

Aim: How did the English Civil War, the Enlightenment and the American Revolution help to inspire the French Revolution?



*Get Going:* Why is inspiration such a powerful force? Have you ever been inspired by someone to such a degree that you change major decisions in your life? Can you think of any literary or historical characters that have been greatly inspired to change something? Describe!

### **Influences of the French Revolution**

Direction: Describe how each of the following helped to influence the French Revolution:

**The English Civil War (                    ):**

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**The Enlightenment (                    ):**

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**The American Revolution (                    ):**

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## Results of the English Civil War

During Charles II's reign, Parliament passed an important guarantee of freedom, ***habeas corpus***. *Habeas corpus* is Latin meaning "to have the body." This 1679 law gave every prisoner the right to obtain a writ or document ordering that the prisoner be brought before a judge to specify the charges against the prisoner. The judge would decide whether the prisoner should be tried or set free. Because of the Habeas Corpus Act, a monarch could not put someone in jail simply for opposing the ruler. Also, prisoners could not be held indefinitely without trials.

During the 1700s, this potential problem was remedied by the development of a group of government ministers, or officials, called the **cabinet**. These ministers acted in the ruler's name but in reality represented the major party of Parliament. Therefore, they became the link between the monarch and the majority party in Parliament.

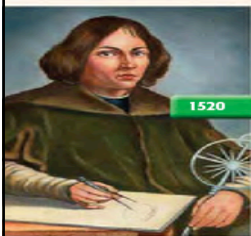
At their coronation, William and Mary vowed to recognize Parliament as their partner in governing. England had become not an absolute monarchy but a **constitutional monarchy**, where laws limited the ruler's power.

**Bill of Rights** To make clear the limits of royal power, Parliament drafted a Bill of Rights in 1689. This document listed many things that a ruler could not do:

- no suspending of Parliament's laws
- no levying of taxes without a specific grant from Parliament
- no interfering with freedom of speech in Parliament
- no penalty for a citizen who petitions the king about grievances

# You Say You Want a Revolution?

## Major Steps in the Scientific Revolution



**1566** Marie de Coste Blanche publishes *The Nature of the Sun and Earth*.

**1609** Kepler publishes first two laws of planetary motion.

**1610** Galileo publishes *Starry Messenger*.



**1543** Copernicus publishes heliocentric theory. Vesalius publishes human anatomy textbook.

**1590** Janssen invents microscope.

**1620** Bacon's book *Novum Organum* (New Instrument) encourages experimental method.

**1628** Harvey reveals how human heart functions.

**1637** Descartes's book *Discourse on Method* sets forth his scientific method of reasoning from the basis of doubt.

**1662** Boyle discovers mathematical relationship between the pressure and volume of gases, known as Boyle's law.

**1674** Leeuwenhoek observes bacteria through microscope.

**1714** Fahrenheit invents mercury thermometer.

**1633** Galileo faces Inquisition for support of Copernicus's theory.

**1643** Torricelli invents barometer.

**1666** France establishes Academy of Sciences.

**1660** England establishes Royal Society to support scientific study.

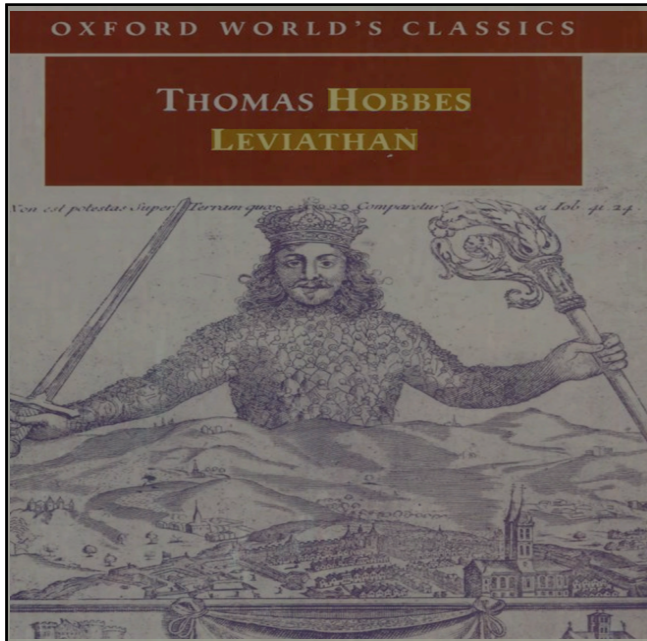
**1687** Newton publishes law of gravity.



