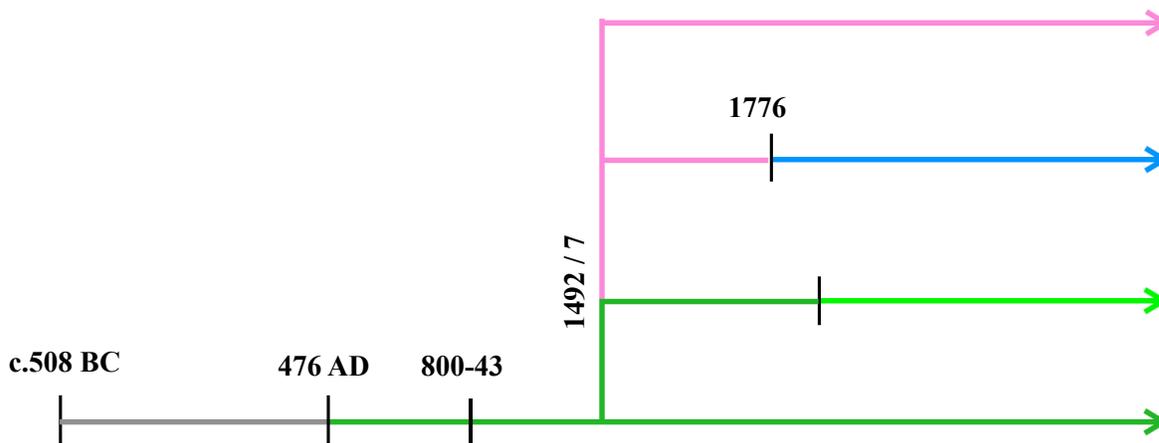


E. The Roots of Modern Democracy

1. Like America and Europe, the Anglosphere and the Ibersphere are mostly free countries. How did they come to be this way, if Europe was ruled by kings and queens like Charlemagne?
2. The short answer is: in **1776**, the United States started the modern story of freedom, and then the idea spread from there.
3. The full answer, however, is that the idea of freedom goes back to ancient Greece and Rome.
4. It is the ancient city of Athens in Greece where *democracy* was invented. Instead of having a king make all the laws, the people voted to decide what they would be. This way of organizing a government was created by a man named Cleisthenes **c.508 BC**.
5. Neighboring Rome passed on the idea that voting to make the laws is not enough to protect people's rights. The Romans had a *constitution* that prevented the people that voted from abusing their power.
6. Including the ancient roots on our timeline is the way to make sure we connect modern history to the complete background story.



F. Mexico and the Bolivarian Ibersphere

1. Following the discovery of the Americas by Columbus the main goal of European countries was to get *around* America. They wanted to get to Asia!
2. When it was learned that Mexico had a lot of gold, Spanish adventurers known as “conquistadors” set out to conquer the land and make themselves rich.
3. The Aztec empire of Mexico was conquered by the conquistador Hernan Cortes by recruiting other native tribes that hated the Aztecs and by using advanced weapons and armor that the Aztecs didn't have.

4. After that, the Iberosphere became a copy of Europe, with military rulers owning the land, and poor peasants and slaves working it for them.
5. The Iberosphere did become independent from Iberia when Napoleon made his empire in Europe, because Spain and Portugal were especially weak at that point.
6. In Mexico, the military commander who led the charge for independence and took over the government was Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. In Venezuela, it was a general called Simon Bolivar. In Brazil, it was Prince Pedro I.
7. What these leaders wanted is “Bolivarianismo,” which, of course, is named after Simon Bolivar. The motto of the Bolivarian Iberosphere that they made is “Independence or death!”
8. What this motto shows is that, unlike the American Revolution, where the motto was “Give me *liberty*, or give me death!” the **Iberian-American Wars of Independence (1808-33)** were missing the ingredient of *liberty* as the reason for independence.
9. After becoming independent, Mexico and the United States fought a war for control of Texas, and in that war, the United States took over all the land from Texas to California.
10. Mexico continued to lag behind America in terms of freedom and success after that war, because the country never really had a revolution until the **Mexican Revolution (1910-20)** finally began the story of Mexican democracy.
11. Mexico, like the rest of Iberosphere, was so focused on its independence from the rest of the world, that it played only a very minor role in the world wars.
12. Unfortunately, in modern times *Bolivarianismo* includes the idea avoiding becoming too connected to America—the world police power. Even so, America and the Iberosphere are managing to get closer as time goes by.
13. Here’s how we can add the **Iberian-American Wars of Independence (1808-33)** and **Bolivarianismo** to our timeline:

