

# Vocabulary

SS.7.C.1.1:

Recognize how **Enlightenment** ideas including Montesquieu's view of **separation of power** of John Locke's theories related to **natural law** and how Locke's **social contract** influenced the Founding Fathers.

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**The  
Enlightenment**

**Separation of  
Powers**

**Checks and  
Balances**

**Natural Law**

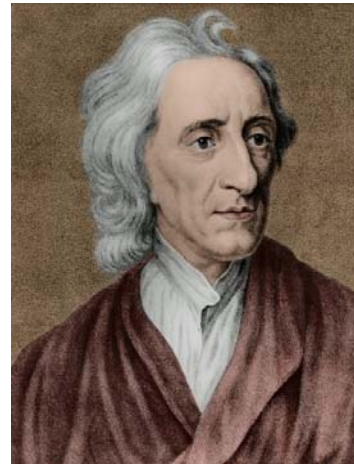
**Natural Rights**

**Social  
Contract**

**Consent of the  
Governed**

**Individual  
Liberties**

# The Enlightenment

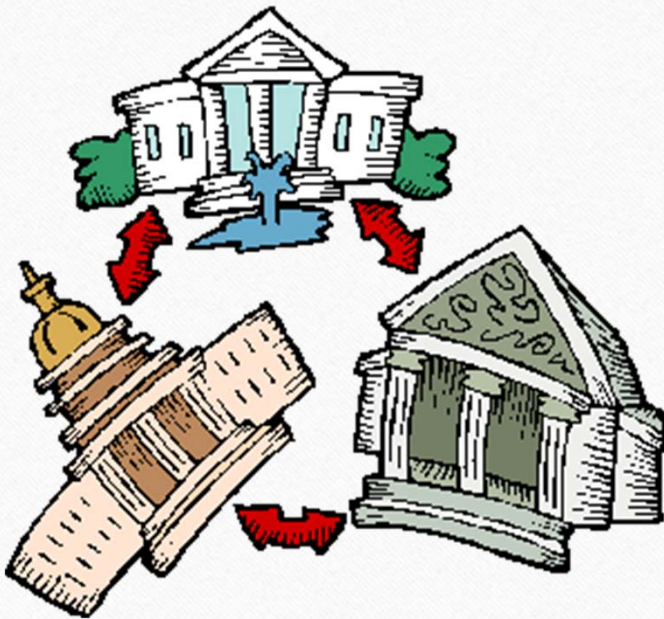


- 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe (1700s)
- Known as the “Age of Reason”
- Emphasis on the importance of learning and reasoning.
- Key philosophers, John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu
- Ideas include **separation of powers**, **natural law**, and the **social contract**.



# Separation of Powers

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- The **Enlightenment** idea (Montesquieu) that government power should be divided between three branches with unique responsibilities:
  - **Legislative, Executive, and Judicial**
- The structure of the federal government established in the US Constitution

# Checks and Balances

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- A principle of government established in the Constitution
- Allows each different branch to limit the power of other branches.
- Works with **separation of powers** to prevent **tyranny**.



# Natural Law

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- Enlightenment idea by John Locke
- All beings are born and entitled to universal rights.
- Any law passed by government to protect **natural rights** and **individual liberty**

# Natural Rights

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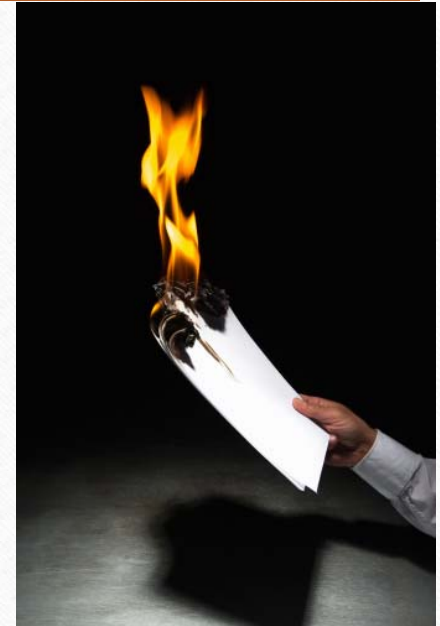
- The **Enlightenment idea** (John Locke) that all people are born with basic universal rights that can't be taken away by the government
  - **Life, liberty, and property**





# Social Contract

- **Enlightenment idea** by John Locke
- An implied agreement among people in an organized society
  - Defines rights, duties, and limits of both the governed and the government.



# Consent of the Governed

- Established with the **social contract**
- The idea that the people must give their approval to a government, ex. with voting.
- If people do not approve, they have the right to **alter or abolish** the government





# Individual Liberties

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- Freedoms that allow people to be independent
- Ex. Freedom of Speech, Religion, Press
- Locke believed the purpose of government is to protect **individual liberties.**