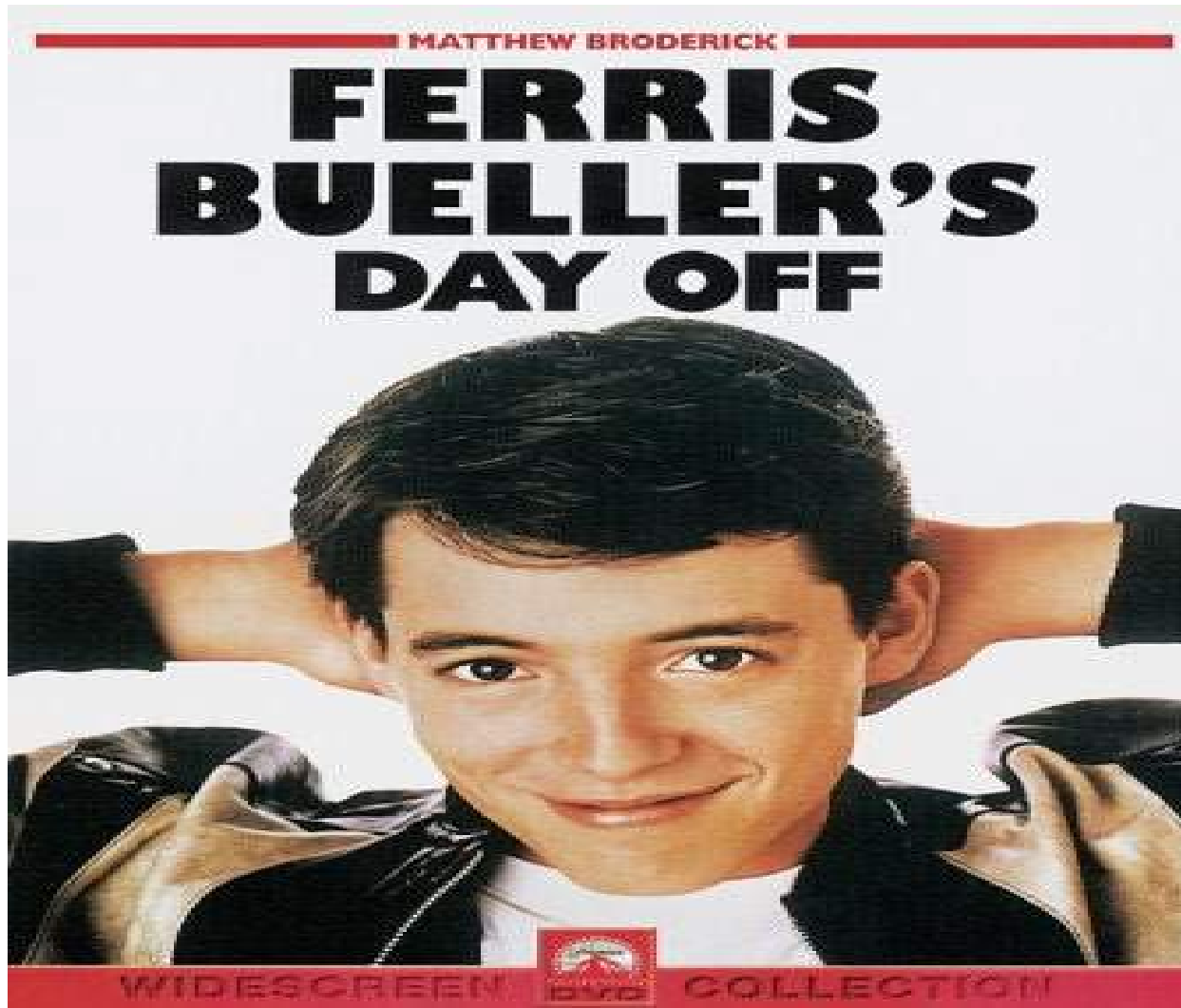
Freeland



In **Freeland** the people are free to do whatever they want.



Children and adults may decide for themselves if they want to go to school, work...



...sleep all day, play at the beach,
watch videos, etc...



There are **no laws of any kind** in
Freeland.



Leaderland



In this country there are many laws
which all have been made by one
man: the Leader.



The people of this country are told
by the Leader and his assistants
where to live, how to dress...



...what jobs to hold, what newspapers to read, and whom to vote for at election time.