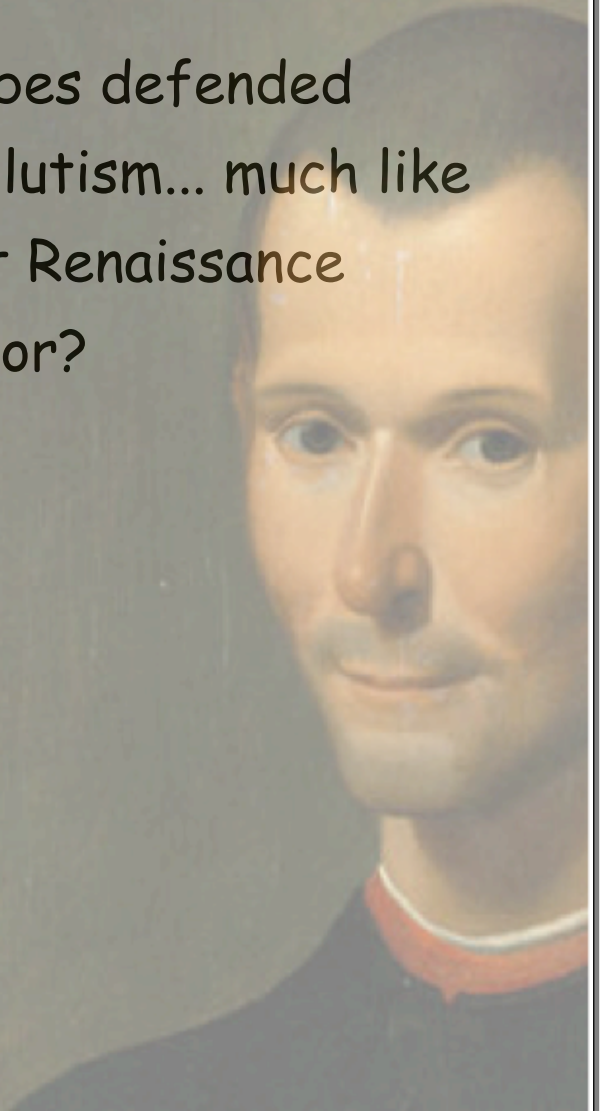
▲ Nicolaus Copernicus began the Scientific Revolution with his heliocentric theory.

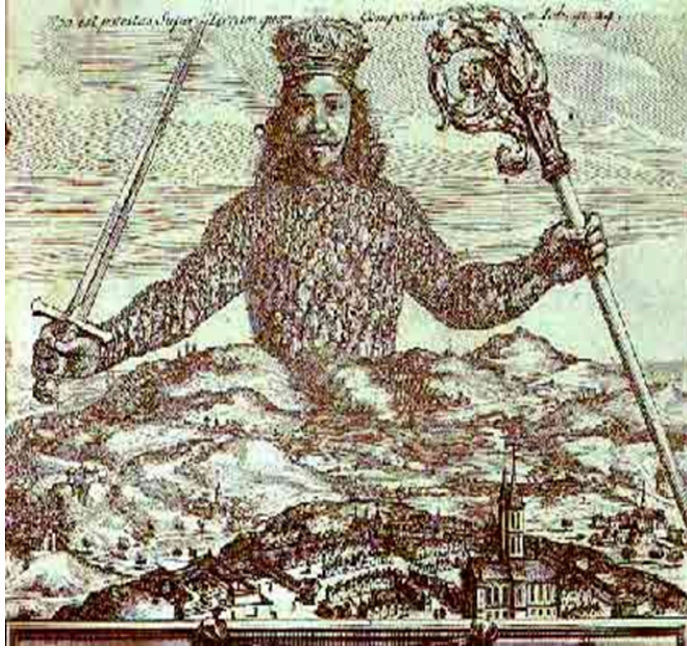


Thomas Hobbes was an English political philosopher. He believed that only a strong monarch could maintain law and order.



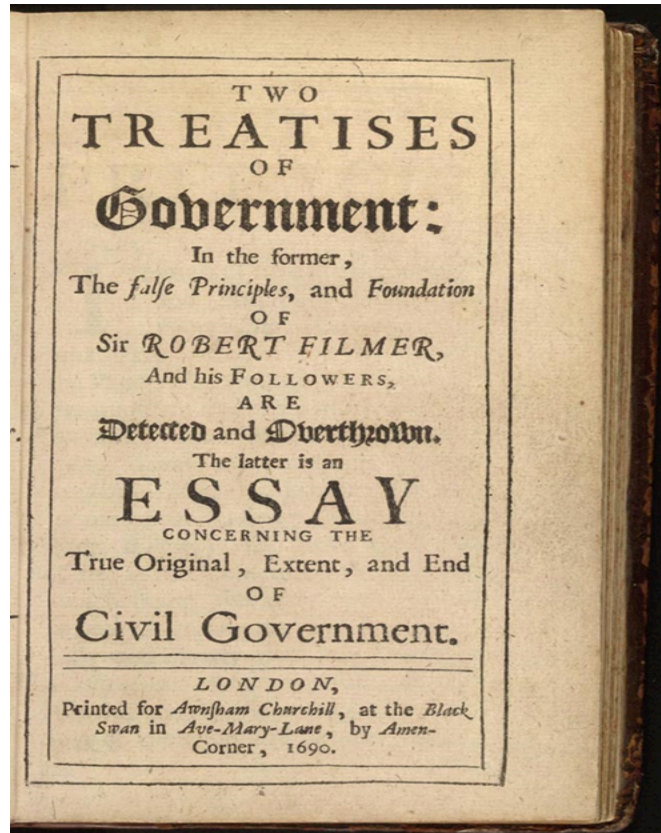
Hobbes defended absolutism... much like what Renaissance author?





But Hobbes did not believe the king's power came from God. He believed it came from the people. He challenged the divine right of kings.

John Locke believed that human nature is governed by natural laws. In order to obey natural laws, all humans must exercise natural rights - the rights to life, liberty, and property.





# Bill of Rights

Congress of THE United States,  
*begun and held at the City of New York, on  
Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.*

*T*HAT Conventions of a number of the States having, at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: and as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution.

*R*ESOLVED, by the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, That the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; all, or any of which articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution, viz.

*A*RTICLES: In addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the Ninth Article of the Original Constitution.

*Article the first* ... After the first enumeration required by the first Article of the Constitution, there shall be one Representative for every thirty thousand, until the number shall amount to one hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall be not less than one hundred Representatives, nor less than one Representative for every forty thousand persons, until the number of Representatives shall amount to two hundred, after which the proportion shall be so regulated by Congress, that there shall not be less than two hundred Representatives, nor more than one Representative for every fifty thousand persons. [Not Ratified]

*Article the second* ... No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened. [Not Ratified]

*Article the third* ... Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

*Article the fourth* ... A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

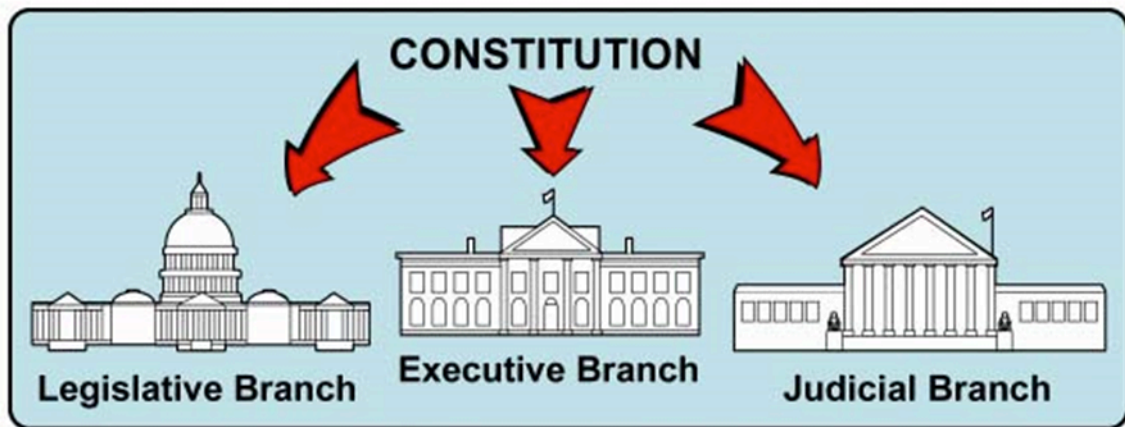
*Article the fifth* ... No Soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Locke argued that the function of government was to protect these rights.

