

ANACYCLOSIS

ONE WORD TO RULE THEM ALL

RULE BY THE STRONGEST

When scarcity prevails and humanity struggles to survive, people submit to the power of the strongest man.

RULE BY KINGS

When the state attains security and stability, rulers derive authority from the approbation and loyalty of their subjects.

RULE BY TYRANTS

When kings or usurpers abuse the people and violate custom, kingship degenerates into an oppressive tyranny.

RULE BY THE NOBILITY

When the state's leading men curtail tyranny and restore law and custom, tyranny is subdued by the aristocracy.

RULE BY THE WEALTHY

When the leading dynasties oppress their own citizens, aristocracy becomes an oppressive oligarchy or plutocracy.

The history of most states is confined to the events described above this line. Most states in history have not advanced below this line because most states have not developed an independent middle class.

RULE BY THE MIDDLE CLASS

When a middle class obtains political rights for its military or fiscal contributions, alongside oligarchy emerges democracy.

PLUTOCRACY STRIKES BACK

When the state attains military supremacy, its plutocrats siphon the world's wealth, plundering citizen and foreigner alike.

GAME OF DEMAGOGUES

When the state's middle class collapses, the people rally behind demagogues who denounce plutocrats and foreigners.

RETURN OF THE MONARCH

The demagogue who ends the civil strife returns political society to some form of monarchy, thus completing the cycle.

Democracy is historically rare and when it emerges, it comes in waves, as was seen in Classical Antiquity and in the modern West. Once democracy is entrenched in an autonomous state, the cycle will run its full course.

