

re·pub'lic

re·pub'lic (rē-pūb'lik), *n.* [F. *république*, fr. L. *respublica* commonwealth, fr. *res* thing, affair + *publicus*, *publica*, public. See REAL, *adj.*; PUBLIC.] **1.** Commonwealth; the state. *Obs.*

2. A state in which the sovereign power resides in a certain body of the people (the *electorate*), and is exercised by representatives elected by, and (in theory at least) responsible to, them; a commonwealth; also, the form of government by which such a state is governed.

The term *republic* is used to designate states differing widely in their constitution; as, the ancient Roman *Republic*, which was originally an aristocracy under the control of the patrician class; the *republics* of ancient Greece and of modern Switzerland, democracies with the political power vested in all the citizens (who in the former consisted of a select class, in the latter the whole body of freemen); the medieval Italian *republics*, which were limited oligarchies; the modern *republics* of the United States and France, which are essentially free democracies.

Republic now often specifically implies such a free popular government in which there are no classes having any exclusive political privileges and in which the electorate includes at least the great body of adult inhabitants (universal suffrage in most *republics*) under constitutional restrictions.

re (rē), *n.* [Abl. of L. *res* thing.] In or of the thing or matter; in the matter (of); — commonly used prepositionally for *in* + *e* in business correspondence and in (law); as, *re your* letter of the 3d instant.

re- [F. or L.; F. *re*, *ré*, fr. L. *re*, *red-*.] A prefix denoting: **1.** (*Back*), esp. (*back to an original or former state or position; backwards*); — chiefly in words derived from Latin compounds, as in *recline*, *retrace*, *recede*, *refuge*, *recall*; also, *back from advancing*, as in *retrain*, *reserve*, *residue*.

2. *Again*; — used chiefly to form words, esp. verbs, of action, denoting in general (*repetition*) of the action of the verb, or (*restoration*) to a previous state), as in *rejoin*, to join again; *reiterate*, to iterate again; *renew*, to make new again; *restitution*, *reseat*, *regild*, *recase*, etc.

In certain cases where the second element, chiefly in words taken into English as compounds, as from Latin or French, has the form of, or is, an independent English word and there is an obscuration of the prefix in sense and pronunciation (as in *recover*, to get back; *recoil*, to spring back; *reform*, to amend, correct), independent compounds, or doublets, distinguished by being hyphenated, have been formed by addition of *re-* to English words (as in *re-cover*, to cover again; *re-coil*, to coil again; *re-form*, to form again). The prefix is sometimes doubled, as in *re-recover*. See § 63.

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