Montesquieu believed that the best way to prevent despotism (the exercise of unlimited power) was to divide political power.



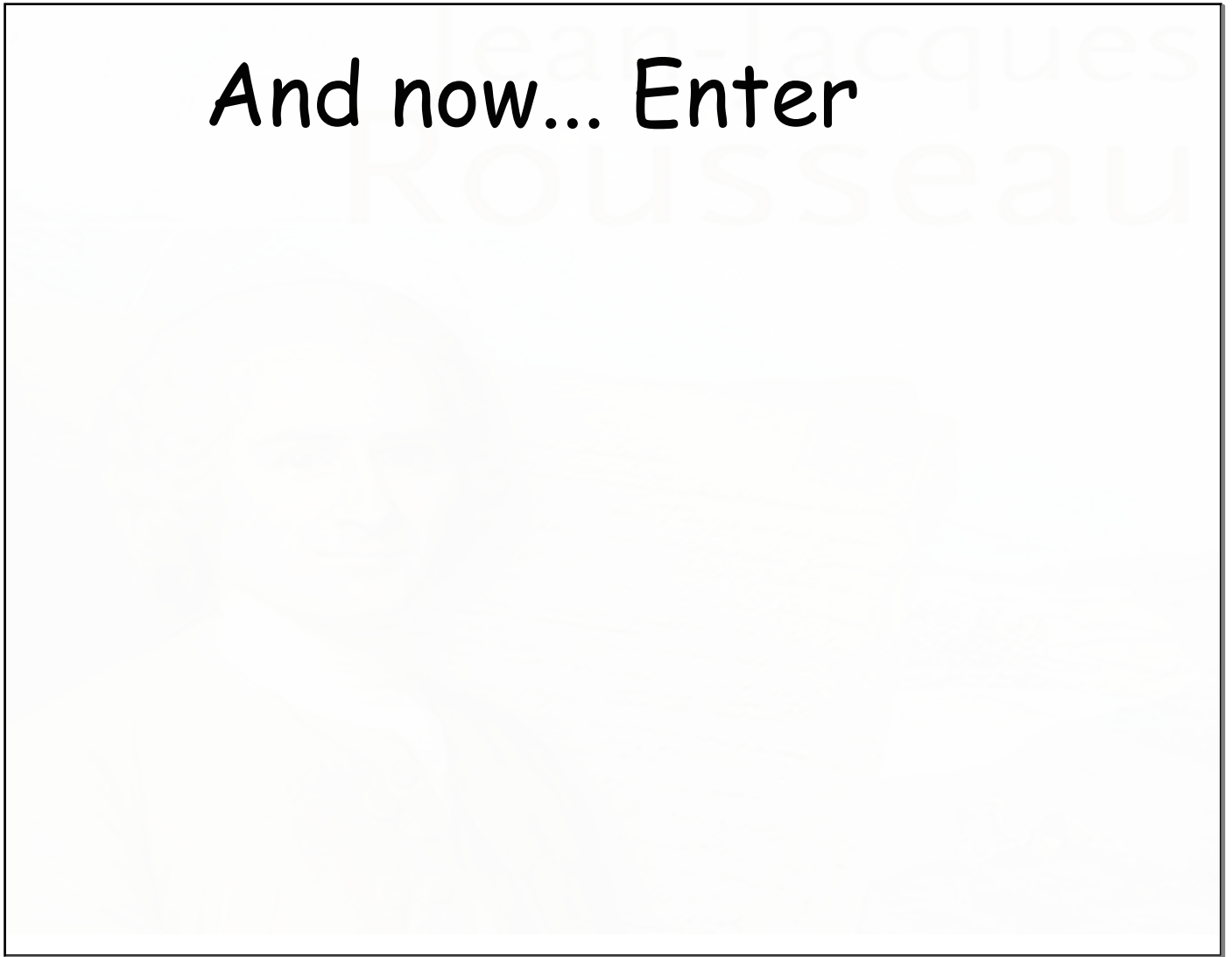
He suggested that all governments should provide for the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial parts.



Voltaire wrote  
against religious  
intolerance and  
criticized  
governments that  
persecuted people  
for following their  
own faith



And now... Enter



### "Origin and Terms of the Social Contract"

Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1728) begins *The Social Contract* with the notable phrase "Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains." Because these chains are not found in the state of nature, they must be creations of man. Rousseau thus seeks the basis for a legitimate, political authority in which people must give up their natural liberty. He sets two conditions for a lawful government and creates several clauses (items) to ensure that they are carried out. First, there must be no relationships of particular dependence in the state, and second, by obeying the laws, an individual only obeys himself.

Rousseau's solution to the problem of legitimate authority is the "social contract," an agreement by which the people band together for their mutual preservation (survival). This act of association creates a collective body called the "sovereign." The sovereign is the supreme authority in the state, and has its own life and will. The sovereign's interest, or the "general will," always promotes the common good. This is in contrast (opposite) to the private will of each citizen, which strives (reaches) only for personal benefit.

The law expresses the general will, and must only make regulations that affect the entire populace. The goal of legislation (lawmaking) is to protect liberty and equality and to promote the common good. However, the people may not always know how to pursue the common good and may need the help of a legislator to guide them in lawmaking. The legislator prevents private interests from

influencing legislation and aids the populace (people) in weighing short-term benefits against long-term costs.

Although the sovereign exercises legislative authority, the state also needs executive power to implement the general will. There are three main types of government: democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy. The type is chosen based on several factors, including population and climate. Smaller governments have more force than larger ones, and the population becomes more unruly as it grows. Rousseau thus argues that in general, there should be an inverse (opposite) relationship between the size of government and the size of the population. Thus, large states should have a monarchy, intermediate states should have an aristocracy, and small states should have a democracy.

Rousseau asserts that the establishment of government is not, as philosophers such as Hobbes argued, a contract. The sovereign employs the government as a representative of the people in charge of carrying out the general will. The sovereign thus can alter the form of government and replace its leaders as it chooses.

As the natural tendency of every government is to usurp (take) sovereignty and to invalidate the social contract, the government's interests are always in conflict with those of the sovereign. The best means of restraining the executive is holding periodic assemblies. Although this may seem difficult, Rousseau cites Ancient Rome to show that this can be achieved even in large states. When the

people convene (get together), they must decide whether they approve of the current form of government and their leaders.

Periodic assemblies can prolong the life of a state, but eventually every state will fall because of the usurpations of government. However, all citizens must fulfill their civic duties while the state exists. They cannot employ representatives to articulate the general will because sovereignty cannot be transferred. They also cannot use money to avoid their responsibilities, because this corrupts the state and destroys civil liberty.

When voting, each person must assess whether a law is in accordance with the general will - not whether it supports his private interests. Thus, he has an obligation to follow even those laws to which he does not give his consent. In a healthy state, people share common sentiment (emotion) and show agreement in the assemblies. In a declining state, people place their private interests above the common good and try to manipulate the legislative process.

Although the sovereign must allow for the religious freedoms of its members, it can impose a set of values that are necessary to being a "good" citizen. This system of beliefs, which Rousseau calls "civil religion," consists of belief in a God and the afterlife, universal justice, and respect for the sanctity of the social contract. The state has the power to banish from the state anyone who opposes the tenets of civil religion.



## *Jean Jacques Rousseau and the Social Contract*

- 1) What does it mean to you when Rousseau states, “Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains”?
- 2) What is Rousseau’s idea of The Social Contract?
- 3) What is the sovereign and how does it work?
- 4) What is the goal of legislation and why does Rousseau believe this does not always work?
- 5) Describe Rousseau’s belief on which types of countries should have what types of government?
- 6) How does Rousseau believe the tendency of governments to take full control can be avoided?
- 7) How do citizens keep up their part of the Social Contract (give multiple examples)?
- 8) According to Rousseau, what is civil religion? How does it work and what is the states authority when it comes to civil religion?

### Changing Idea: The Right to Govern

#### Old Idea

A monarch's rule is justified by divine right.

#### New Idea

A government's power comes from the consent of the governed.



**Voltaire**  
1694–1778

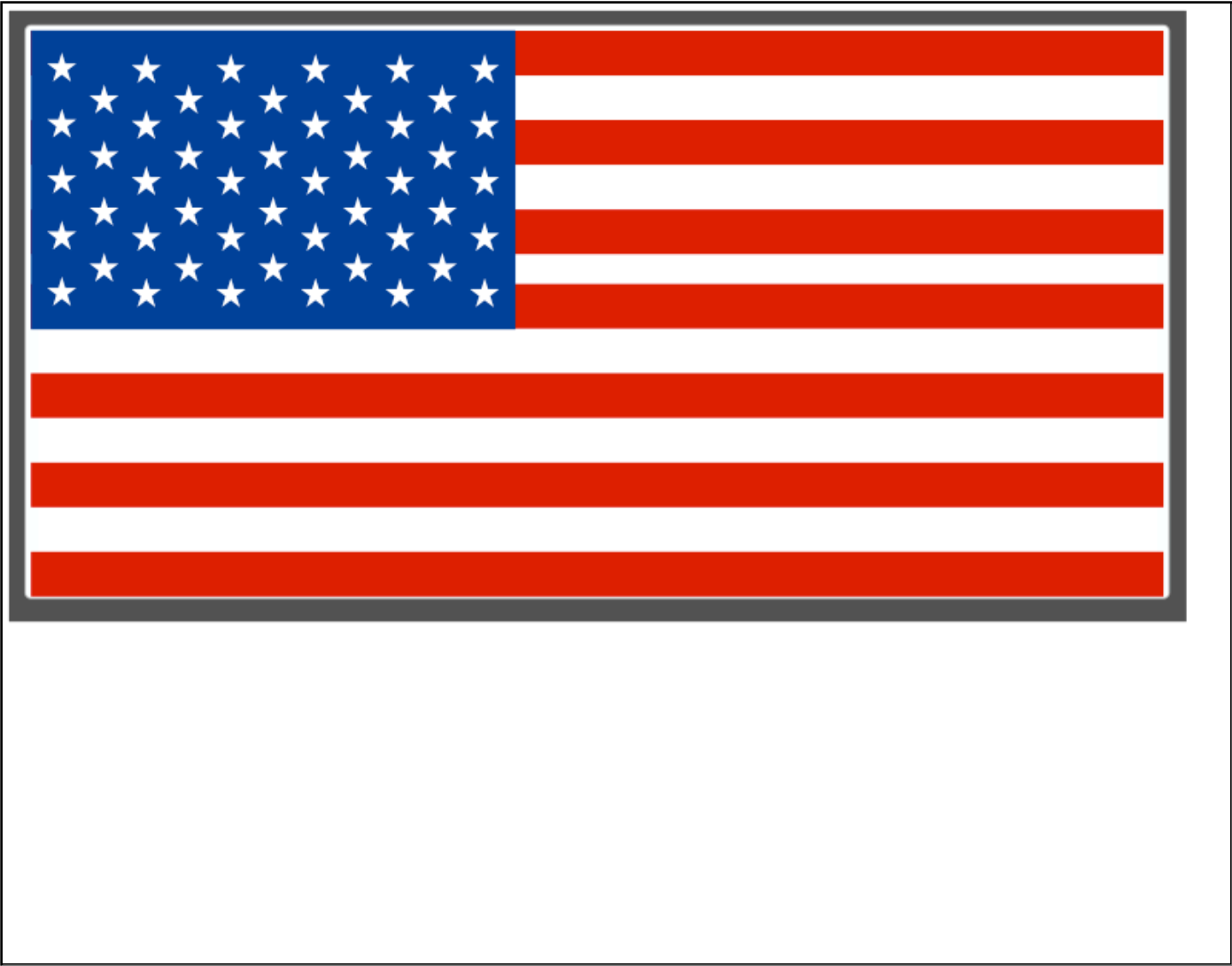
Voltaire befriended several European monarchs and nobles. Among them was the Prussian king Frederick II. The two men seemed like ideal companions. Both were witty and preferred to dress in shabby, rumpled clothes.

Their relationship eventually soured, however. Voltaire disliked editing Frederick's mediocre poetry, while Frederick suspected Voltaire of shady business dealings. Voltaire eventually described the Prussian king as "a nasty monkey, perfidious friend, [and] wretched poet." Frederick in turn called Voltaire a "miser, dirty rogue, [and] coward."

