

ROOTS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

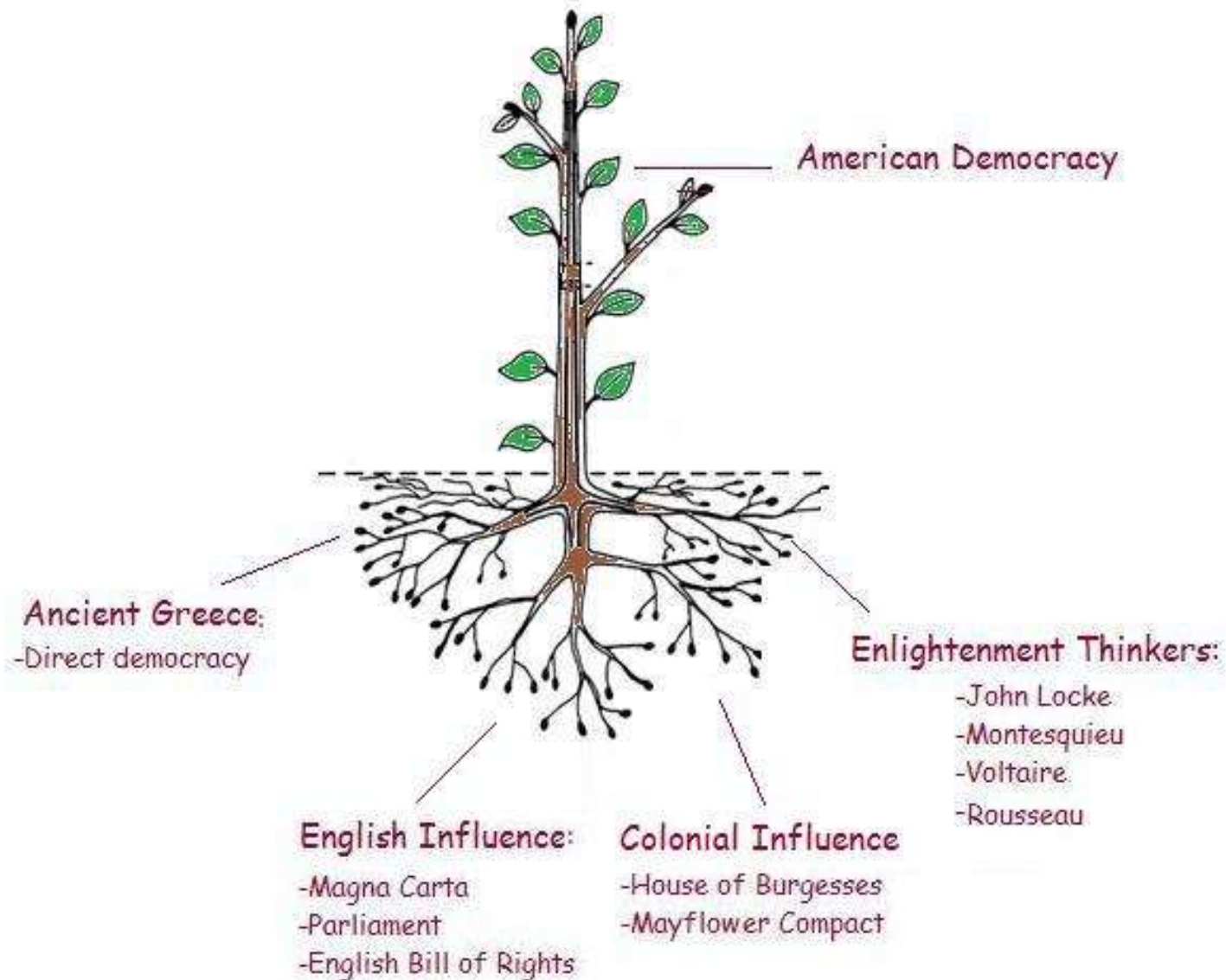
- We will compare and contrast (purposes, sources of power) various forms of government in the world (e.g., **monarchy**, **democracy**, **republic**, **dictatorship**)

- **DOK 3**

Learning



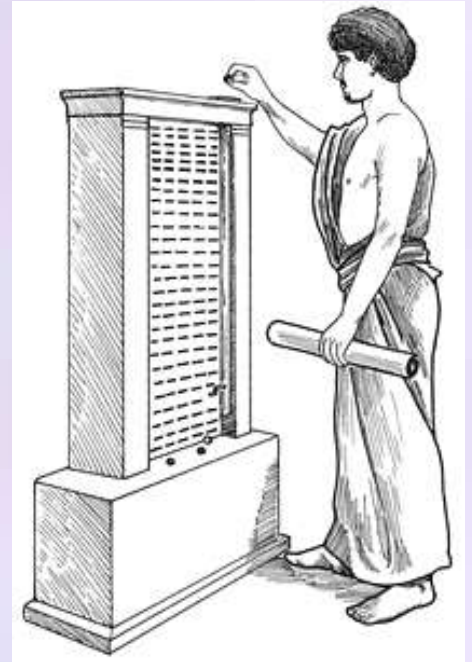
ROOTS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



How did Ancient Greece
influence American
Government?

ANCIENT GREECE

- Athens is considered the "birthplace of democracy."
- The word democracy comes from the Greek word "demos" which means "the people."
- Athens was the world's first direct democracy- a form of government in which *laws are made directly by the citizens.*



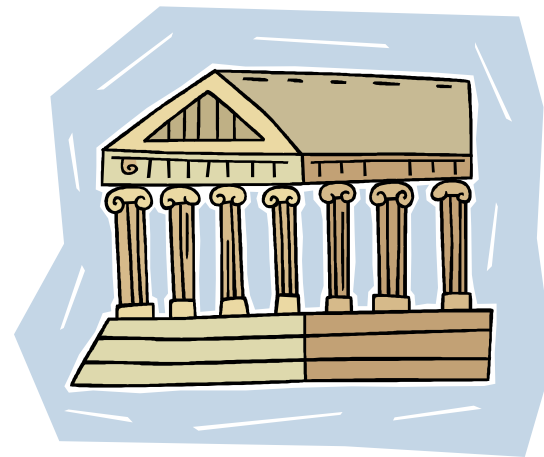
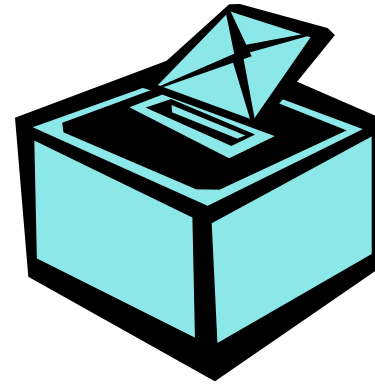
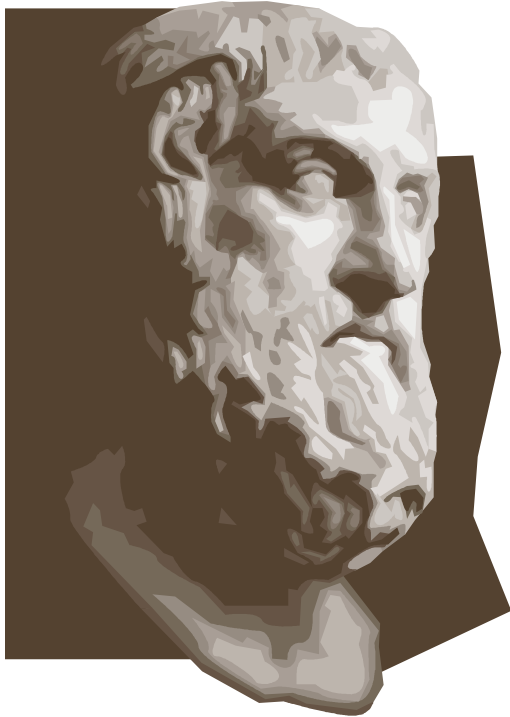
Guiding Question #3

What ideas did our Founding Fathers "borrow" from classic Greece to create our American Government?

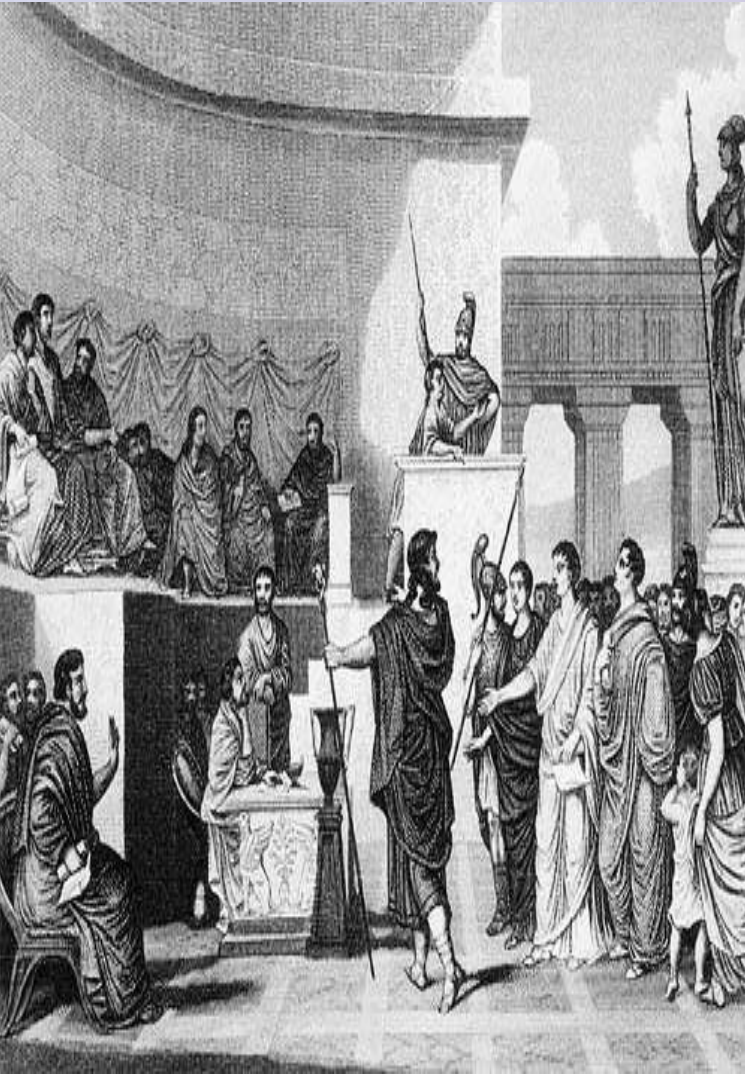


Answer: Democracy

- *demos*= People
- *cracy*= Rule



ANCIENT ROME



- Rome followed Greece's example and established their own form of democracy.

- The Roman Republic was made up of elected representatives who protected Rome and its residents.

- These elected Roman representatives, known as "Senators," wrote and debated laws in the Roman Senate, making Rome a democratic republic.

How did Ancient Rome influence American Government?

The ideas of a Republic and Senators,
and an Chief Executive (Consul)

The ENGLISH INFLUENCE



- The English colonists brought with them to America ideas of *Limited* and *representative government*.
- In **1215**, King John was forced by his nobles to sign an agreement called the **Magna Carta** (or "Great Charter").
- It limited the power of the monarch by guaranteeing that no one would be above the law, not even the king or queen.

How did the Magna Carta
influence American
Government?

The ENGLISH INFLUENCE

- The English monarch also cooperated with a lawmaking body, or legislature, called Parliament.



English Parliament

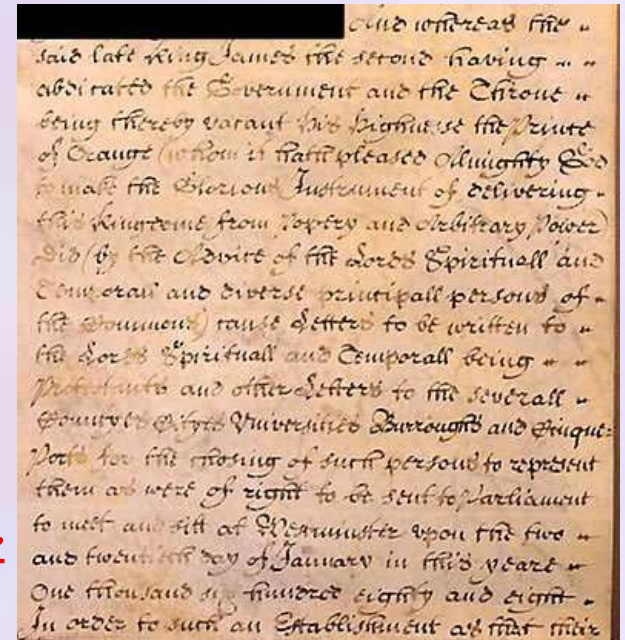
How did English Parliament
influence American
Government?

The ENGLISH INFLUENCE

Parliament passed the English Bill of Rights in 1689, further limiting the power of the monarch.

English Bill of Rights:

- listed the rights of all English citizens
- stated everyone, including government leaders, had to obey the law
- stated all people have the right to a trial by jury
- stated all people have the right to petition - "appeal" directly to government.



English Bill of Rights

How did the English Bill of Rights influence American Government?

COLONIAL INFLUENCE



- Jamestown, VA was first managed by a governor and a council.

- **1619**, colonists selected two representatives (or **burgesses**) from each county to meet with the **governor** and **his council**.

- House of Burgesses-first representative assembly, or legislature, in the colonies

- It was the beginning of self-government in America.

COLONIAL INFLUENCE

- 1620, the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth. During their voyage they created a set of rules for governing themselves when they reached the New World.
- **Mayflower Compact:** a written plan of agreement declaring that government would create "just and equal laws... for the general good of the colony."
- Beginning of direct democracy in the colonies in which all men (in reality, just adult men) vote and the majority rules.



How did the House of
Burgesses and the
Mayflower Compact
influence American
Government?

The Influence of European Enlightenment Thinkers

The **Enlightenment** (1600s to the 1800s) when many people were writing about government and laws.

- John Locke
- Montesquieu
- Voltaire
- Rousseau

The Enlightenment:

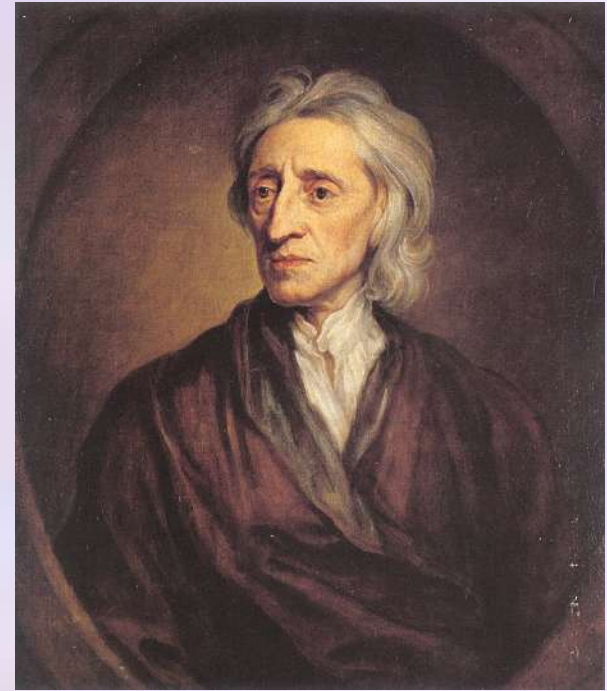
- What we know is found by “Reasoning”.
An increase in and pursuit of scientific knowledge. *“The age of Reason”*
- What it is: *Intellectual Thought*
- What it is Not: *Traditional Religious driven laws and principles*

European Enlightenment Thinker:

JOHN LOCKE

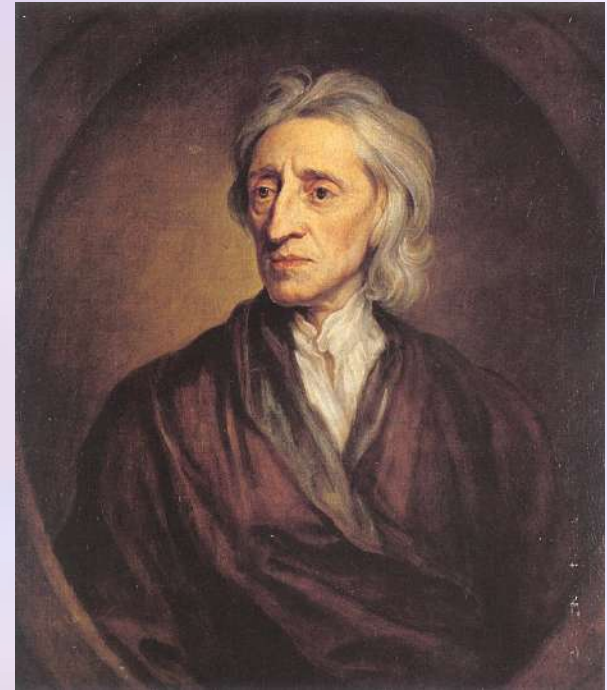
- English philosopher who believed in *natural law*.

- People have natural rights: rights belonging to all humans from birth, including life, liberty, and property.



European Enlightenment Thinker: JOHN LOCKE

- Locke wrote the *Treatises of Government*. It stated that, "people created government to protect natural rights."
- Government works best when its powers are limited and accepted by all citizens.
- People have right to overthrow the government if it fails to protect natural rights.



