



Rousseau

Locke

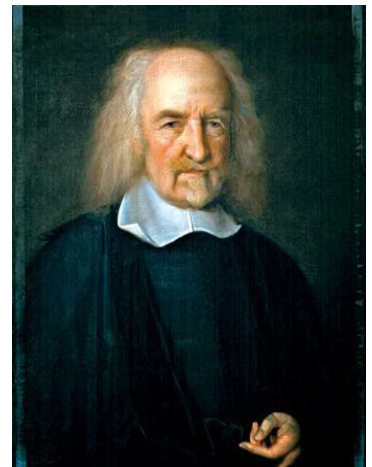


Philosophers that Influenced American Government



De Montesquieu

Hobbes



Standard

SSCG1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government.

a. Analyze key ideas of limited government and the rule of law as seen in the Magna Carta, the Petition of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights.

b. Analyze the writings of Hobbes (Leviathan), Locke (Second Treatise on Government), and Montesquieu (The Spirit of Laws) as they affect our concept of government.

Essential Question

How did the Magna Carta, Petition of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights exhibit key ideas of consent of the governed, limited government, due process, and the rule of law?

Basic Ideals and Principles of Democracy

- Consent of the Governed
 - Government gets its power from the people they govern
- Limited Government
 - Government is not all powerful, it only has the ability to do what the people allow
- Rule of Law
 - Laws should govern, not individuals. Laws that safeguard liberty
- Due Process
 - state must respect all legal rights that are owed to a person.
- Personal Liberty
 - “Life, liberty, and property”

But where did these ideas come from?

Our nation was not created by common culture, geography, or centuries of tradition.

Our nation was created by ideas.

Ideas carried out first in Great Britain through the signing of:

Magna Carta

Petition of Rights

English Bill of Rights

Magna Carta

The Magna Carta was a government document that limited the power of the king of England and protected the rights of the nobility. It was written by the English nobility in 1215.



Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Rule of Law
- Due Process

The Petition of Rights

The Petition of Right of 1628 is one of England's most famous Constitutional documents. It was written by Parliament as an objection to an overreach of authority by King Charles I. During his reign, English citizens saw this overreach of authority as a major infringement on their civil rights.



Big Ideas:

- No taxes without parliament's consent
- No imprisonment without cause
- No quartering of soldiers in citizen's homes
- No Marshall Law in peace time

English Bill of Rights

The English Bill of Rights was a government document that expanded the powers of the English Parliament and expanded the rights of the people, as well as further limited the rights of the king. It was written by the members of the English Parliament in 1689.



Big Ideas:

- Limited Government
- Rights
- Due Process
- Rule of Law

Answer Essential Question

How did the previous documents (Magna Carta, Petition of Rights, and the English Bill of Rights) exhibit key ideas of consent of the governed, limited government, due process, and the rule of law?

But who came up with these revolutionary ideas...

...of consent of the governed, limited government, due process and the rule of law?

Thomas Hobbs

John Locke

Baron de Montesquieu

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

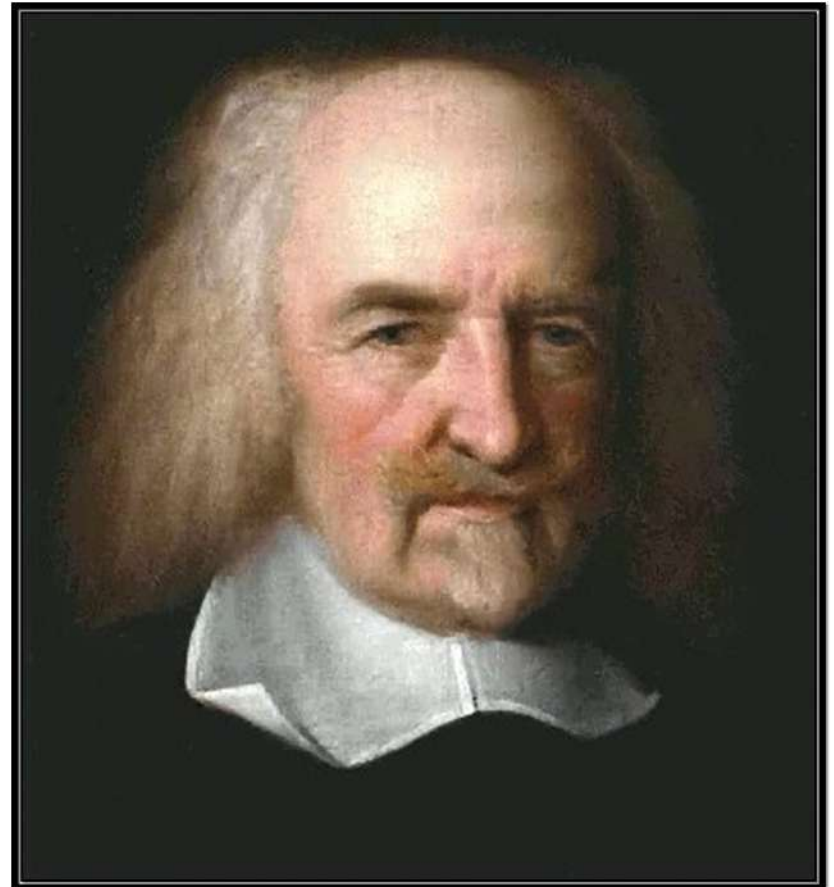
Thomas Hobbes

(1588-1679)

Background:

- Born during the English Civil War--a time of great social and political uncertainty
- Fled to Paris as a youth

Book: *The Leviathan*



Hobbes Quotes

"The condition of man . . . is a condition of war of everyone against everyone."

"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"

"In the state of nature profit is the measure of right."

Hobbes

Views on Society:

Considered all humans to be naturally wicked and evil

Competing for survival and resources

Based on greed and self-interest

Can not be trusted

Might makes right

Believed that humans are in a constant state of war due to selfishness and scarcity

Social stability only occurs through a social contract- an agreement to stop killing each other

Hobbes

Views on Government:

Because humans can't be trusted, believed that the best government is an absolute monarchy

Absolute Monarchy=Leviathan

A Gross, ugly sea monster with the power to devour everything

Metaphor for government and the absolute authority it should wield to protect life

Based on Biblical Jonah

The Masses agree to give up freedom for peace and security (social contract)

Hobbes-People Cant Be Trusted



- Monarchy is the best
- Humans and Nations are selfish. Both are constantly battling for power and wealth.
 - Govt. created to protect people from their own selfishness.
 - Authority figure provides direction and leadership.

John Locke(1632-1704)

Background:

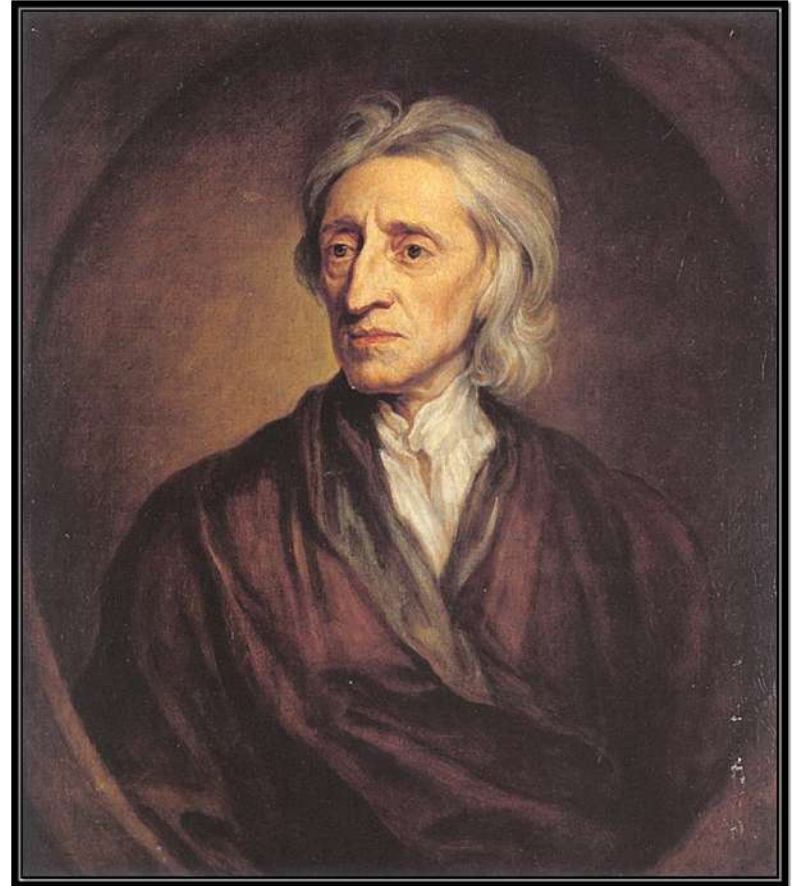
Born after the English Civil war peacefully concluded

Believed in religious freedom, especially Protestantism

Fled to Holland because of revolutionary ideas

Returned to England and forced the king to accept the English Bill of Rights

Book: *Two Treatises of Government*



John Locke Quotes

Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has a right to, but himself.”

“All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions.”

“The reason why men enter into society is the preservation of their property.”

“Where there is no property there is no injustice.”

John Locke

Views on Society:

All humans are naturally capable of rational thought

All humans use reason to settle differences and compromise

The “State of Nature” is one of total liberty and freedom

Natural reason results in natural equality between all humans

Humans all depend on property to satisfy their survival needs

John Locke

Views on Government:

Humans are naturally rational

Humans use reason to govern themselves independently

Rejected Divine Right, focused on the individual
Important to protect Life, Liberty, and Property"

Limit power of the government by a separation of power to check and balance

People enter into a "Social Contract" to allow peaceful government, but always have the right to rebel if life, liberty, and property are threatened

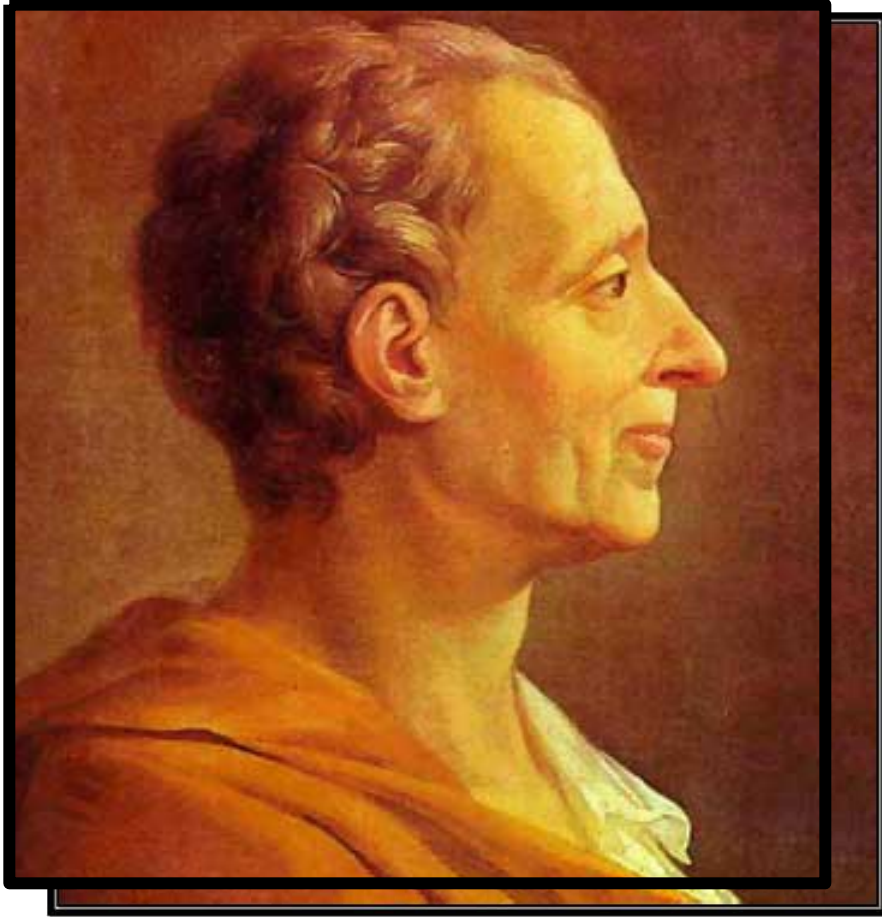
Locke's Contract Theory

- According to Locke:
 - All people have “right to life, liberty, and property.”
 - Govt. arises from the contract between the ruler and ruled.
 - The people give the ruler the power to rule.
 - Ruler cannot deny people their basic rights.



Baron de Montesquieu

(1689-1755)



Background:

Denied wealth as a child, inherited power and title from a rich uncle

Used position at French Academy of Sciences to study and criticize governments

Book: *Spirit of the Laws*

Montesquieu Quotes

“I can assure you that no kingdom has ever had as many evil wars as the kingdom of Christ.”

“When the (lawmaking) and law-enforcing powers are united in the same person...there can be no liberty.”

"In republican governments, men are all equal; equal they are also in despotic governments: in the former, because they are everything; in the latter, because they are nothing."

Montesquieu

Views on Society:

Considered the French government to be too lavish

Believed that religion corrupted governments, especially Christianity

Considered women to be weak, but valuable participants in political process

Approved of slavery and the natural inequality of the races

Montesquieu

Views on Government:

Believed in secular, but ethical, governments

Considered limited monarchy to be the most stable government

Separation of powers essential to stop abuse and corruption=Checks and Balances

Participation based on educated

Montesquieu Suggests Limited Govt.

- Montesquieu believed that:
 - The best way to way to ensure that the govt. protects citizen's rights is to limit its powers.
 - Best way to limit power is to divide the powers.
 - Checks and Balances
 - Different Branches



Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

Background:

- Born in Switzerland, but fled to Paris to avoid a duel
- Spent most his time in the salons in Paris, philosophizing
- Spent most of his life very poor, but earned some money as a... "houseboy"
- Was supposed to send his money to Geneva (to his wife and kids) but didn't
- Got chased out of Paris, and into a cave where he died of a respiratory disease, by his wife

Book: *The Social Contract*



Rousseau Quotes

“Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains.”

“The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master”

“Each of us puts his person and all his power in common under the supreme direction of the general will...we receive each member as an indivisible part of the whole

Rousseau

Views on Society:

All humans are born free, independent and good

People would naturally live happily

Modern society corrupts people

Focus on industry (dehumanized labor)

Focus on money making

Focus on technology

Society makes people unhappy

Rousseau

Views on Government:

Best political unit is small

Best government is a direct democracy, with decisions made by simple majority (of men)

All decisions made locally, according to the needs of the community

Considered elected executives necessary

Believed that government should protect freedom

Rousseau Expands the Contract Theory



- In Rousseau's ideal society:
 - People would form a community and make a contract with each other, not a ruler.
 - People would give up their needs for the greater majority.
 - Community would vote on all decisions, and everyone would live by the decisions made by the majority.