

ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑ

THE CONSTITUTION OF GREECE



ΒΟΥΛΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ

WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTION?

- The Constitution is the **supreme law of the State**, in two senses: first, in essence, because it **includes the basic rules of political controversy and social coexistence** .
- Second, it **is the supreme law because it cannot be amended (changed) like the common laws.**

As a rule, in order to change the Constitution increased majorities in Parliament are needed, which, in addition, must vote in favor of the changes proposed **in two consecutive Parliaments.**

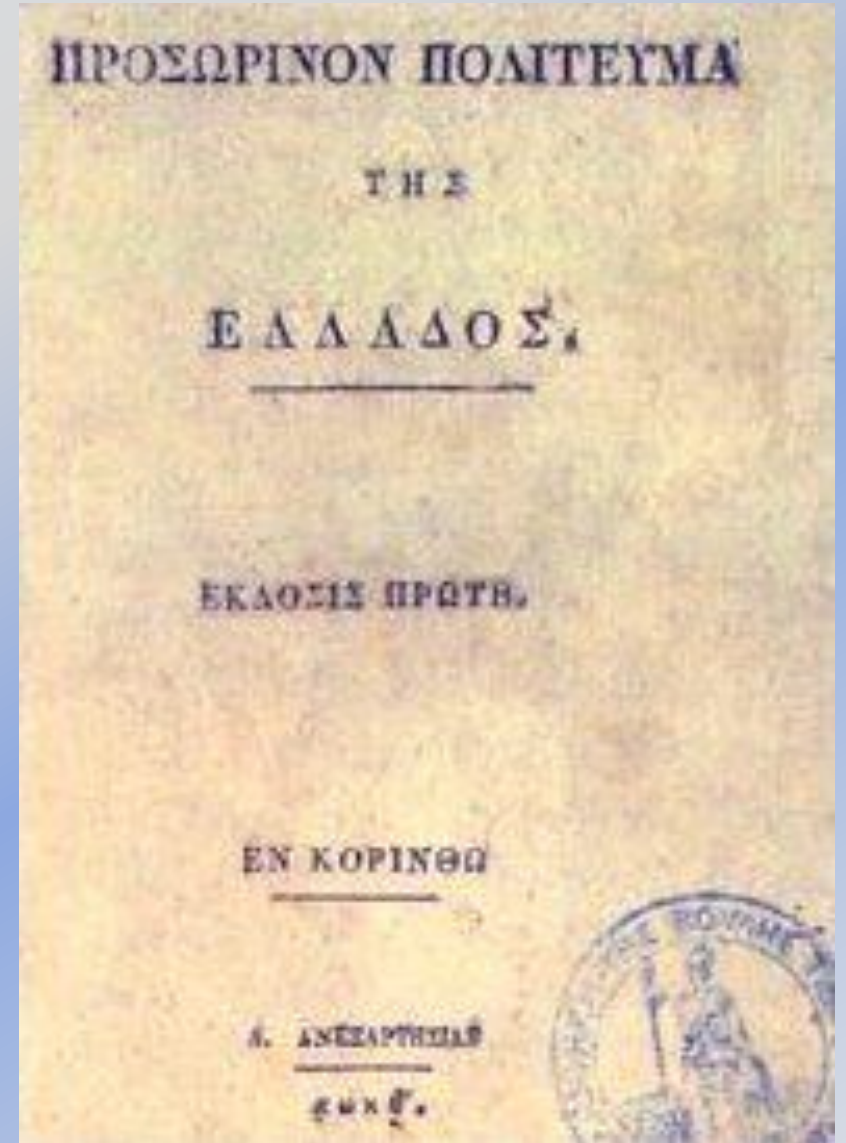
WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTION?

Constitutions are usually written and contain around 100 articles, usually worded in a very simple and impersonal way. The vast majority of modern states have such Constitutions. However, **there are countries that have unwritten (customary) Constitutions**, which, nevertheless, are strictly observed. The most famous of these countries are Great Britain and Israel.

