

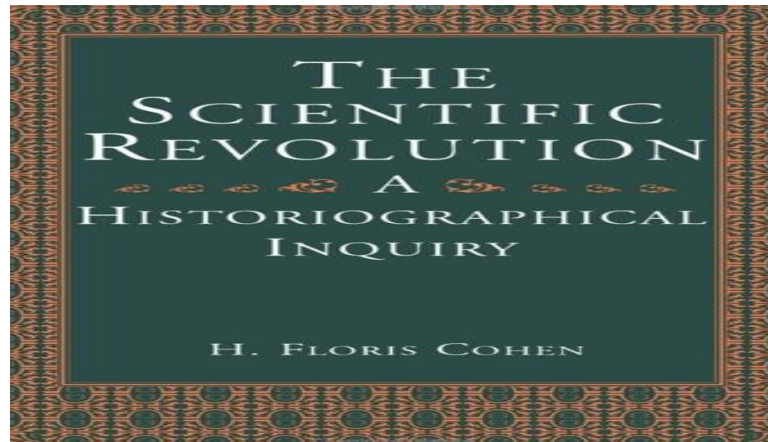
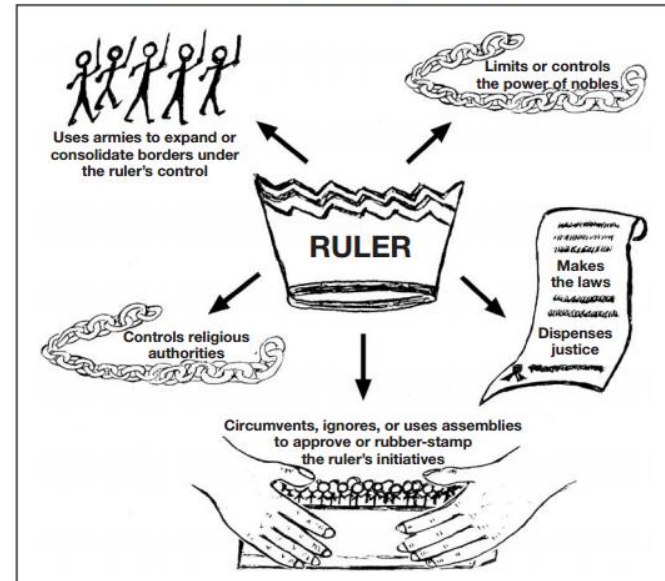
Aim #2: How did the Enlightenment thinkers answer the basic question of the 18th century: How does one make mankind happy, rational and free?



The Background/Historical Context



Some Characteristics of an Autocrat



European Society by 1750

Questions	What are you concerned about in 1750?	What do you hope will happen in the next hundred years?
Monarchs	I'm concerned with maintaining absolute power and gaining more wealth from exploration and colonies, and I'm worried what the people will learn from the Scientific Revolution and Protestant Reformation.	I hope that the people in my country will obey my laws and serve me well.
Catholic Clergy	I'm concerned that the Catholic Church doesn't have as much power as it used to because the Protestant Reformation and Scientific Revolution cast doubt on the church.	I hope that people will come back to the Catholic Church and that we can rise in power again.
Nobles	I'm concerned that merchants are becoming more important than nobles and that landowning will not make me as wealthy as trade. I am also worried that absolute monarchs will prevent me from having more power.	I hope that my monarch will loosen up his grip on power so I can control those who live on the land that I own like I could under Feudalism.
Merchants	I'm concerned that absolute monarchs might try to tax my new wealth.	I hope that exploration to new parts of the world will open up new trade routes and that I'll be able to make money by trading new goods from those places.
Intellectuals	I am concerned about the absolute power that monarchs have and the power that the Catholic Church still has on the freedom of thought.	I hope that I'll be free to read and write about what I want and that I'll be able to use the printing press to spread my ideas.
Peasants	I'm concerned about my position in society. My family and I are poor and we do not have a lot of opportunities.	I hope that my family and I will have a better life in the future and society will be more equal.

Scientific Revolution

- Scientific Revolution
 - Influenced by Renaissance, time period when thinkers began to question old ideas about the natural world
- Scientific Method
 - New approach to science that relied on **experimentation & observation; Natural Laws governed the Universe**
- Individuals of Scientific Revolution
 - Nicolaus Copernicus- proposed Heliocentric theory
 - Rene Descartes- deductive reasoning
 - Francis Bacon- Father of Scientific Method & inductive reasoning
 - Galileo Galilei- proved Heliocentric theory
 - Isaac Newton- Gravity

Can we apply it to anything else?

1. State the Problem



2. Gather Information

7. Repeat the Steps

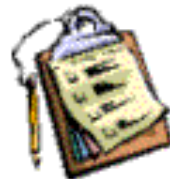


The Scientific Method



3. Form a Hypothesis

6. State a Conclusion



5. Record & Analyze Data



4. Experiment to Test



Contextualize

What historical circumstances led to the Enlightenment?

→ Directions: Read each of the events that contributed to the start of The Enlightenment below, then respond to the accompanying question.

1. Power of Absolute Monarchs

Some Characteristics of an Autocrat



Source: NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, June, 2012.

In the 1500s, 1600s and 1700s, some monarchs in Europe became very wealthy. As a result, they were able to pay for large and powerful armies and expand their land and power. These kings and queens are known as **Absolute Monarchs**. Most of the countries in Europe were ruled by absolute monarchs in the 17th and 18th centuries. **Louis XIV of France** and **Peter the Great of Russia** were examples of absolute monarchs.

Many absolute monarchs consolidated and maintained their power by punishing those who opposed them and questioned their right to rule.

1. How might the power of absolute monarchs have contributed to the start of the Enlightenment?

2. Protestant Reformation and Scientific Revolution Influence



Martin Luther



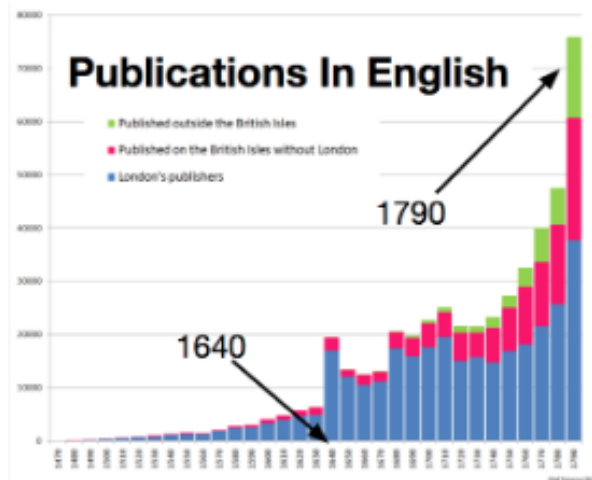
Isaac Newton

Martin Luther's actions in the Protestant Reformation challenged the Catholic Church's hold on power by translating the Bible into common languages and encouraging people to read it for themselves instead of having priests translate it for them.

Isaac Newton and other scientists used observation and reason to explain the true nature of the world which often proved the Catholic Church's claims wrong.

2. How might the influence of the Protestant Reformation and the Scientific Revolution have contributed to the start of the Enlightenment?

3. Increased Book Production and Literacy



Source: English Short Title Catalogue title count, numbers of titles per decade 1477-1799. See Olaf Simons, *The English market of books: title statistics and a comparison with German data*, at *Critical Threads* (2013) for data and details.

Johannes Gutenberg invented his printing press around 1440. That invention made it easier and less expensive to produce books. It was very important in spreading Martin Luther's ideas during the Protestant Reformation.

During the Enlightenment, book production increased even more and literacy rates, the percentage of people who are able to read, also increased.

3. How might increased book production and literacy have contributed to the start of the Enlightenment?

4. Urbanization, Salons, and Coffeehouses



The picture shows a gathering of Enlightenment thinkers in the salon of French hostess Marie-Thérèse Rodet Geoffrin (1699-1777) for a reading of one of Voltaire's writings. Voltaire was in exile in England so he is represented by the statue in the center-left of the painting.

Source: Anicet-Charles-Gabriel Lemonnier, 1812.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Salon_de_Madame_Geoffrin.jpg

During the 1700s, the process of urbanization (people moving to cities and the growth of those cities) increased in Europe. As more people moved to cities they found places to socialize and discuss ideas.

Coffee was a newly popular drink in Europe and intellectuals from the upper and middle classes like the *philosophes* came to coffee houses to drink it and discuss politics and religion.

Upper class philosophers also exchanged ideas in salons, gatherings, usually at someone's home where the guests came to listen to readings and discuss a specific topic.

4. How might urbanization, salons, and coffeehouse have contributed to the start of the Enlightenment?

Enlightenment- Age of Reason

'Dare to know! Have courage to use your own reason!'- Immanuel Kant



Enlightenment- Age of Reason

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0ZV-lhHd1A>

What was the Enlightenment?

In Europe, in the mid-1600s to late 1700s scholars inspired by the Scientific Revolution started to ask questions like, “What is the purpose of government?,” “What is the best way for a government to rule its people?,” and “Are people born with rights? If so, should they be protected by a government?” The philosophers writing about these questions were part of the Enlightenment.

The Enlightenment

a period of time (mid-1600s to the late 1700s) in Western Europe when philosophers and writers applied the scientific idea of reason to answer political questions. The Enlightenment is sometimes known as the Age of Reason.

The writers who took part in the Enlightenment are called Enlightenment Thinkers, sometimes known as philosophes, the French word for philosophers. Just as scientists challenged the claims of the Catholic Church, Enlightenment Thinkers often challenged the claims of absolute monarchs. We study them because of the actions that their ideas inspired later in history.

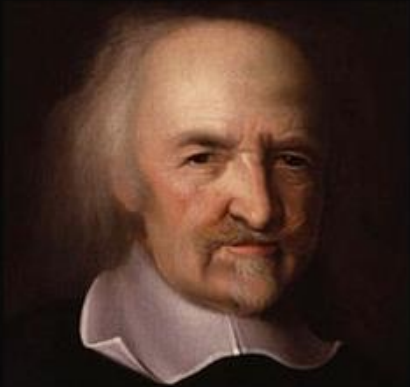
THIS CHART IS IN YOUR TEXTBOOK

KEY ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS

QUICK
FACTS

- The ability to reason is what makes humans unique.
- Reason can be used to solve problems and improve people's lives.
- Reason can free people from ignorance, superstition, and unfair government.
- The natural world is governed by laws that can be discovered through reason.
- Like the natural world, human behavior is governed by natural laws.
- Governments should reflect natural laws and encourage education and debate.

Enlightenment Thinkers: Thomas Hobbes



No arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.

(Thomas Hobbes)

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Enlightenment Thinkers: John Locke



The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.

(John Locke)

JOHN LOCKE

"Man being . . . by nature all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this estate and subjected to the political power of another without his own consent"

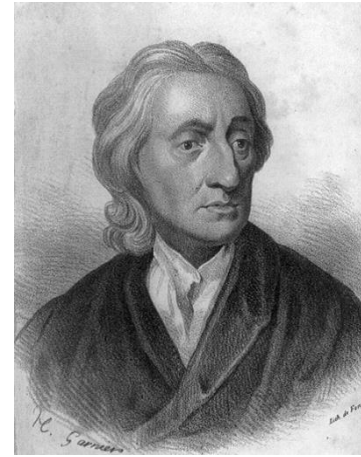
"All men have certain rights: the right to life. liberty and property"

"The purpose of government exist to serve the people, and when it no longer does so, the people may set up a new government"

What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about the best government?

[Video Biography from CloudBiography](#)

John Locke (1632-1704)



Historical Context

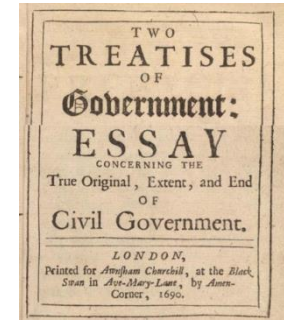
John Locke was an English philosopher and writer. He lived through the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution in England both of which heavily influenced his ideas and he lived for a time in France during the reign of Louis XIV.

Locke was a religious Protestant Christian and believed in freedom of religion. Combining his Christian beliefs with reason and the examination of evidence that scientists used, he wrote about the government, its purpose, and the best way to govern.

His most popular and influential book was *Two Treatises of Government*. A treatise is a written work dealing with a specific subject. The book explains Locke's view on the purpose of government and the natural rights of people. It influenced Thomas Jefferson's writing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

- Government should protect people's **Natural Rights (life, liberty, and property)**
- Government should be based on the **Consent of the Governed**. This means that the people (the governed) should give their permission (consent) to the government, usually through voting.

Excerpts from *Two Treatises of Government* 1690 by John Locke



If man in the **state of nature** is free, if he is absolute lord of his own person and possessions [things that he owns], why will he give up his freedom? Why will he put himself under the control of any person or **institution** [an organization created for a religious, educational, social, or political purpose]? The obvious answer is that rights in the state of nature are constantly exposed to the attack of others. Since every man is equal and since most men do not concern themselves with **equity** and **justice**, the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure. Hence each man joins in society with others to preserve his **life, liberty, and property**.

...as far as we have any light from history, we have reason to conclude, that all peaceful beginnings of government have been laid in the **consent** [permission] of the people.

[When] the **legislature** shall . . . grasp [for] themselves, or put into the hands of any other, an absolute power over their lives, liberties, and estates of the people, . . . they forfeit [give up] the power the people had put into their hands for quite contrary [opposite] ends, and it [passes] to the people, who have a right to resume their original liberty. . . .

1. What do you think Locke means by “state of nature?”
2. According to John Locke, why would a person “put himself under the control of any person or institution,” like a government?
3. What does Locke mean when he says, “the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure?” Can you think of an example of this?
4. What are the three natural rights that Locke lists at the end of this excerpt?
5. According to Locke, what have “all peaceful beginnings of government” had in common? Why do you think that might lead to a more peaceful government?
6. According to Locke, when does a legislature, or government, lose its right to rule?

Enlightenment Thinkers: John Jacques Rousseau



Man is born free and
everywhere he is in chains.

~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau

replace or
overthrow it

protect their
rights

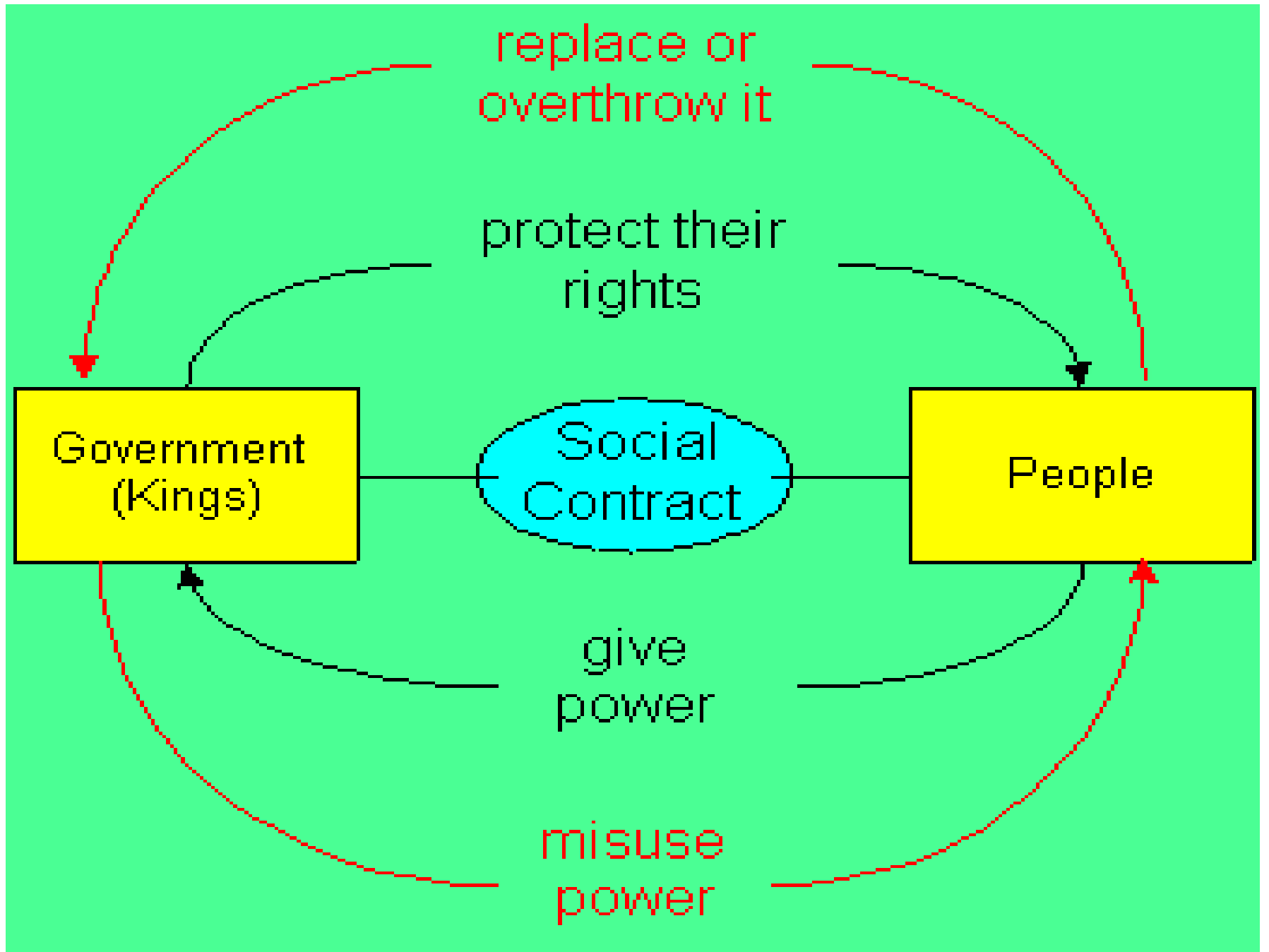
Government
(Kings)

Social
Contract

People

give
power

misuse
power



Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

[Video Biography from CloudBiography](#)

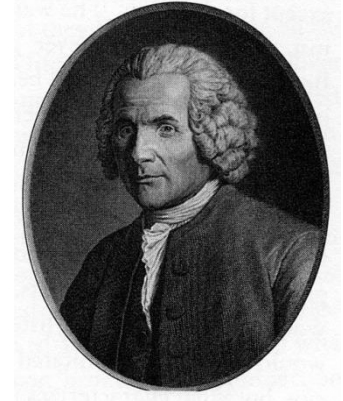
Historical Context

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was born in Geneva, Switzerland. He spent much of his adult life travelling first as a teacher and the secretary of the French ambassador in Venice, Italy. He spent time in Paris where he met and socialized with other Enlightenment philosophers including Voltaire and Diderot. Rousseau returned to Switzerland when his relationships with other Enlightenment Thinkers became strained.

While in Geneva, Switzerland, he wrote his most famous book, ***The Social Contract***. In the book, Rousseau argues that as members of a society we enter an agreement, the social contract, in which we promise to follow the “general will” of the members of the society as expressed by the laws made by the government. In exchange, we receive the liberty to do what we want as long as we do not break those laws.

The Social Contract was banned in France and Switzerland. To avoid arrest for his views, Rousseau moved to England. Eventually he returned to Paris where he lived until his death and continued to write books that were politically controversial.

His writings, which were heavily influenced by John Locke, inspired the leaders of the French Revolution which started shortly after his death.

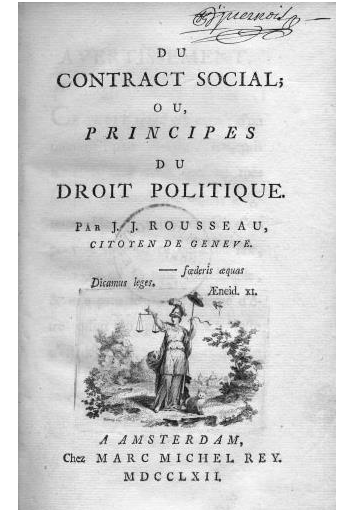


Social Contract Theory

Excerpts from The Social Contract, 1762 by Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I...regard the establishment of the political body as a real **contract** between the people and the chiefs chosen by them: a contract by which both parties bind themselves to observe the laws therein expressed, which form the ties of their union.

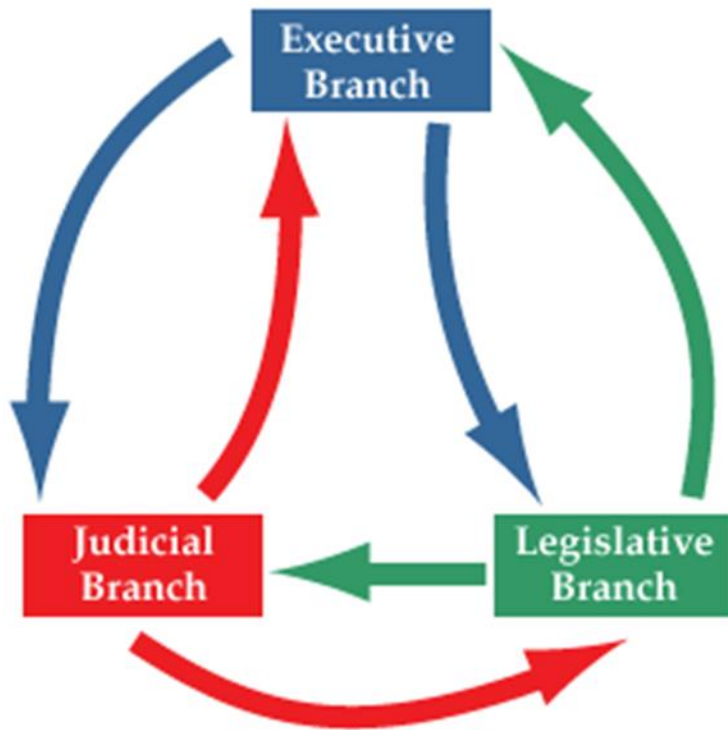
From whatever side we approach our principle [belief], we reach the same conclusion, that the social compact [contract] sets up among the citizens an equality of such a kind, that they all bind themselves to observe the same conditions and should therefore all enjoy the same rights.



1. According to this excerpt from The Social Contract, what do the people and the government agree to as a part of the contract?

2. According to Rousseau, what is one advantage of the social contract?

Enlightenment Thinkers: Baron de Montesquieu



If the legislative and executive authorities are one institution, there will be no freedom. There won't be freedom anyway if the judiciary body is not separated from the legislative and executive authorities

— Montesquieu —



Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)

Historical Context

Charles de Secondat was born to a noble family of modest wealth in France. He inherited the title “Baron de Montesquieu” when his uncle died and is now most commonly referred to by that name. Montesquieu was a lawyer but later devoted his life to political study and writing. He lived during the English Civil War and the reign of Louis XIV, both of which influenced his writing.

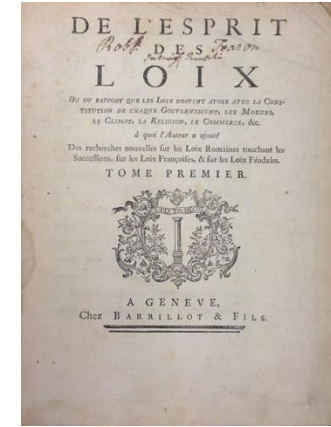
Montesquieu’s most well known book, *De l'Esprit des Lois* (***The Spirit of the Laws***) was critical of absolute monarchy. The kings and queens of Europe and their supporters disagreed with his claims and it was banned by the Catholic Church. It was very popular among opponents of monarchy, especially in England and the British colonies in North America where it heavily influenced the writing of the United States Constitution.



Separation of Powers- there should be **three branches of government-** one that makes laws, one that enforces laws, and one that interprets laws

Excerpts from *The Spirit of Laws*, 1748 by Baron de Montesquieu

Political **liberty** is to be found only in moderate governments; and even in these it is not always found. It is there only when there is no abuse of power: but constant experience shows us that every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go. To prevent this abuse, it is necessary, from the very nature of things, that power should be a check to power...In order to have this liberty, it is requisite [required] the government be so constituted [created] as one man need not be afraid of another. When the **legislative** and **executive** powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates [government employees], there can be no liberty. . . . Again, there is no liberty if the **judiciary** power be not separated from the **legislative** and **executive**...