1. **Reason** Enlightened thinkers believed truth could be discovered through reason or logical thinking.
2. **Nature** The philosophes believed that what was natural was also good and reasonable.
3. **Happiness** The philosophes rejected the medieval notion that people should find joy in the hereafter and urged people to seek well-being on earth.
4. **Progress** The philosophes stressed that society and humankind could improve.
5. **Liberty** The philosophes called for the liberties that the English people had won in their Glorious Revolution and Bill of Rights.

Major Ideas of the Enlightenment		
Idea	Thinker	Impact
Natural rights—life, liberty, property	Locke	Fundamental to U.S. Declaration of Independence
Separation of powers	Montesquieu	France, United States, and Latin American nations use separation of powers in new constitutions
Freedom of thought and expression	Voltaire	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights and French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen; European monarchs reduce or eliminate censorship
Abolishment of torture	Beccaria	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights; torture outlawed or reduced in nations of Europe and the Americas
Religious freedom	Voltaire	Guaranteed in U.S. Bill of Rights and French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen; European monarchs reduce persecution

What country does it seem like these European men (and a woman you will read about for homework) seem to have influenced most?

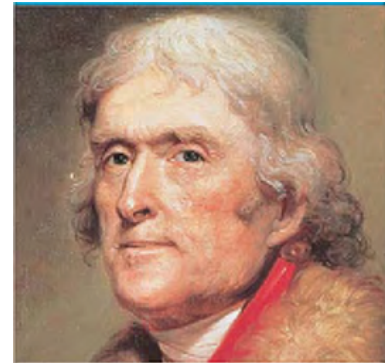


# The American Revolution Leads to American Independence!

## Americans Win Independence

In 1754, war erupted on the North American continent between the English and the French. As you recall, the French had also colonized parts of North America throughout the 1600s and 1700s. The conflict was known as the French and Indian War. (The name stems from the fact that the French enlisted numerous Native American tribes to fight on their side.) The fighting lasted until 1763, when Britain and her colonists emerged victorious—and seized nearly all French land in North America.

The victory, however, only led to growing tensions between Britain and its colonists. In order to fight the war, Great Britain had run up a huge debt. Because American colonists benefited from Britain's victory, Britain expected the colonists to help pay the costs of the war. In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act. According to this law, colonists had to pay a tax to have an official stamp put on wills, deeds, newspapers, and other printed material.



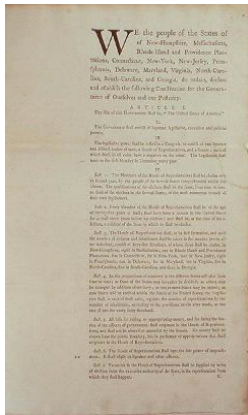
**Thomas Jefferson**  
1743–1826

The author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, was a true figure of the Enlightenment. As a writer and statesman, he supported free speech, religious freedom, and other civil liberties. At the same time, he was

## Democracy

Ancient Greece and Rome were strong influences on the framers of the U.S. system of government. Democracy as it is practiced today, however, is different from the Greek and Roman models.

The most famous democracy today is the United States. The type of government the United States uses is called a federal republic. "Federal" means power is divided between the national and state governments. In a republic, the people vote for their representatives. Two key components of democracy in the United States are the Constitution and voting.



Do you remember who helped the American's gain their independence?



## Global Impact

### The French Revolution

The American Revolution inspired the growing number of French people who sought reform in their own country. They saw the new government of the United States as the fulfillment of Enlightenment ideals, and longed for such a government in France.

The Declaration of Independence was widely circulated and admired in France. French officers like the Marquis de Lafayette (shown here), who fought for American independence, captivated his fellow citizens with accounts of the war. One Frenchman remarked about this time period, "We talked of nothing but America." Less than a decade after the American Revolution ended, an armed struggle to topple the government would begin in France.



# THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



-10:13



## Check For Understanding

- 1) How did the English Civil War influence the French Revolution?
- 2) How did the European Enlightenment influence the French Revolution?
- 3) How did the American Revolution influence the French Revolution?
- 4) Who are Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette?
- 5) Why does it feel like King Louis XVI is in trouble before he even is crowned?