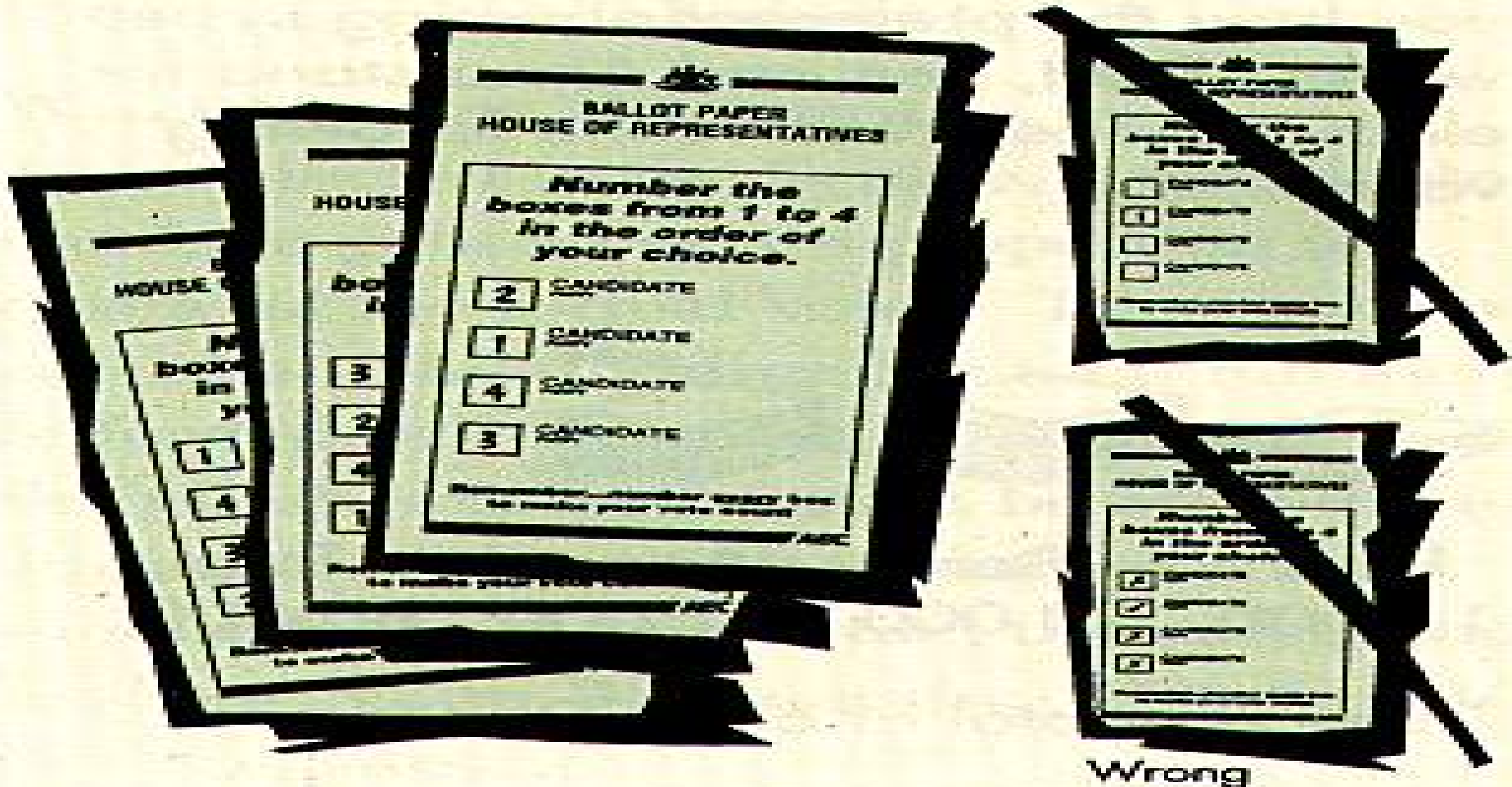
The people lead safe and orderly
lives...as long as they follow the
Leader.



In a moment you will pick up a sheet of paper and write the name of the country where you would want to live and why you want to live there.



1. Number the paper 1-5 and list the 5 reasons why you want to live in that country.



Number the other side of the paper
1-5 and list the reasons you might
not want to live in your country.



At first you will think of the country and reasons that you want to live there **by yourself**.



I will then inform you when you may
work in your groups...



