



Principles of Democracy RAP

"We gotta learn more, our brains not Let's talk about the principles Consent of the Governed, say it louder People are the source of government power. Limited Government #2 the government Does what the people say do. Rule of Law is the third I saw because Nobody is above the law. Democracy is really a jewel 'cause we know

That the people rule. Representative, work for me You bet they are the people we elect."

Consent of the Governed

Presence of the Rule of Law

- . America is a nation of laws, not of men or women:
- In America, the law rules. Everyone agrees that the law governs all citizens, not any one individual, the military, or any special interest group.
- In some other countries, those in power consider themselves above the law.
- In America, no one is above the law and no one is below it:
- Mo one is above the law means there are consequences if citizens ignore or abuse the law in
- order to protect the general public from harm. This encourages all citizens to act responsibly and obey the law for the common good of
- every other citizen. Mo one is beneath the law means the law protects every citizen's individual rights granted by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
- Judges and courts enforce and protect these rights equally for all citizens.
- These rights may not be denied without due process of law.
- Free election of public officials:
- In America, there are free and open elections, without violence, where all registered voters may exercise their right to vote for public officials (local, state and national).
- The rights to vote, to assemble, to speak freely, to own property, and to be free from illegal discrimination are all protected by our Constitution and Bill of Rights and are enforced by our

Absence of the Rule of Law

- . In America,
- Market Although the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights declared all men equal and possessing certain "inalienable" rights, some Americans have been denied these rights: Since colonial times, Native Americans have struggled to obtain the recognition and
- rights enjoyed by other Americans. Once slaves, African-Americans gained American citizenship in the 1860s and were
- granted equal protection, voting and educational rights, ending institutionalized discriminatory practices only after the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 60s and subsequent Constitutional and judicial protections.
- Women did not have a right to vote until the enactment in 1920 of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.
- Mar II, Japanese-Americans were detained in internment camps.
- While America's experiment in democracy is not perfect, our Constitution, as interpreted and enforced by an independent judiciary, allows us ultimately to make things right by protecting the rights of all citizens, regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.
- Sadly, there are places in the world where the rule of law based on the consent of the people does not exist or is limited by those in power.
 - Macade Adolf Hitler rose to power in Nazi Germany and attempted to extinguish an entire race of General Pervez Musharraf, former Pakistani President, ignored the rule of law and ordered
 - that all lawyers and judges be jailed so he would remain in power and not be tried for crimes against the public. Musharraf ultimately resigned from office because of the international outcry.
- Machine As dictator, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein considered himself the law. After Saddam, the Iraqi people held elections for new leaders, free of governmental interference and without violence, returning the rule of law to the people.

Basic Human Rights



"Teach the children so it will not be necessary to teach the adults." -Abraham Lincoln The Center for Teaching the Rule of Law and its innovative Rule of Law Project are a web-based resource and training center for teaching the rule of law on a global scale.

Our purpose is to change fundamentally the way the rule of law is taught and understood. It must become known as the first rung on the ladder of understanding democratic ideals, principles and institutions. Providing resources to effectively teach the rule of law, beginning with a simple definition of what it is, will strengthen communities, build nations and make the world a more just and

> The Center's definition of the rule of law contains the ideals that must exist for democratic principles to work: Governments and their officials are bound by the law, Citizens are actively engaged in making laws that govern them, Laws are fairly and equally applied to everyone, and Citizens agree to obey the law

These principles are preserved and protected by independent judges who interpret the law and provide the necessary check against governmental overreaching, unjust laws and unlawful behavior. Together, they provide the basis for all civil societies, past, present and future.

The rule of law is the tie that binds citizens together as nations of diverse people, it sustains constitutional forms of democracy, systems of justice, economies, our natural environment, and civil societies based on democratic principles.

Teaching everyone these lessons, especially our children, will give them a personal relationship with the rule of law that encourages active and engaged citizenship, the most vital part of democracy. If we do not, the rule of law as we know it will fade away, diminishing its preeminent role as the beacon of hope and opportunity for all.





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Expanding Understanding of the Rule of Law in Our Schools

(Excerpts from Virginia Law Foundation E-Newsletter, July 2009)

"On May 1, 2009 in conjunction with the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia Holocaust Museum and the World Justice Project, the Virginia Law Foundation hosted a 'Teaching the Rule of Law Symposium.'

Fifty Teachers from all parts of Virginia convened at the Virginia Holocaust Museum to learn about the rule of law and how to provide their students with that knowledge. G. Michael Pace, Jr., VBA Rule of Law Coordinator, led the teachers through an overview of the rule of law and then H. Timothy Isaacs led the teachers through a brief history of the rule of law.

Rodney A. Smolla, Dean of the Washington & Lee University school of Law spent his portion of the morning teaching through the use of judicial procedure, allowing the teachers to act as justices in a mock trial. Mr. Isaacs then led teachers through the process of creating a lesson plan using these techniques.

Self-Determination



Bound by the Law

The UN Role in Supporting Rule of Law Reform in the

Mid-East and North Africa

To celebrate United Nations Day, Ms. Leila Hanafi, a Moroccan-American international lawyer, discussed the United Nation's role in implementing rule of law in the Mid-East and North Africa. Ms. Hanafi has worked as the staff attorney and programs manager of the American Bar Association, World Justice Project and has become one of





