

The Virtue of Roman Law and its Influence on U.S. Constitution and Jurisprudence

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Abstract

Roman Law and many concepts of the Roman Constitution has greatly influenced the U.S. jurisprudence and particularly U.S. constitution. These include concepts like checks and balances, vetoes, separation of powers, term limits, and regular elections. The Romans established a form of government — a republic — that precedes the democracy of ancient Greece. In fact, the government of the United States is based extensively on Rome's model. The founding fathers of the U.S. considered the early Roman republic, the great ancient model for the United States to follow and implement. The Roman Republic consisted of major political bodies including the Consuls, the Senate, and the Assemblies. The Roman idea of a senate made up of representatives of the people, veto power, a system of checks and balances, and term limits greatly influenced the U.S. government. Romans are also responsible for creating a legal code written down which protected the rights of all citizens – this is known as 12 tables. This document was influential in the creation of the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution. The 12 tables written in 455 BC is the foundation of U.S. jurisprudence. This paper examines the writing of ancient Romans form of government, its constitution and laws and its impact on U.S. present form of government, laws and jurisprudence

Keywords: JEL codes: K1, K15, Roman Republic, Democracy, Roman Law, Roman Constitution, U.S. Constitution, checks and balance, vetoes, separation powers, term limits, regular elections, republic, democracy, Senate, counsels, assemblies.