



# Government Foundations



## Systems of Government

Based on division of power between local and national government

- **Unitary – national government rules**
  - China, United Kingdom
- **Confederation – union of political units for common action**
  - Canada, European Union
- **Federal System – State and national governments share power**
  - United States, Germany, Australia

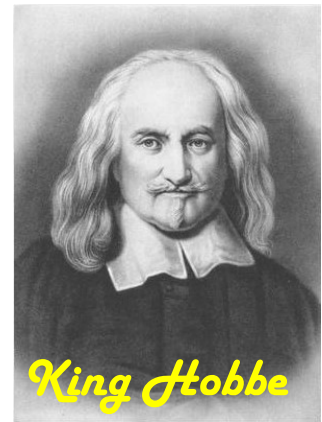
## Power In Government

- Anarchy – No government, chaos
- Totalitarianism – Government controls everything – total control
- Limited Government – Government allows individual freedom/choice
- Sovereignty – the authority or rule within a government

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## Thomas Hobbes

- Wrote Leviathan
- Father of Natural Rights
  - State of nature is “nasty, brutish and short”
  - No laws or anyone to enforce them
- First to introduce Social Contract Theory
  - Citizens give absolute power to a sovereign
  - Surrender liberty to the government in exchange for protection from chaos
  - Focused on individual freedoms with some protection from the government



# AUTOCRACY

- An autocracy is a government wherein a **SINGLE INDIVIDUAL** is in power
- There are two types of autocratic leaders:
  - Dictators
  - Monarchs

# Dictatorship

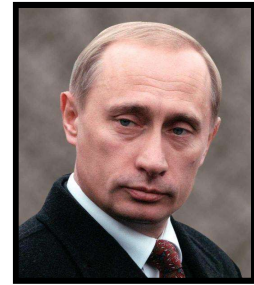
- Dictators gain their power through fear and/or force.
- Many have **TOTALITARIAN** governments.
- Totalitarian governments seek to control every facet of social and economic life
- They often resort to the use of military power to maintain authority
  - Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler
  - North Korea under Kim Jong Un



<https://planetrulers.com/current-dictators/>

# OLIGARCHY

- An oligarchy is a system wherein power is maintained by a small group of people.
- Power can come from
  - membership within the dominate political party (China)
  - Or by some combination of wealth, military and social connections (Russia)
- Oligarchies often hold elections, but only permit candidates who have been approved by the establishment.



Vladimir Putin



Dmitri Medvedev

# MONARCHY

- Monarchy is another form of government that is **USUALLY** autocratic.
- **Monarchs are hereditary (gained by birth)**
- Absolute monarchs have complete power to rule however they choose.
  - **Saudi Arabia** maintains an absolute monarchy.
- **Constitutional monarchies** are governments where power is shared between the crown and elected officials.
  - Great Britain is a constitutional monarchy.



# THEOCRACY

- In a theocracy, the government is run by a religious institution.
- The power to rule comes from God
- The fundamental laws are based on scripture.
  - Vatican City is ruled by the Pope, and law is rooted in canon (Church) law.
  - Although Iran has an elected president (Hassan Rouhani), he must answer to Ali Khamenei, an Islamic cleric and the Supreme Leader of the country.
  - Iranian law is based on Sharia Law—which Muslims believe is God's law.



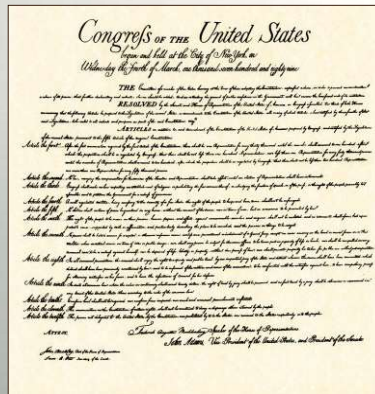
# DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is government by the people...wherein power is held by many, rather than a few.
- Our early government allowed for the participation of only a small number of citizens.



# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

## THE FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION



# 1ST AMENDMENT

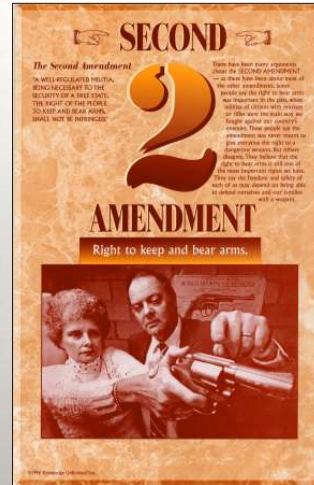
The **1st Amendment** guarantees freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly, and petition.

This means that we all have the right to:

- practice any religion we want to
- to speak freely
- to publish newspapers, TV, radio, Internet (press)
- to assemble (meet)
- to address the government (petition)

## 2ND AMENDMENT

The 2nd Amendment protects the right to bear arms, which means the right to own a gun.



## Principles of Democracy

- Individual Worth
- Rule by Law
- Civil Liberties and Rights
- Majority Rule with Minority Rights
- Free and open elections
- Popular Sovereignty

## DIRECT DEMOCRACY

- A Direct Democracy is a system in which every citizen can participate in every aspect of government.
- Our U.S. system has some components of direct democracy at the local/state level.
  - Initiatives—occur when citizens propose an amendment or law. If the proposal garners the required number of signatures, it can become law.
  - Referenda—occur when voters (rather than legislatures) vote on a particular law.
  - Recall—occurs when voters remove elected officials from office.



Derek Easterling  
Mayor of Kennesaw

## REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

- In a representative democracy, voters elect representatives and give them the power to make laws and conduct government.
- The U.S. is primarily a representative democracy.
- The vast majority of our laws are passed by representatives.





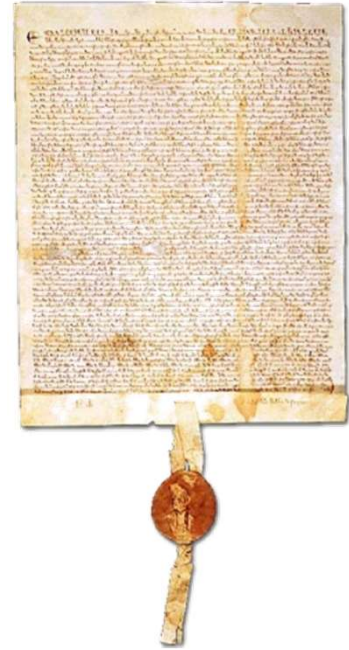
# John Locke

- Wrote Two Treatises of Government
- Believed people were naturally endowed with rights to life, liberty, and property. (unalienable)
  - Sound familiar????
- Believed the ONLY purpose of government was to protect these rights
- When government does not live up to protecting these rights or people, people have the right to break contract with government and replace it.



## Magna Carta -- 1215

- First attempt at a Social Contract
- Provides the basic principle of limited government
- Introduced the idea of fundamental rights (which can't be taken away)
  - Trial by jury, due process, protection against unjust punishment, and loss of life, liberty and property



## Petition of Right -- 1628

- Put limits on the power of the King
- Must work with the consent of Parliament (representatives of people)
- Outlines basic rights for individuals (no tax w/o representation, no imprisonment w/o cause, no housing soldiers, no use of martial law during peace)



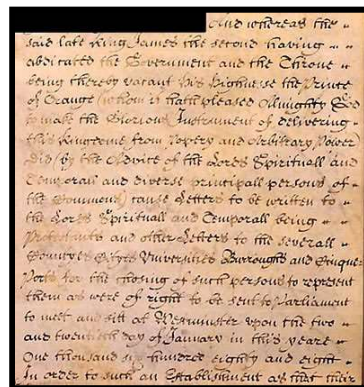
## English Bill of Rights -- 1689



- Placed clear limits on the absolute monarchy
  - Written by Parliament
  - Signed by King William & Queen Mary
- Provided for individual protections (with many of the rights found now found in the Constitution)

## Limits Established by the English Bill of Rights

- Monarchs DO NOT have absolute power—they must rule with the consent of the peoples' representatives in Parliament...
- The monarch cannot suspend laws, raise taxes or maintain an army without Parliamentary consent...
- The monarch cannot interfere with the business of Parliament...
- The people have the right to a fair and speedy trial (Habeas Corpus).
- The people will not be subjected to cruel and unusual punishments or excessive fines and bail.



## 3RD AMENDMENT

The *3rd Amendment* says "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."

This means that we cannot be forced to house or quarter soldiers.

## 4TH AMENDMENT

The *4th Amendment* protects the people from unreasonable searches and seizures.

This means that the police must have a warrant to enter our homes. It also means the government cannot take our property, papers, or us, without a valid warrant based on probable cause (good reason).

## Declaration of Independence

- Proposed by Henry Lee. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston.
- Approved July 4, 1776
- Lists grievances (complaints) against the king about his abuse of power
- Like Locke's social contract it says that government is created by the people and must serve the people
- Makes it clear that the government must follow rules just like the people



## The Declaration of Independence

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal”
- “They are endowed by their Creator with certain UNALIENABLE rights”
- “Among those rights are “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”
- “To secure those rights, governments are INSTITUTED among men...deriving their powers from the consent of the governed”
- “whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it”



## The Four Stanzas of the Declaration of Independence

- Part One: The Preamble, an explanation of purpose.
- Part Two: An explanation of the political ideas upon which the document was based. Emphasized “Natural Rights”, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- Part Three: A list of grievances against King George III.
- Part Four: A resolution that “...these United Colonies are...and of right ought to be Free and Independent States.

## A Selection of Grievances

...against King George III

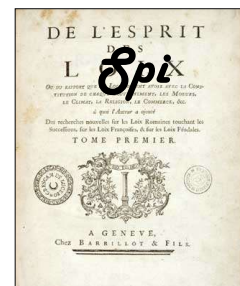
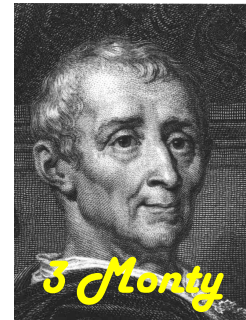
- For **quartering** large bodies of armed troops among us.
- For imposing **taxes** on us without our consent.
- He has affected to render the **Military** independent of and superior to the Civil Power.
- For **cutting off our trade** with all parts of the world.
- He has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless **Indian Savages**, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.
- He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burned our towns and **destroyed the lives of our people**.

## Articles of Confederation

- League of Friendship
- Limited Congressional Powers
  - Make war and peace, treaties
  - Administer navy
  - Establish post office
- Weak National Government
  - No power to tax, regulate trade
  - No power to enforce laws, change laws
  - One state, one vote
  - No national court system

## Baron de Montesquieu

- Wrote The Spirit of Laws
- Limited Government
- Separation of Powers  
Legislative, Executive, Judicial (3 branches)
- Checks and Balances



## 5TH AMENDMENT

The *5th Amendment* protects people from being held for committing a crime unless they are properly indicted (accused).

- You may not be tried twice for the same crime (double jeopardy)
- You don't have to testify against yourself in court. (Self-incrimination)
- Defines government's power of eminent domain