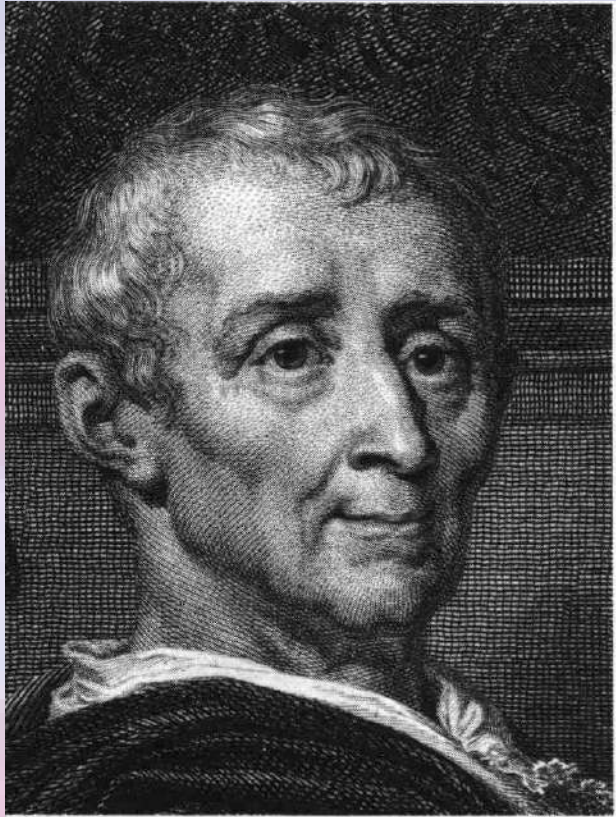
“Life, Liberty and (property- Locke) Pursuit of Happiness (Jefferson)”

How did John Locke
influence American
Government?

Influenced The DOI--



European Enlightenment Thinker: MONTESQUIEU



• Believed in separating the power of the government among three equally divided branches:

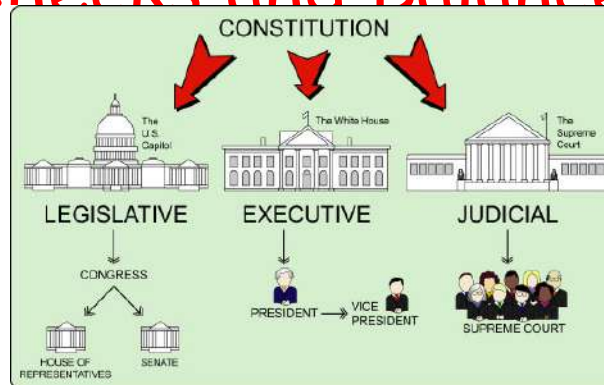
• the legislative branch: makes laws

• the executive branch: enforces laws

• the judicial branch: interprets laws, makes judgments about whether or not they are violated

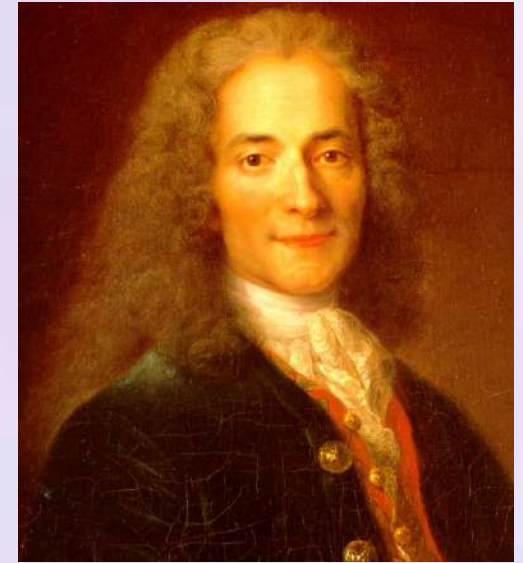
How did Montesquieu influence American Government?

- We Avoid Concentrated Power: 3 Branches
Checks and Balances



European Enlightenment Thinker: VOLTAIRE

Went to prison because he mocked the Catholic Church and the French crown and insulted a nobleman. Later was sent to England where he found greater freedom to express himself.



• Freedom of Speech: *"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."* - Voltaire

• Greatly admired the English ideal of religious freedom.

How did Voltaire influence American Government?

*The FIRST Freedom of the FIRST Amendment is
Religion- Speech and Expression are as important*

European Enlightenment Thinker:

ROUSSEAU

- Believed human beings were naturally good; civilizations and institutions were corrupting.
- Published The Social Contract or Contract Theory in 1762.
- Claimed that the right to rule (sovereignty) rested in the people, so the people had the right to create a government devoted to the common good.
- Said the basis of government is a social contract through which people give up their individual rights to the “general will,” the will of the majority.



How did Rousseau influence American Government?

*The Constitution is a Contract-
(signatures) between the people and
their government*

