

Fact	Causative Connection
1. In the beginning, Athens had a monarchy.	
	But this meant only one family, the Medontidae, controlled all the power. The other aristocratic families, called the Eupatrids, wanted a share of power too.
2. The Eupatrids made Athens into an aristocracy.	(The Eupatrids limited the term of the kings to ten, and then only one year, and made the kingship elective among all Eupatrids. This made Athens...)
	In this aristocracy if commoners did not have enough food, they could end up as “debt slaves” if they borrowed from aristocrats and could not pay them back. The commoners threatened to rebel against this harsh arrangement, so the aristocrats appointed a reformer named Solon to change the laws.
3. Solon ended debt slavery c.594 BC.	
	<i>..., but he did not redistribute land from the aristocrats to the commoners who needed it. Because the commoners still did not have enough land to feed themselves, they turned to a tyrannos who promised them more land.</i>
4. Peisistratus became tyrannos of Athens.	
	<i>When aristocrats were angered by the redistribution, they were banished from Athens. They bribed the Oracle of Delphi to obtain Spartan help to retake the city.</i>
5. The aristocrats came back to power with the help of Sparta.	
	Had they enacted a typical aristocracy, Athens would have made no progress. It would have been stuck in cycles between aristocracy and tyranny. To solve this problem...
6. Cleisthenes convinced the aristocrats to share power, and he invented democracy, c. 508 BC.	