



# Ch. 1 Principles of Government

## Objectives:

1. Identify the four main purposes of government.
2. Identify and explain the four theories that explain the origin of government.

# I. What is government?

- A. Government- institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies. (what to do)
- B. Who? Who gets power?
- C. When? Dates back to ancient Mesopotamia  
*“Man by nature is a political animal” – Aristotle*



## II. The “State”

- A. State- organized body of people
- B. 4 basic characteristics
  1. Population/people
  2. territory/land
  3. Sovereignty/independence or power
  4. Government/politically organized

## C. Origins of the state- 4 theories

1. Force Theory- 1 person claimed control and forced others to submit
2. Evolutionary Theory- naturally developed from family to clan to tribe to state
3. Divine Right Theory- state was created by God, God gave royalty the divine right to rule
4. Social Contract Theory- exists only to serve the will of the people- they control what happens

# III. Purpose of the Government- (from the preamble of the US Constitution)

- A. To form a more perfect union
- B. To establish justice *“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”– MLK Jr.*
- C. To insure domestic tranquility
- D. To provide for the common defense *“If men were angels no government would be necessary”– James Madison*
- E. To promote general welfare
- F. To secure the blessings of liberty *“The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time”– Thomas Jefferson*

[School House Rock](#)

# IV. Forms of Government- classified 3 ways (A,B,C)

## A. Geographic Distribution of Power

1. Unitary-centralized
2. Federal- central and local governments \*\* U.S.
3. Confederate- alliance of independent states

## B. Relationship between Legislative and Executive

1. Presidential- leg. & exec. are separate and independent \*\*U.S.
2. Parliamentary- exec. Is chosen by the leg.

## C. The number who can participate

1. Dictatorship- those who rule cannot be held responsible to the will of the people
2. Democracy- power rests with the people  
*“government of the people, by the people, for the people” –Abraham Lincoln*
  - a. direct- everyone makes decisions directly
  - b. Indirect/representative- elect someone to make decisions \*\*\* U.S.

# V. Basic Concepts of Democracy (5)

- A. Fundamental worth of the individual
- B. Equality of all persons *“all men are created equal”*—Jefferson
- C. Majority rule and minority rights
- D. Necessity of Compromise
- E. Individual Freedom *“The right to swing my fist ends where the other man’s nose begins”*—Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Democracy is not inevitable. It does not exist in the United States simply because Americans regard it as the best of all possible political systems. Nor will it continue to exist for that reason. Rather, democracy exists in this country because the American people believe its basic concepts. It will continue to exist only for as long as we, the people, continue to subscribe to-and practice-those concepts.”

*Magruder's American  
Government pg. 15*

# Problem at the heart of democracy...

*“Must a government of necessity be too strong for the liberties of its own people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?”*



--Abraham Lincoln

# Ch. 2 Origins of American Government

## Objectives:

1. Identify what events in early American colonial experience led colonists to believe they would have a representative government.
2. Evaluate the ways in which American colonies were democratic.



# I. Political Beginnings

## A. English colonists brought basic ideas about government

### 1. Rule of Law

- All people must follow the laws, and the laws should be enforced fairly.

### 2. Self Government

- People can make decisions on how their government should work.

### 3. Due Process

- People have the right to fair and reasonable laws. Officials have to follow rules when enforcing laws and need to treat all people in the same way.

### 4. Limited Government

- A government that has been limited in power by a constitution, or written agreement.

### 5. Rights

- A set of things that people believe they should be free to do without restrictions.

## B. Important documents- limit power of the king, give rights

1. Magna Carta
2. Petition of Right
3. English Bill of Rights

## II. Coming of Independence

- A. “No taxation without representation”
- B. Colonists want rights and control of their affairs
- C. Declaration of Independence- July 4, 1776 (written mostly by Thomas Jefferson)

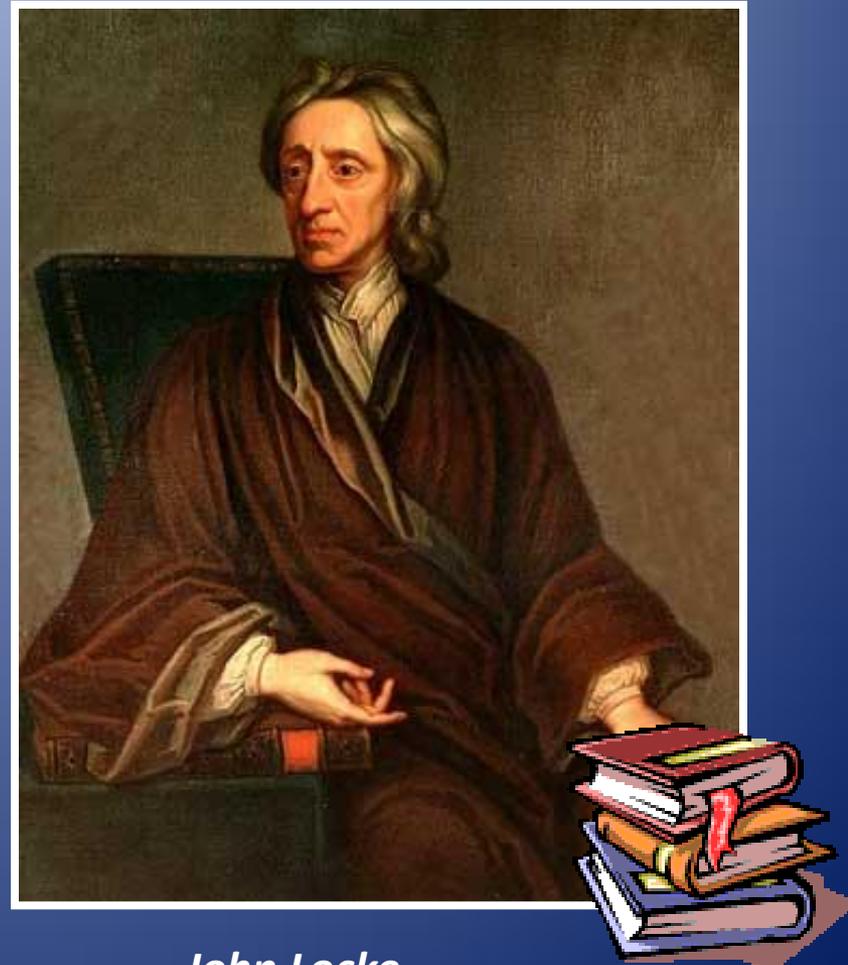
*“I did not consider it any part of my charge to invent new ideas, but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent...It was intended to be an expression of the American mind.”*

--Thomas Jefferson

Thus Locke’s ideas have been called the “textbook of the American Revolution”

# D. John Locke

1. Belief in natural rights: life, liberty, and property.
2. Purpose of the government is to protect the rights of the people. If the government fails to protect these rights, then the people have the right to revolt, and replace their ruler or government.



*John Locke*

# Morgan Freeman presents the Dol...

## Frank and Ernest



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A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for <sup>one</sup> people to  
~~the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to~~  
~~assume among the powers of the earth the position~~ <sup>separate and equal</sup> station, to  
which the laws of nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect  
to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes  
which impel them to ~~take~~ <sup>separate</sup> separation.

We hold these truths to be <sup>self-evident</sup> ~~self-evident~~ that all men are  
created equal & independent that <sup>the rights of men are derived by their creator with</sup> ~~from~~ that equal creation they are  
entitled to inherent & inalienable rights, among <sup>which are</sup> ~~which are~~ life, liberty, & the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these <sup>rights</sup>, ~~rights~~, go-  
vernments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from  
the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government  
~~is~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter  
or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on  
such principles & organizing it in such form, as to them shall  
seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed  
will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for  
light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn that  
mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to  
right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. but  
when a long train of abuses & usurpations (beginning at a distinguished period  
& pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce  
them to <sup>under absolute Despotism</sup> ~~absolute Despotism~~, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such  
government, & to provide new guards for their future security. such has  
been the patient sufferance of these colonies, & such is now the necessity  
which constrains them to <sup>change</sup> ~~change~~ their former systems of government.  
the history of <sup>the</sup> present <sup>King of Great Britain</sup> ~~is~~ is a history of <sup>repeated</sup> ~~repeated~~ injuries and  
usurpations, among which, <sup>appears as solitary fact</sup> ~~appears as solitary fact~~ to contra-  
dict the uniform tenor of the rest, <sup>is that</sup> ~~is that~~ have in direct object the  
establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states, to prove this, let facts be  
submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith  
not equalled by falsehood.

Jefferson's rough  
draft...

(notice – he made  
corrections!)

# The “Lost” Clause

“He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce.”

Left out at demand of Georgia & South Carolina

# Reading the Declaration-be able to answer the following questions

- Written mostly by Thomas Jefferson, July 1776
- Describe what is meant by life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Quote the line which embodies the social contract theory.
- List 10 abuses of the English King.
- List 3 “rights of independent states.”
- What is meant by the last sentence of the Declaration?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZfRaWAtBVg>



# THE COST???

“...we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

# E. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: 1775-1783

- Treaty of Paris,  
*Article 10.*  
Sept. 1783

The solemn ratification of the present Treaty, expedited in good and due form, shall be exchanged between the contracting Parties in the space of six months or sooner, if possible, to be computed from the Day of the signature of the present Treaty. In the case whereof We the undersigned their Ministers Plenipotentiary have in their names and in virtue of our full Powers, signed with our hands the present Declaration of Treaty, and caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at Paris, the third Day of September,  
In the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred  
and Eighty three.

John Jay

John Adams

Benjamin Franklin

John Jay



- Painting by Benjamin West, depicting John Jay, John Adams, Ben Franklin, Henry Laurence and William Temple Franklin. The British commissioners refused to pose, and the painting was never finished.

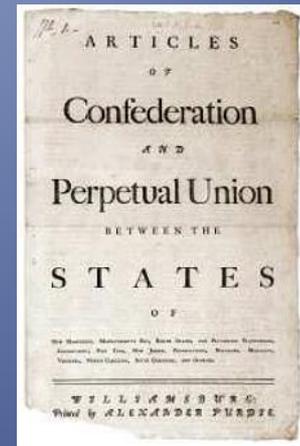
# Independence Won

- 1<sup>st</sup> state governments
  1. Write constitutions
  2. Share common features
    - Popular sovereignty
    - Limited government
    - Civil rights and liberties
    - Separation of powers & checks and balances (executive, judicial, legislative)

# III. The Critical Period (establishing a lasting government)

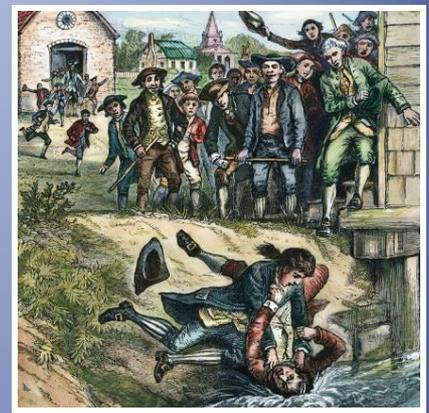
## A. Articles of Confederation – effective date 1781

1. “a firm league of friendship”
2. Government structure- simple
  - Unicameral Congress
  - No executive
  - No judicial
3. Power is with Congress to make laws
4. State obligations- given all other powers not delegated to Congress



## B. Weaknesses

1. Only a “firm league of friendship”
2. Congress could not tax
3. Congress could not regulate trade
4. 1 vote per state, regardless of size
5. No executive to enforce acts of Congress
6. No national court system
7. Amendments only possible if all states agree
8. A 9/13 majority required to pass laws



## C. The 1780s

1. States disagree, argue, weaknesses of Articles obvious

## D. Shay's Rebellion-1786

1. Daniel Shays and a group of former revolutionary soldiers forcibly prevent the courts of Massachusetts from sitting
2. Complaining about high taxes and debts, fearful of losing their PROPERTY to creditors.
3. Governor of Massachusetts has no power to suppress rebellion-no national or state forces
4. Private army is dispatched, shots fired, rebels flee

## E. Meetings are encouraged to fix problems

# IV. Creating the Constitution 1787

## A. The Framers

1. 12 states sent delegates (Rhode Island didn't)
2. Washington, Madison, Franklin, Hamilton, Wilson, Morris, etc
3. Young, but experienced and well educated

## B. Organization and Procedure

1. Washington is President of convention
2. Took place in Independence Hall in Philadelphia
3. Secrecy, 1 vote per state, majority rules
4. James Madison is considered "Father of the Constitution"

# The Constitutional Convention of 1787: Consensus



***"Remember, gentlemen, we aren't here just to draft a constitution. We're here to draft the best damn constitution in the world."***

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## C. The Decision to Write a Constitution

1. The Articles of Confederation couldn't be fixed

## D. Many plans

1. Virginia Plan
2. New Jersey Plan
3. Connecticut Compromise
4. Three-fifths Compromise
5. Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise

E. Led to differences, compromises necessary

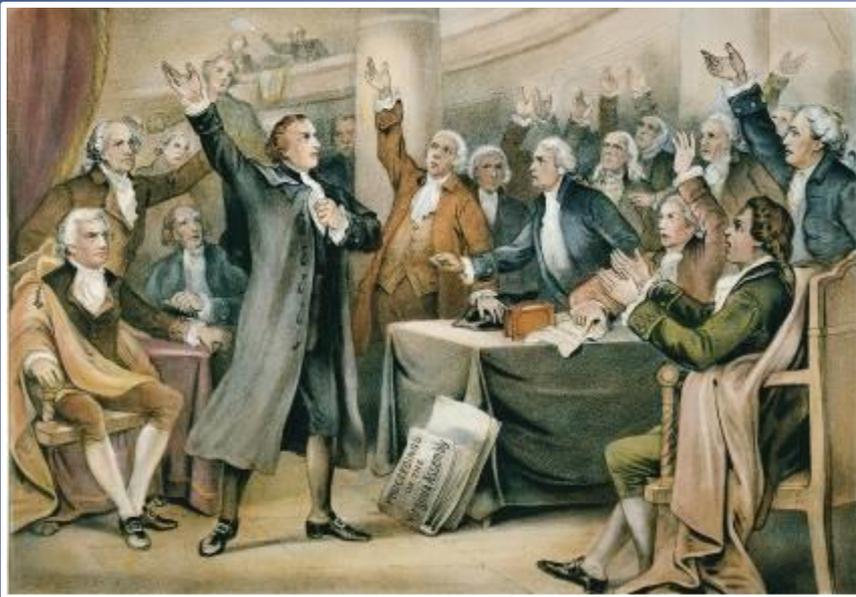
## F. Sources of the Constitution

1. Ancient Greek and Roman ideas
2. Many European ideas
3. Own personal experiences
4. Articles of Confederation

## G. The Convention Completes its Works

1. The framers agree it is not perfect
2. Some oppose, but most sign
3. Sent to the states , 9 needed to go into effect

## Ratification of the Constitution



Patrick Henry's famous cry,  
"Give Me Liberty or Give Me  
Death!"

### **STATE**

Delaware  
Pennsylvania  
New Jersey  
Georgia  
Connecticut  
Massachusetts  
Maryland  
South Carolina  
New Hampshire  
Virginia  
New York  
North Carolina  
Rhode Island

### **DATE**

December 7, 1787  
December 12, 1787  
December 18, 1787  
January 2, 1788  
January 9, 1788  
February 6, 1788  
April 28, 1788  
May 23, 1788  
June 21, 1788  
June 25, 1788  
July 26, 1788  
November 21, 1789  
May 29, 1790

# V. Ratifying the Constitution

## A. Ratification (approval)

1. Federalists- favored
2. Anti-Federalists- opposed

\*\*Why? – increased power of the central government  
-- lack of Bill of Rights

## B. Success finally came when Virginia and New York agreed.

## C. Inauguration of the New Government

1. New York is temporary capital (Wash. D.C.- 1800)
2. George Washington is President
3. John Adams is Vice President