...but everyone will be filling out their own separate sheets.



We will then discuss as a class and vote for which country you prefer.



Freeland or Leaderland

- Front side of the paper number it 1-5 and list the 5 reasons that you want to live in that country.
- Other side of the paper number it 1-5 and list the 5 reasons you might not want to live in the same country.

Freeland or Leaderland?



This image of a cloud question mark is courtesy of libyasos.blogspot.com.

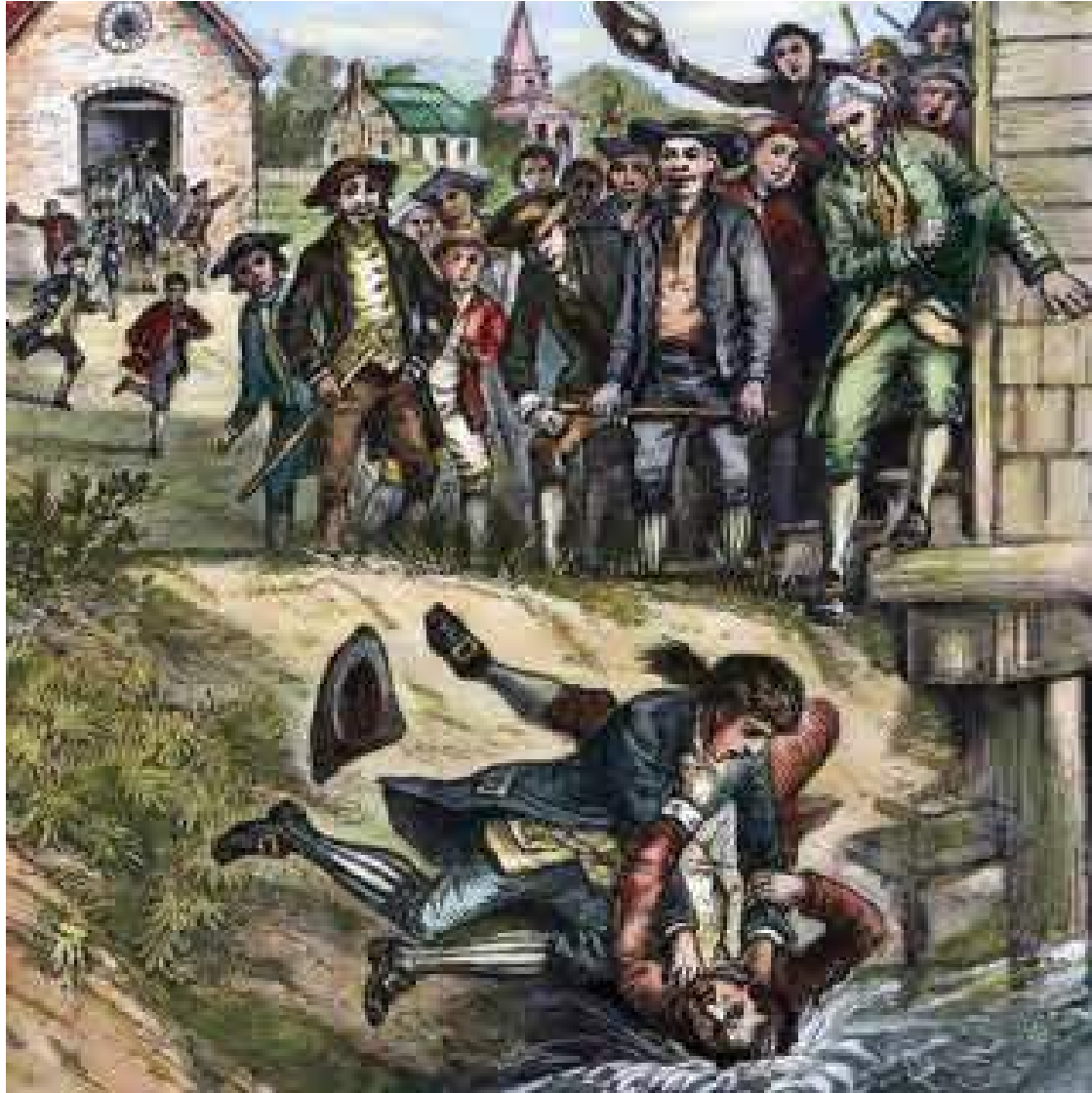
In a way our Constitution is a **compromise** between **Leaderland** and **Freeland**.



