# Definitions from Merriam Webster Online

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

Do **not** just read these definitions of republic and democracy. Read what Mr. Madison says about the democracy and the republic (and factions at the founding of this country).

## ublic

country that is governed by elected representatives and by an elected leader (such as a president) rather than by a king or queen

a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law

## Examples of *REPUBLIC*

<when asked by a passerby what sort of government the constitutional convention had formulated for the new nation, Benjamin Franklin memorably replied, “A *republic*, if you can keep it”>

## Democracy

a. government by the people; *especially* **:**  rule of the majority

*b* **:**  a government in which the supreme power is [vested](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vest%5B1%5D) in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free [elections](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/election)