1. According to Montesquieu, when is “political liberty” found in a government?
2. Explain what Montesquieu means when he writes, “every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go?” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. According to Montesquieu, how can the “abuse” of power be prevented in a government?
4. What three branches of government does Montesquieu say must be separated to have liberty?

Enlightenment Thinkers: Voltaire



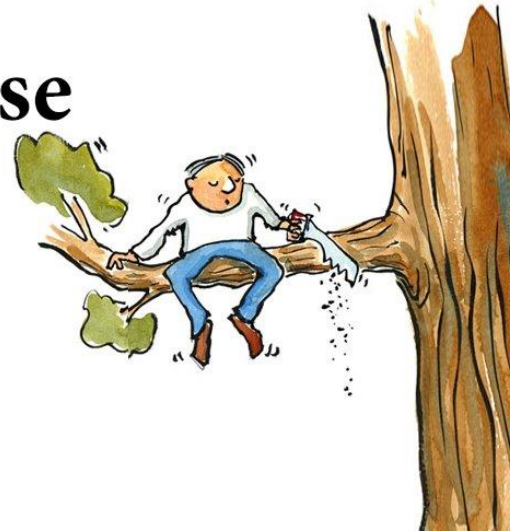
I disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.

(Voltaire)






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**Common sense
is not so
COMMON.**

- *Voltaire*



People of the Enlightenment -1600s & 1700s

Name	From	Wrote	Main Ideas
 Locke	England	Two Treatises on Gov't	-Observation: gov't exists to "preserve life, liberty, & property" -Hypothesis: people should be sovereign (rule) -Hypothesis: monarchs not chosen by God
 Hobbes	England	Leviathan	-Observation: Life without gov't is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, & short." -Hypothesis: Absolute gov't needed to control evil behavior (not divine right)
 Montesquieu	France	The Spirit of Laws	-Observation: "When the legislature & executive are united in the same person, there is no liberty (freedom)" -Hypothesis: Gov't must have " <i>Separation of Powers</i> " -- 3 branches
 Rousseau	France	The Social Contract	-Observation: "man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains." - Hypothesis: Gov't is contract between people & rulers. Gov't must be what people want.
 Voltaire	France		-Observation: Life is better with liberty -Hypothesis: Freedom of speech & religion, separation of church & state -"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. "

Thinker	From	Wrote	Main Ideas	Famous Quotes
 <p>Hobbes</p>	England	<i>Leviathan</i> , 1651	<p>Social Chaos</p> <p>Men are selfish and competitive</p> <p>Life without government is “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short”</p> <p>Give all power to absolute government to control evil behavior</p>	<p>“The right of nature...is the liberty each man hath to use his own power, as he will himself, for the preservation of his own nature; that is to say, of his own life.”</p> <p>“The only way to erect such a common power which may defend them...is to confer all their power and strength upon one man...”</p>
 <p>Locke</p>	England	<i>Two Treatises on Government</i> , 1689	<p>Every man has 3 natural rights: life, liberty, and property</p> <p>Government exists to preserve natural rights</p> <p>People agree to give up some of their rights for the sake of preserving society (social contract) but have the right to rebel</p> <p>Republic is the best form of government</p>	<p>“All mankind...being equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possession.”</p> <p>“Political power is that power which every man...has given up into the hands of society...”</p>
 <p>Montesquieu</p>	France	<i>The Spirit of Laws</i> , 1748	<p>Government must have a separation of powers (3 branches: executive, legislative & judicial) to ensure freedom & liberty</p> <p>Checks & balances</p>	<p>“When the legislature & executive are united in the same person...there can be no liberty...”</p> <p>“Power should be a check to power.”</p>
 <p>Rousseau</p>	France	<i>The Social Contract</i> , 1762	<p>Establishment of government is a social contract between the people and the ruler(s)</p> <p>Invest all rights into society (“general will”)</p> <p>The government must preserve “virtue” and “liberty” or the people will overthrow it</p>	<p>“We, the contracting parties, do jointly and severally submit our persons and abilities to the supreme direction of the general will of all...”</p> <p>“Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.”</p>