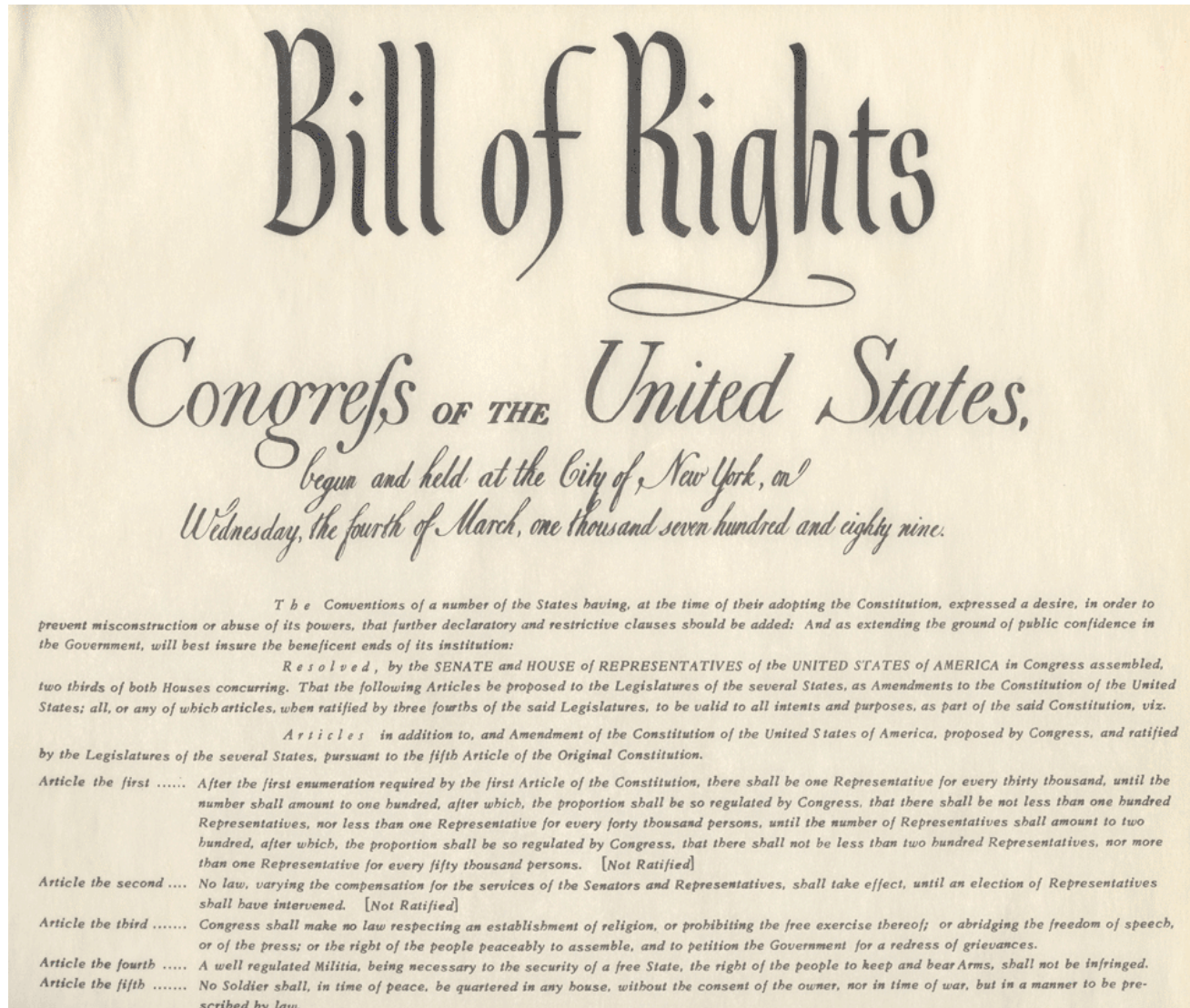
Leaderland was the strict government that the British used to rule over us before the American Revolution, and we rebelled so that we could have more freedom.



Freeland was the very loose Articles of Confederation that many felt gave the people/states too much freedom and led us into chaos.



Our current Constitution gives us a strong national government that allows us many individual freedoms.



Turn to your partner and briefly answer this question: **What is the best type of government?**



This image of flags of the world is courtesy of theworldflag.org.