School year

2022-2023

Name:	
Course:	6th Grade
Date:	

SOCIAL STUDIES

HOMEWORK # 2

1.- Read the following extract about Oligarchy.

Oligarchy

It is a form of government in which a small group of people hold most or all political power. Broadly speaking, an oligarchy is a form of government characterized by the rule of a few persons or families. More specifically, the term was used by Greek philosopher Aristotle in contrast to aristocracy, which was another term to describe rule by a privileged few. However, to Aristotle, an **aristocracy** signified rule by the best members of society, while an oligarchy was characterized by the rule of the few for corrupt and unjust purposes.

Although the term has, generally, fallen out of favor, **oligarchy** is sometimes used to describe a government or society in which rulers are selected from a small class of elites. These elites exercise power on behalf of their class rather than for the greater good. German-born, Italian **sociologist** Robert Michels coined the phrase "iron law of oligarchy," which holds that there is an inevitable tendency of organizations to become less **democratic** and more oligarchic over time.

In modern times, "oligarchy" is a term generally applied to China and Iran. China describes itself as a communist "people's republic," but leadership of the country has been maintained by a select few for several decades. Members of the oligarchy have included those who were part of the Communist Party and the revolution in 1949, as well as those who came into wealth and power since the opening of China to the global market in the 1980s (often descendants of the early revolutionaries). This system has helped the wealthy and powerful maintain their control, while providing relatively little power or freedom to most citizens.

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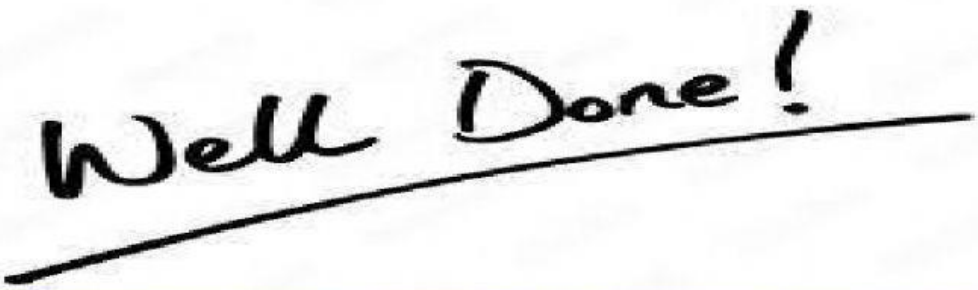
2. choose the correct answer for each question:

- The term oligarchy was used by philosopher ….
  a. Plato
  b. Aristotle
  c. Socrates
- Oligarchy is sometimes used to describe a government or society in which rulers are selected from ….
  a. a small class of elites
  b. a big class of elites
  c. a medium class of elites
- The quote "iron law of oligarchy," is coined to ….
  a. William Shakespeare
  b. Pablo Neruda
  c. Robert Michels

3. Match the following words with their definitions:

Aristocracy	…a professional who studies sociology.
Sociologist	…having to do with a government led by its citizens, who vote for policies and/or representatives
Democratic	…form of government characterized by rule by the few
Oligarchy	…elite group of people based on wealth or social status.



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