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‘Time to Vote! US vs. UK!’

The United Kingdom and the United States are very similar in the way that their government evolved in the department of voting. Both countries have a democratic government. The US has a presidential government and the UK has a parliamentary government. The voting rights of each country are almost indistinguishable. The minimum age to vote is 18 years, both men and women are allowed to vote, and there are no wealth barriers.

The United Kingdom has a similar government to the US but it is a parliamentary type of democratic government. The United States has a presidential government. In a parliamentary government, the political party that has the most seats at the General Election takes charge of the government for five years, until the next general election. The Parliament itself is a part of the legislative branch of government, and they monitor the decisions of the government.

In early nineteenth-century Britain, less than three percent of the population could vote. This only included the wealthiest men of the time. This is much the same to the United States, as only the white, male landowners were allowed to vote. Because of this, the government was pressured into reform, but not through revolution. There were three parliamentary Acts in the 19th century that changed the voting rights of the British population drastically. The first Act took effect in 1832, and it gave men who lived in towns, and had a home of an annual value of

10 pounds, the right to vote. This still excluded six out of seven British men. After the second Act, two out of five Englishmen could vote. This is still a very small percentage of the British population in the nineteenth century. The third Act gave voting rights to all male house owners, rural and urban. This added six million people to the voting ballot in 1884.

The US had a very close type of government change, through the 14th and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution. The 14th Amendment, which took place in 1868, allowed all men who were born in the United States to vote. This excludes all African Americans, Native Americans and women. In 1870, the 15th Amendment gave black men the right to vote, but Native Americans and women are still denied the right.

In early twentieth century US, women were fed up with only men getting to vote. The suffragettes during this time came together and went on strikes, protests and things of the like. This also happened in Britain at about the same time. In 1918, the third Act was extended to allow all men over 21 and most women over 30 to vote. Ten years later, the law was extended again to allow all women over 21 to vote. In the US, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution gave women their right to vote in 1920.

In 1924, Native Americans were finally granted the right to vote, through the Indian Citizenship Act. It wasn't until 1964 that the Civil Rights Act ensured that all people, every race, religion and level of education that were over the age of 21 were allowed to vote. The 26th Amendment lowered the age to 18 in 1971. Britain again did the very same thing in 1969 with an extension of the third Act, which is now called the Representation of the People Act.

In brief, the United States and the United Kingdom have very similar voting rights. Both men and women are allowed to vote, the age minimum is 18 and there are no money barriers.

This is most likely because of their semi-parallel governments, as seen by how each government evolved in almost the same way to the other. This is very interesting because, even though the governments are different in many ways, in the end they made the same decisions when it comes to the voting rights of the population.