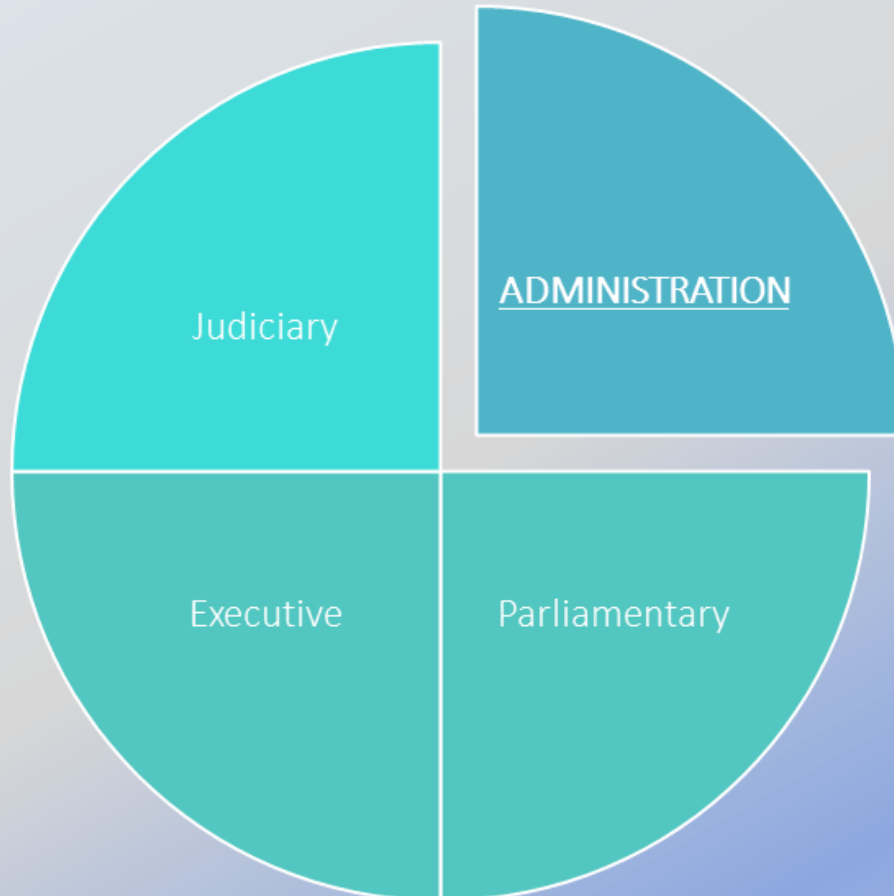
"Provisional Government of Greece"

The first major moment in the political history of modern Greece was the adoption of the first Greek constitution by the First National Assembly of Epidaurus, in January 1822. Even before having formed an independent state the Greek fighters for freedom from the ottoman empire created a temporary Constitution, the "Provisional Government of Greece", which included 110 short paragraphs divided into divisions "and which established the principle of representation and the principle of the separation of powers.

The "Administration" of the rebelling Greeks consisted of two bodies the "Parliament" and the "Executive"



The first major moment in the political history of modern Greece was the voting of the first Greek by the First National Assembly of Epidaurus, in January 1822.



**The Constitution of Epidaurus was submitted, in April 1823,
by the Second National Assembly.**



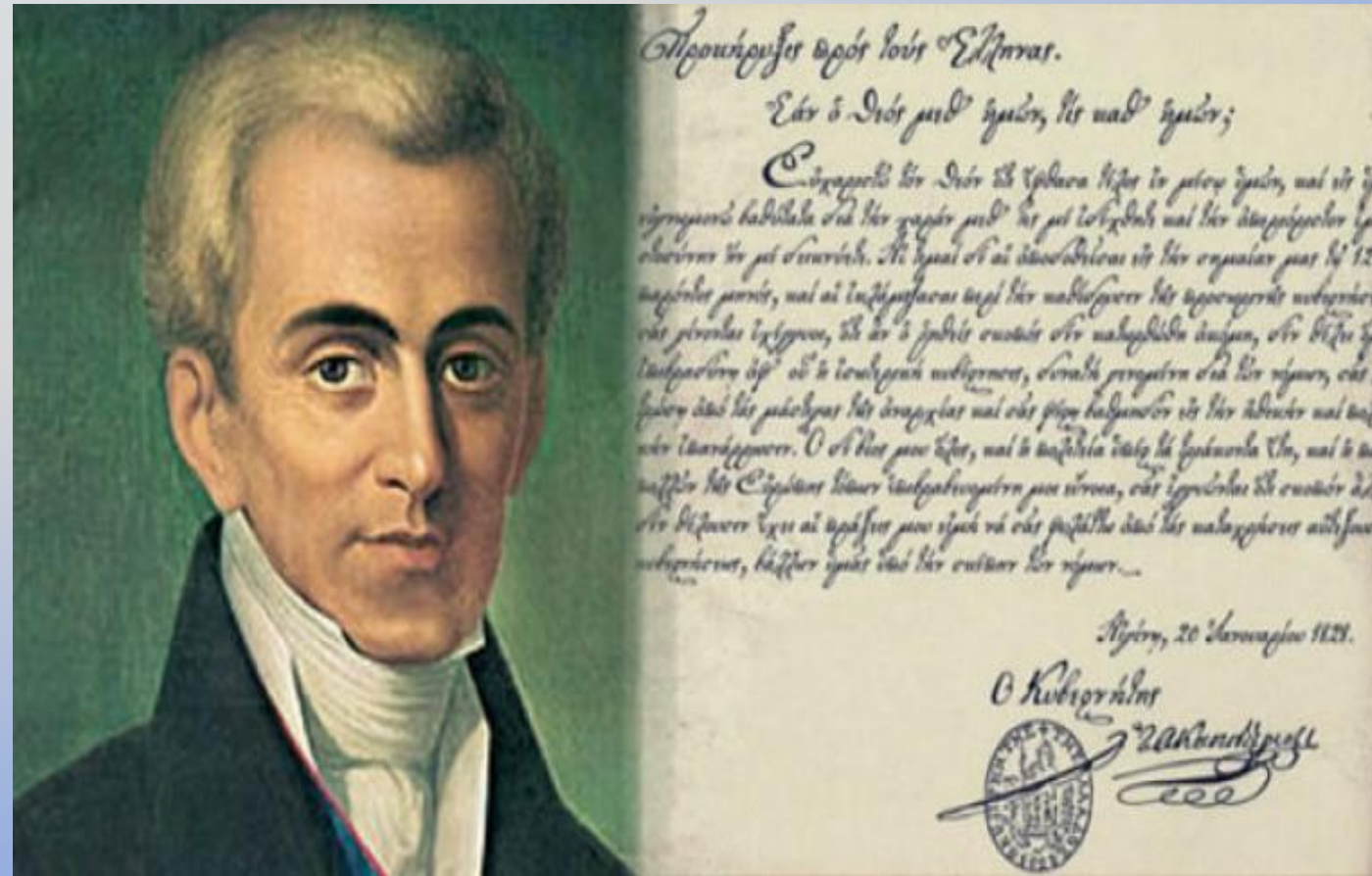
**The new Constitution, was
a simple revision of the
previous one, and was
called the "Law of
Epidaurus".**

**It introduced technical
improvements and it
established a slight
superiority of the
legislative body over
the executive.**

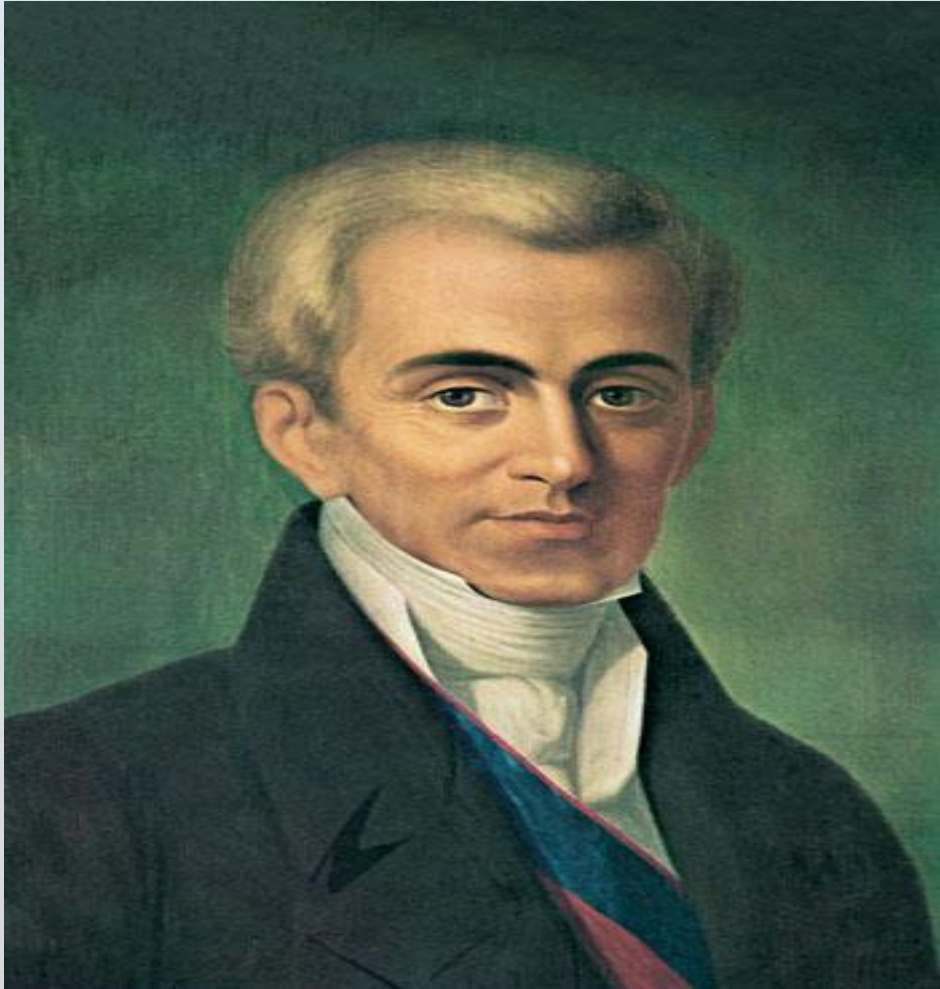
**By introducing
provisions for
individual rights it
became more
democratic.**

"Political Constitution of Greece"

The most important of the Constitutions of the Revolution was voted in Troizina in May 1827 by the National Assembly, which had already decided that "the legislative authority should be handed over to only one". It therefore, elected Ioannis Kapodistrias "Governor of Greece" for seven years and voted the "Political Constitution of Greece" which **remained in history as the most liberal and democratic constitution of its time.**



The Governor Ioannis Kapodistrias (1828-1832)



Kapodistrias, however, realizing that disorder and disagreement made the administration of government difficult, proposed the suspension of the operation of the Parliament and the Constitution in January 1828. His proposal was accepted by the parliament.

The Parliament, was replaced by the "Panhellenic" and later the Senate which played the role of advisory bodies, helping "with the Government of Greece".

Essentially, of course **Kapodistrias himself ruled having concentrated in his hands all the power.**

However, his effort to create a state from scratch and liberate much of the country should not be overlooked.

The "Hegemonic" constitution



After the assassination of I. Kapodistrias and the turbulent period that followed, the self-proclaimed "Fifth National Assembly of the Greeks" voted, in 1832, a new "Constitution", appointing at the same time Augustine Kapodistrias brother of the murdered I. Kapodistrias as ruler.

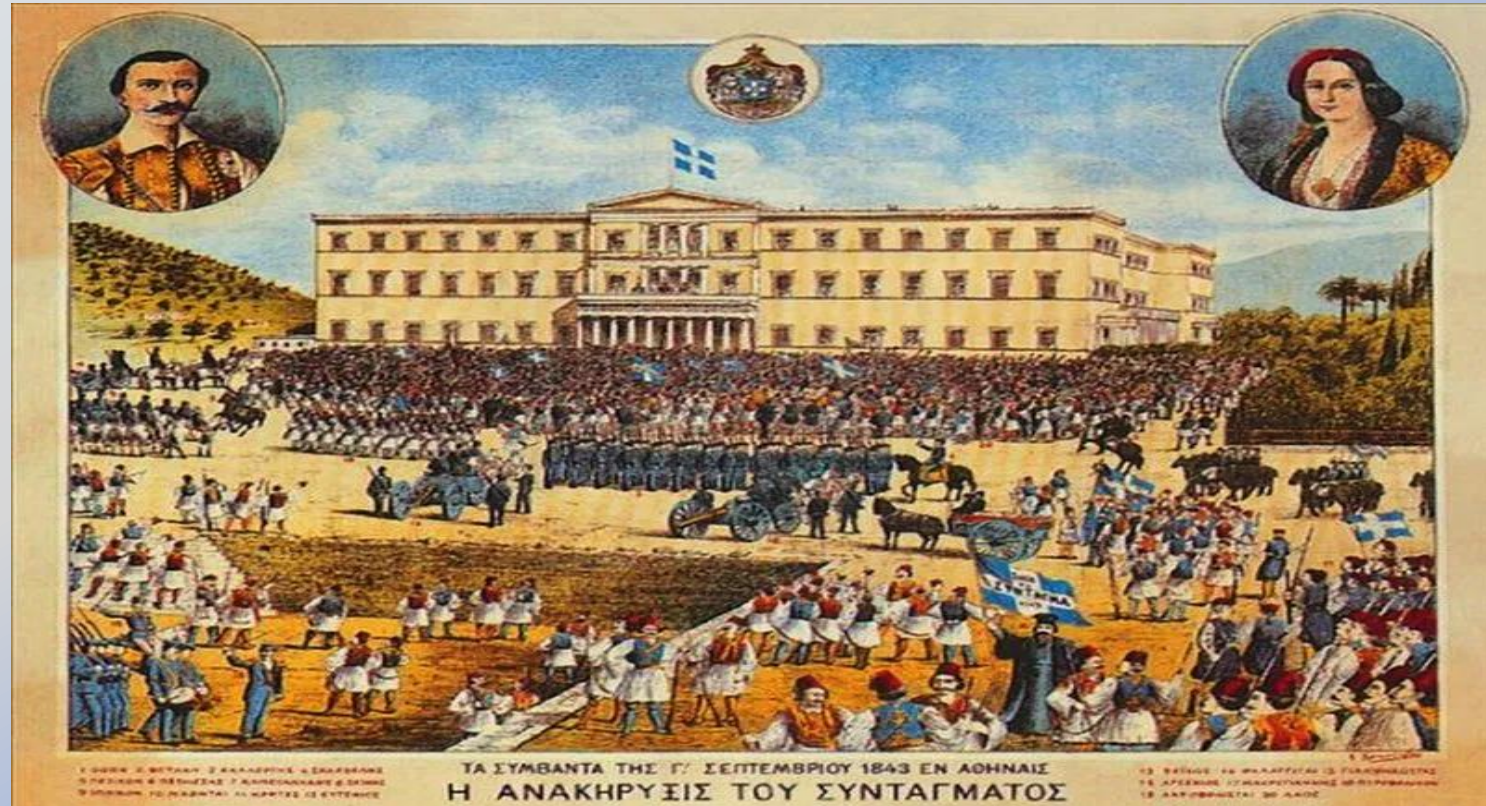
This "Constitution", which strongly reminded the American one was never applied.

It was called "Hegemonic" because it introduced the idea of a hereditary head of state, the Hegemon or Liege lord.

The absolute monarchy of 1832-1843

The first Constitution of the independent Greek state.

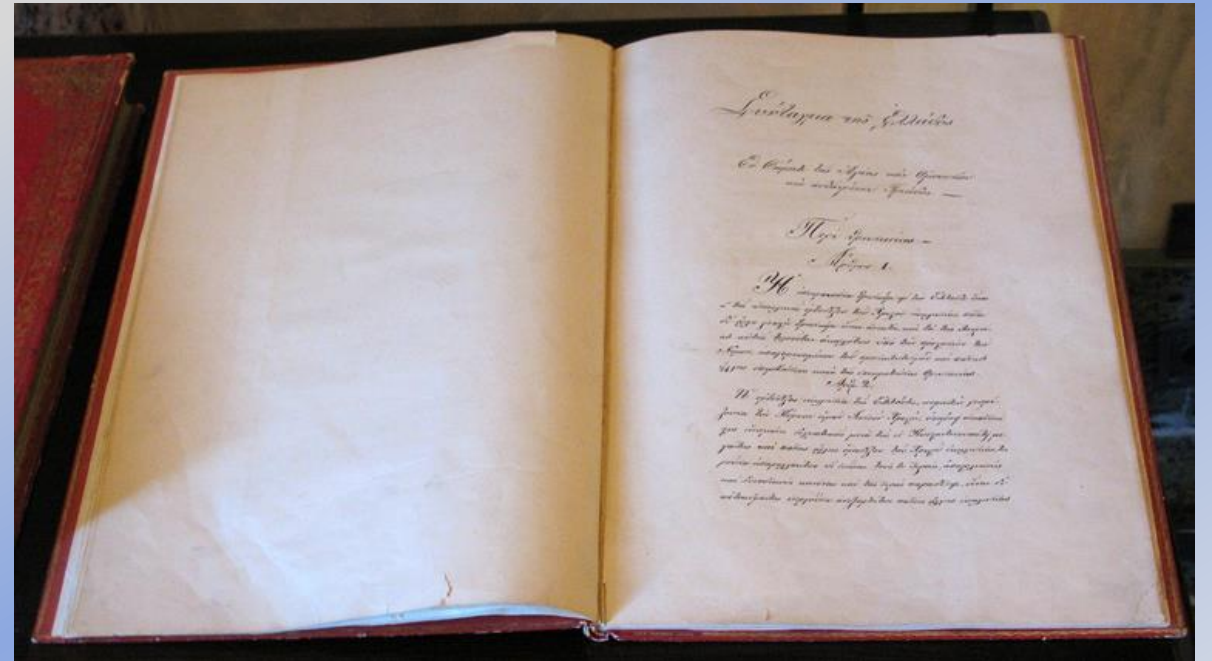
- The period of absolute monarchy by Otto the 1st followed.
- Otto accustomed to the absolute monarchies of Europe of his time showed contempt to the liberal Greek temperament. By ignoring the fact that the social conditions of the country did not provide permanent and serious foundations for an authoritarian regime, he led with his actions, to a popular uprising, on September 3, 1843 in front of his palace.



- The uprising of the Athens guard led by the Colonel D. Kallergis was joined by the entire population of Athens. They demanded a Constitution, a «Σύνταγμα» which is, to this day, the name of the square in front of the same building, the now Greek Parliament.
- After the revolution a National Assembly was convened , which voted the following year a Constitution which was the first Constitution of the independent, since 1830, Greek state.



THE REVOLUTION 1843



THE NEW CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of 1844



The Constitution of 1844 was not the work of a sovereign national constituent assembly, but the Assembly merely co-authored it.

For this reason it was characterized as "Constitution-contract", "Constitution-treaty" or finally, "Constitution-foreign exchange".

It established the hereditary constitutional monarchy, with the monarch as the sovereign body of the State, in which extensive and essential powers were recognized.

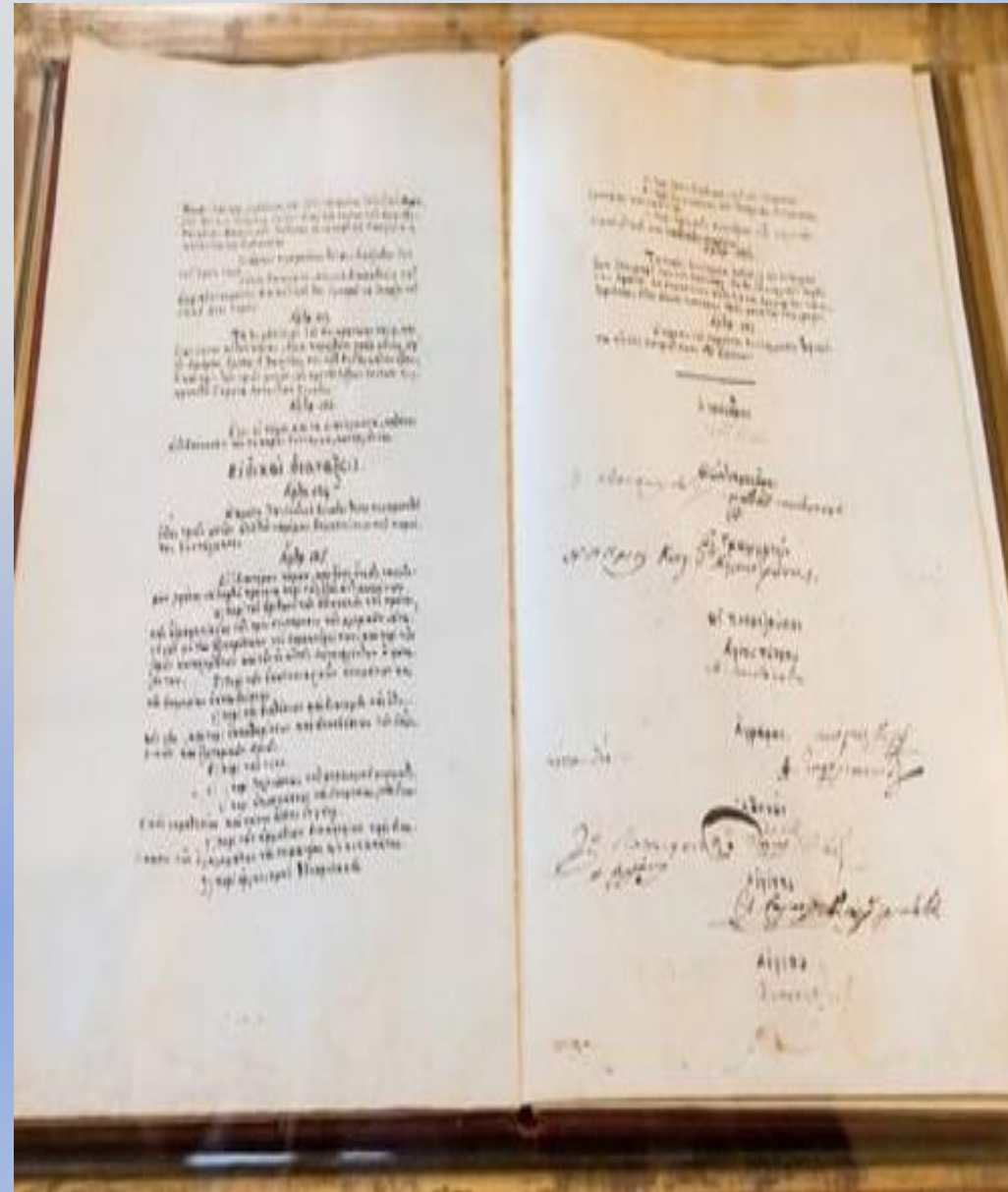
The monarch, the "supreme lord" was characterized as sacred and inviolable.

The monarch exercised supreme authority. He practiced executive power "through his ministers", Legislation was exercised jointly by the elected Parliament and the appointed (by the monarch) Senate.

Finally, judicial authority, was exercised by the monarch, "through the courts".

The Constitution of 1864

- The Constitution of 1864, a product of the "in Athens National Assembly of the Greeks" that followed the popular uprising, included 110 articles, was influenced by the constitutions of Belgium (1831) and Denmark (1849) and was to enter into force (with the revisions of 1911 and 1952) for more than a hundred years. The most important feature of the new charter of the country was that it restored the principle of popular sovereignty of the Constitution of Troizina of 1827 and was governed by the democratic and not the monarchical principle, ie **the nation was now recognized, the Greek people, and not the monarch, as source and body of state power.**



The proclamation of the non-reigning democracy

With the contribution of Alexandros Papanastasiou, the Athens Constituent Assembly **abolished**, at the meeting of March 25, 1924, the royal institution and **proclaimed the non-reigning democracy.**(democracy with no king)



The Constitution of 1927

According to this, the institution of the elected supreme ruler was provided, who was elected by the two most legislative bodies, the Parliament and the Senate, for a five-year term. The supreme ruler, the President of the Republic, was politically irresponsible, did not participate in the legislative function, could dissolve the Parliament only with the consent of the Senate and had the right to issue temporary legislative decrees. Furthermore, the institution of the optional constitutional referendum was introduced, social rights such as the protection of science, art, etc. were introduced for the first time, the protection of local self-government was introduced.



The Constitution of 1952

Its main innovations was the explicit establishment of Parliament Democracy in a regime of reigning democracy and the securing, for the first time, of Greek women the right to vote and submit a candidacy for the parliamentary office.

At the same time, he was conservative about individual rights, education, and the press.



The seven-year military dictatorship of April 21 (1967-1974)

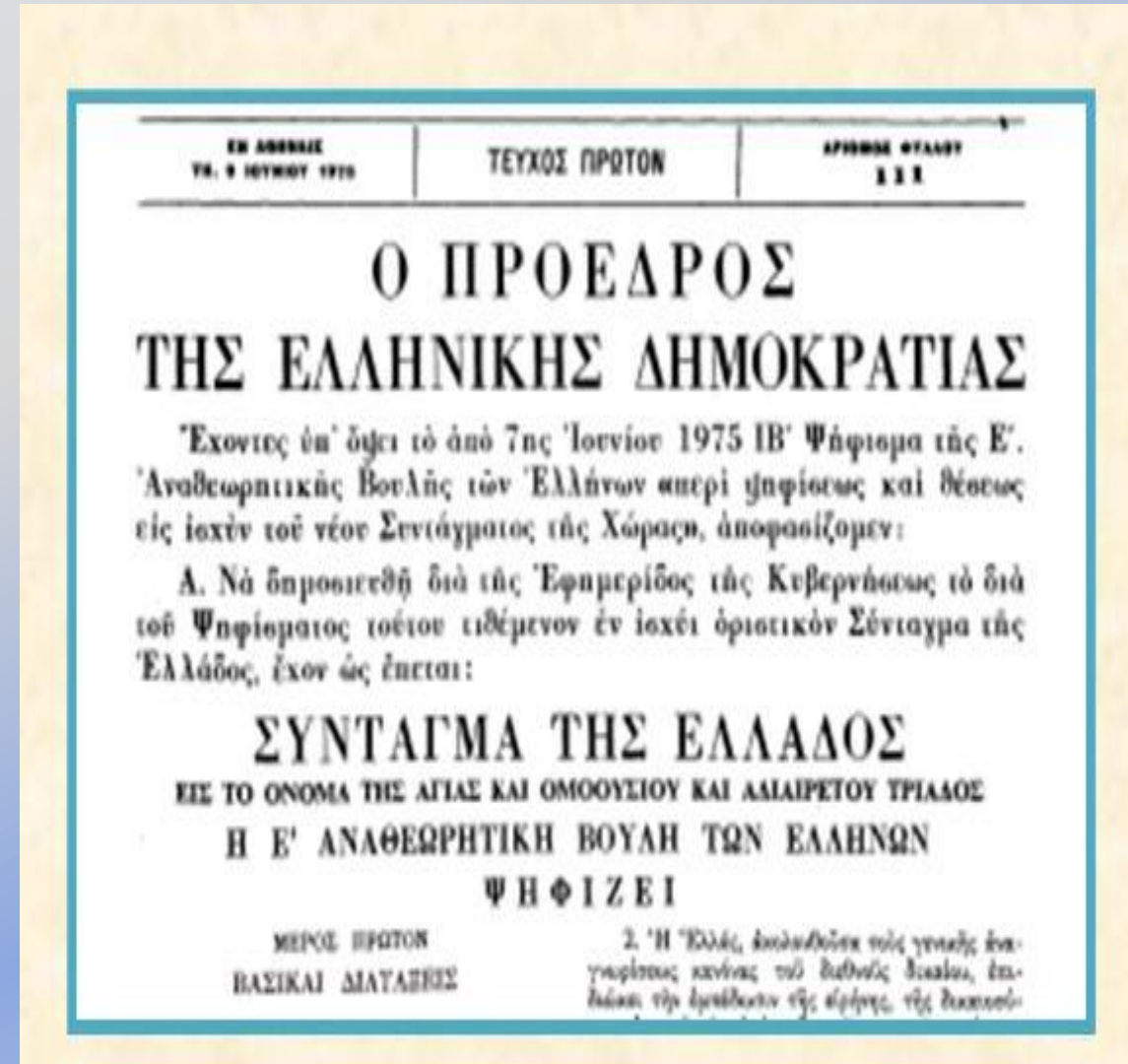




The seven year military dictatorship of 21 April (1967-1974) passed two constitutional texts in 1968 and 1973 which had antidemocratic characteristics. They were of an extremely conservative mentality and were not implemented.

The Constitution of 1975

With the restoration of democratic legitimacy in July 1974, the Government of National Unity set as its first goal the consolidation of the Republic and partially restored the Constitution of 1952, with the exception of the provisions concerning the king. The first free parliamentary elections (November 17, 1974) and the referendum on the form of government (December 8, 1974), which was in favor of the government of the reigning democracy, were followed by the 1975 Constitution.



The first revision of the
1975 Constitution (1986)

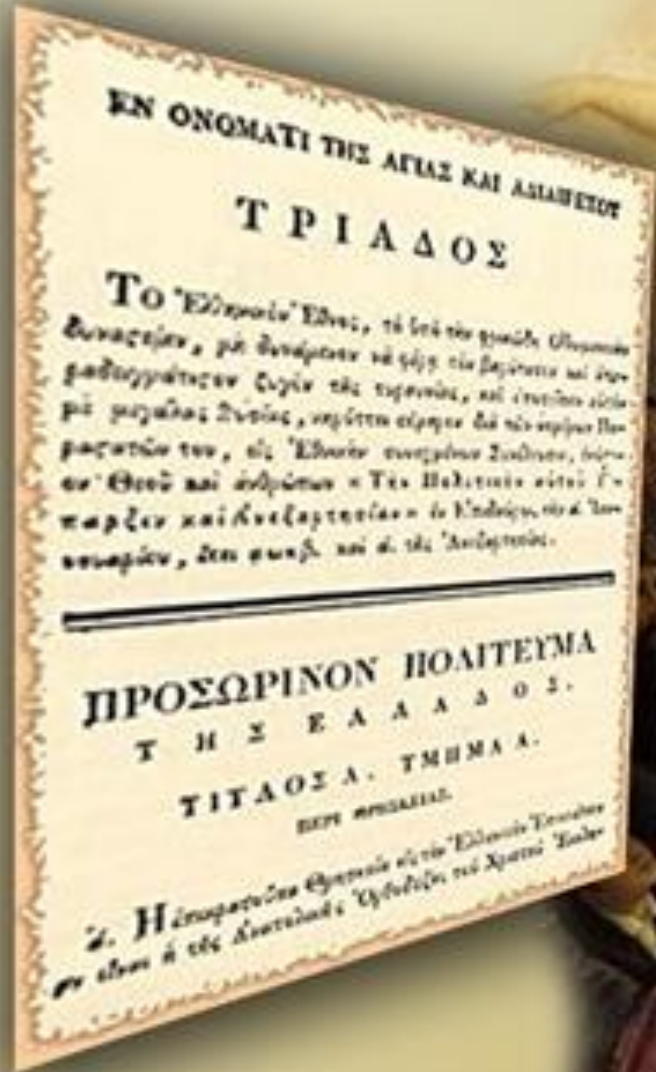
ensured parliamentary
stability and a smooth political
life in the country.

**THE SECOND REVISION OF THE
1975 CONSTITUTION**

introduced new civil rights (such as the
protection of genetic identity or the protection
of electronic processing of personal data)

**THE THIRD AND FOURTH
REVISION OF THE 1975
CONSTITUTION IN (2008)
AND (2019)**

It is the current constitution could be
characterized as a constitution with
political and historical legitimacy and it is
providing a complete institutional
framework for Greece in the 21st century.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION