



5.3 The American Revolution

THE POWER OF IDEAS

Main Idea:

Enlightenment ideas led to **revolution, independence, and a new government** for the United States.



THE POWER OF IDEAS

French engraving of three titans of the Enlightenment: **Voltaire**, Jean-Jacques **Rousseau**, and Benjamin **Franklin**



Locke and Rousseau believed that *governments had a responsibility to uphold people's rights.*

- **Locke and Rousseau** believed that *governments had a responsibility to uphold people's rights.* If governments were not serving citizens properly, **citizens had the right to overthrow the government and establish democracy**
- The Enlightenment ideas had great influence on leaders of the **American** and French Revolutions

Social Contract

- John Locke, another philosopher of the Enlightenment, inspired American revolutionaries by arguing that a new social contract could be instituted if a government violated people's lives.

III. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

A. Change and Crisis

III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis

1. Forming a New Identity

- The colonies offered many opportunities that simply were not available in Great Britain. Land was plentiful and cheap.

Unlike the class system in England, how could individuals advance themselves in the colonies? (183)

- **ANSWER:** The English class system was largely absent, and individuals could more easily advance themselves through intelligence and hard work.

III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis 1. Forming a New Identity

- By the mid-1770s the colonies had been established for nearly 150 years.
- **Over time**, the colonists began to **identify more closely with the colonies and less with Britain itself.**



III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis

2. Opposing British Policies

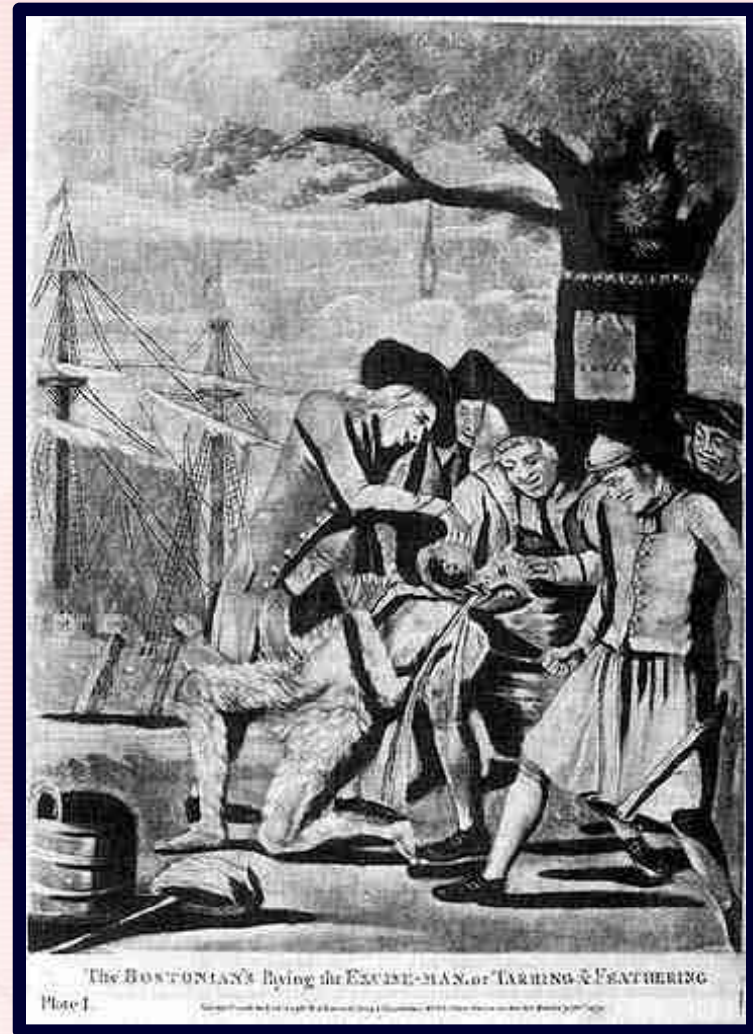
a. Stamp Act

(183) What did the Stamp Act require of colonists?

(183)




Answer: required colonists to pay a tax for an official stamp on newspapers, legal documents, and other public papers



III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis 2. Opposing British Policies

(183) What reactions did British tax policies prompt in the colonies?

- Answer:
- boycotts of British goods, 
- tension with British troops,
- Boston Massacre,
- Boston Tea Party



III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis

3. Revolution Begins



III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis

3. Revolution Begins

- 4. What did Thomas Paine argue in his Pamphlet, Common Sense? (184)
- Why is this pamphlet important in relation to the colonies calling for independence? (184)

Argued that the colonies had matured to the point that they **no longer needed British rule**. Instead, he argued, **they deserved independence**.

helped the Patriots gain popular support for the cause of independence



III. The American Revolution

A. Change and Crisis

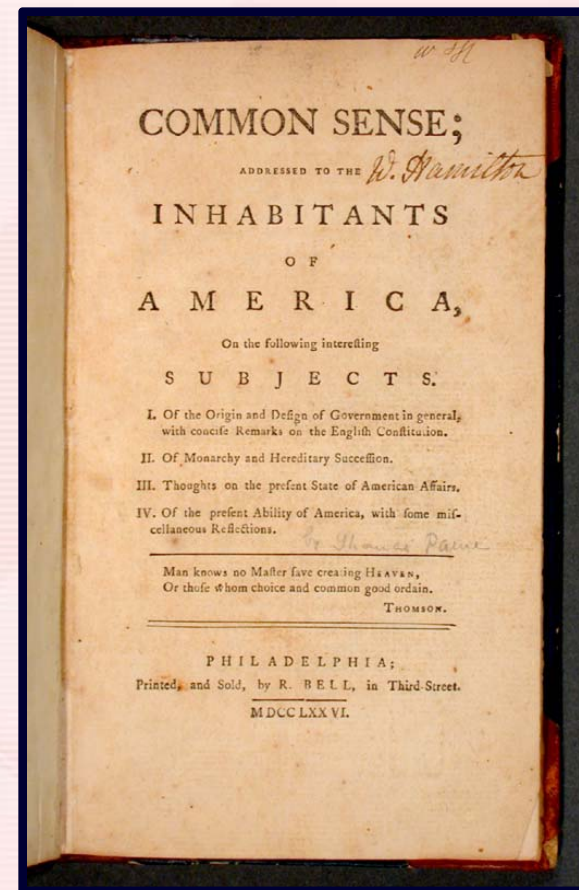
2. Opposing British Policies

a. Stamp Act

3. Revolution Begins

(183-184) What were some of the causes of change and crisis in the American colonies?

- Answer:
- taxes to pay for war
- Navigation Acts, Stamp Act
- Townshend Acts
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
- start of American Revolution
- Common Sense published



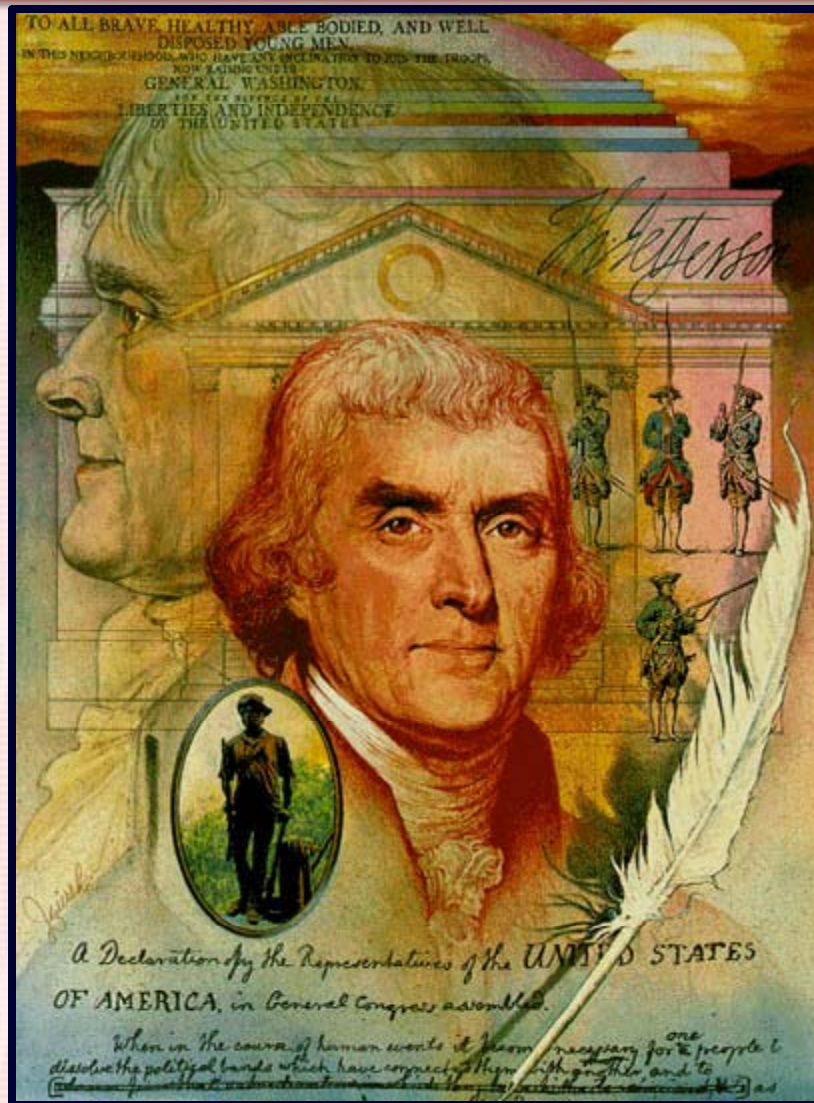
United States of America

- 1 Colonists and the government clash over money
- 2 Britain passes the Stamp Act to make money to pay for the cost of the French and Indian War (1763)
- 3 Colonists boycott British goods
- 4 Stamp Act repealed
- 5 Britain imposes taxes on glass, paper, paints, and tea;
- 6 Tensions run high between soldiers and colonists
- 7 The Boston Massacre and Tea Party take place in 1773
- 8 British pass Intolerable Acts
- 9 British pass Intolerable Acts, limiting freedoms of the colonists
- 10 colonists call the First Continental Congress (1774) to list grievances and plan for reconciliation
- 11 British government votes down reconciliation plan
- 12 British troops confront rebels in Lexington
- 13 pamphlet *Common Sense* helps garner popular support for American independence (1776)
- 14 The Second Continental Congress gathers to discuss problems with Britain, then decides to declare independence
- 15 They appoint George Washington leader of the Continental army



B. STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

III. The American Revolution



B. Struggle for Independence

1. Declaring Independence

a. Thomas Jefferson

(185) Identify:
Thomas Jefferson

- **Answer:**
- Jefferson wrote a draft of the Declaration, **incorporating ideas from Locke and Rousseau.**



III. The American Revolution

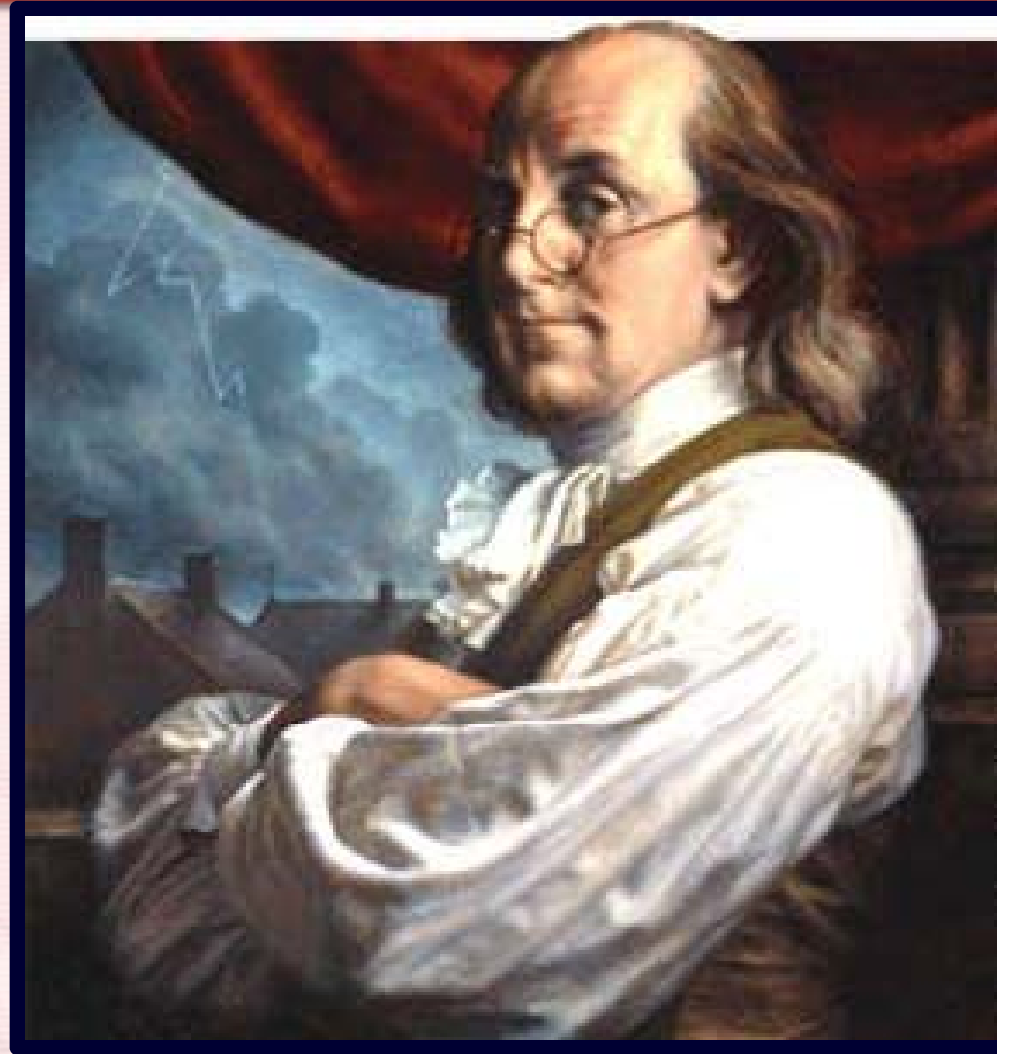
B. Struggle for Independence

1. Declaring Independence

b. Benjamin Franklin

(185) Identify: Benjamin Franklin

- **Answer:** American statesman; philosopher, scientist, inventor, writer, publisher, and member of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence who was also familiar with and influenced by enlightenment ideas.

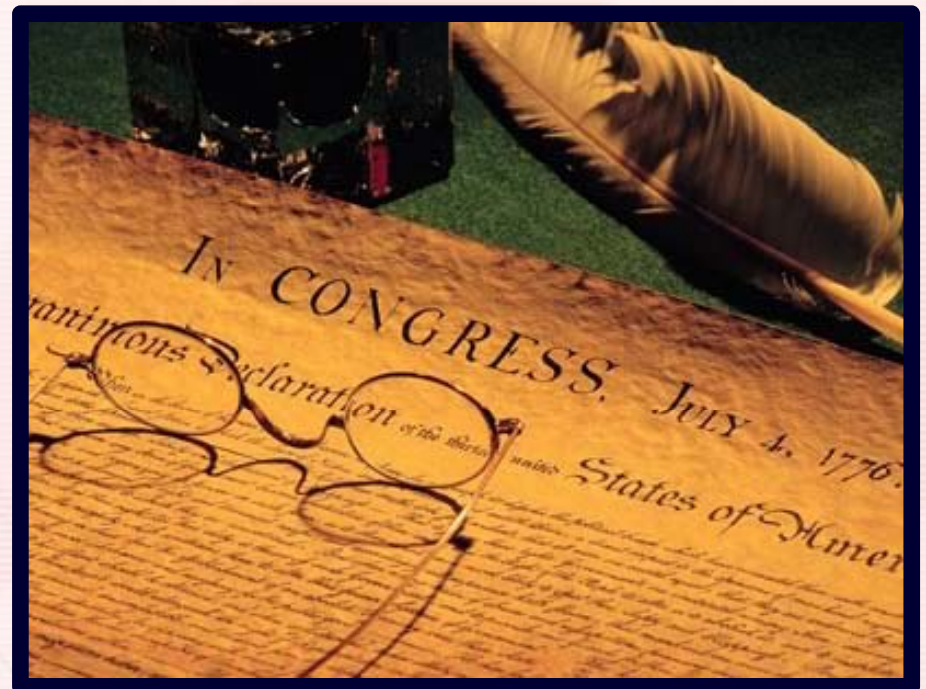


III The American Revolution

- B. Struggle for Independence
 - 1. Declaring Independence
 - a. Thomas Jefferson
 - b. Benjamin Franklin

(184) Who was on the committee to write the Declaration of Independence?

Answer: *Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and others, who were all familiar with Enlightenment ideas*



III. The American Revolution

B. Struggle for Independence

1. Declaring Independence

(184-185) Did the Declaration of Independence present old or new ideas? Explain your answer.

Answer—*was influenced by Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, and Enlightenment ideas, but Declaration presented those ideas in a new way*



The Enlightenment and the American Revolution

III. The American Revolution

B. Struggle for Independence

1. Declaring Independence

How do you think the English government reacted to the Declaration?

Answer—

They did not change their views;

they still needed to keep colonies under control for economic reasons



III. The American Revolution

B. Struggle for Independence

1. Declaring Independence

(1774-1776) How was the struggle for independence affected by Enlightenment concepts?

- Answer: *The concept of the **social contract** led colonists to believe **Great Britain could not rule the colonies without their consent**; Enlightenment ideas were used in the **Declaration of Independence**.*
- Enlightenment ideas created change in the relationship between citizens and their governments.

Enlightenment Ideas



The Enlightenment idea of the social contract was the idea that citizens have the right to overthrow their government if that government is no longer protecting the rights of citizens. Government and citizens enter into a contract in which citizens consent to being governed in exchange for the protection of their rights.

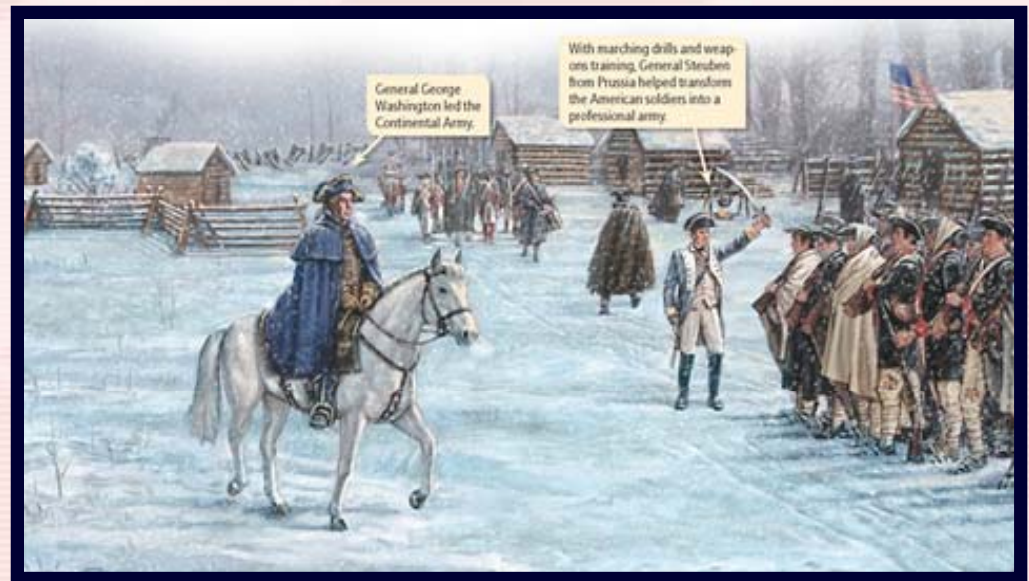
III. The American Revolution

B. Struggle for Independence

2. The Revolutionary War

How did American forces use their advantages to win the war?

Relied on Washington's great leadership; used knowledge of land to launch guerilla attacks; surrounded British forces on peninsula



III. The American Revolution

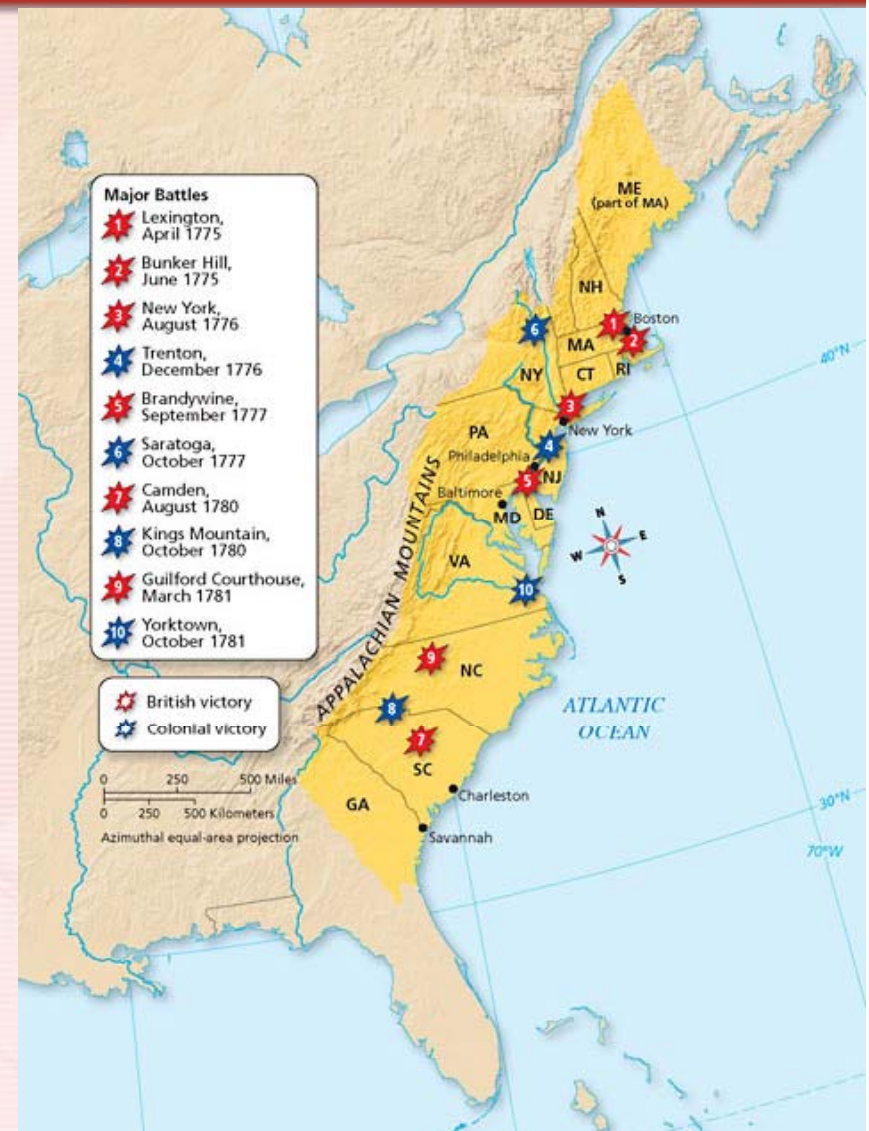
B. Struggle for Independence

2. The Revolutionary War

a. Treaty of Paris

Treaty of Paris

1783) the agreement that officially ended the American Revolution and established British recognition of the independence of the United States





C. FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT





III. The American Revolution

C. Forming a New Government

1. The Articles of Confederation

What powers did the government lack under the Articles of Confederation?

Answer: *had no power to tax or negotiate with foreign powers*

POWERS GRANTED BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	POWERS WITHHELD BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Congress could not raise revenue through taxes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Congress could raise armies•Congress could declare war	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Congress could not regulate trade and collect tariffs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Congress could sign treaties	

III. The American Revolution

C. Forming a New Government

1. The Articles of Confederation
2. The Constitution

(186) How did Americans form a new government?



- Answer: ***replaced Articles of Confederation with a new Constitution and Bill of Rights***

III. The American Revolution

- C. Forming a New Government
 - 2. The Constitution
 - a. James Madison

(1751–1836)
American
statesman; he was
a delegate to the
Constitutional
Convention and the
fourth president of
the United States.
He is known as the
“father of the
Constitution.”



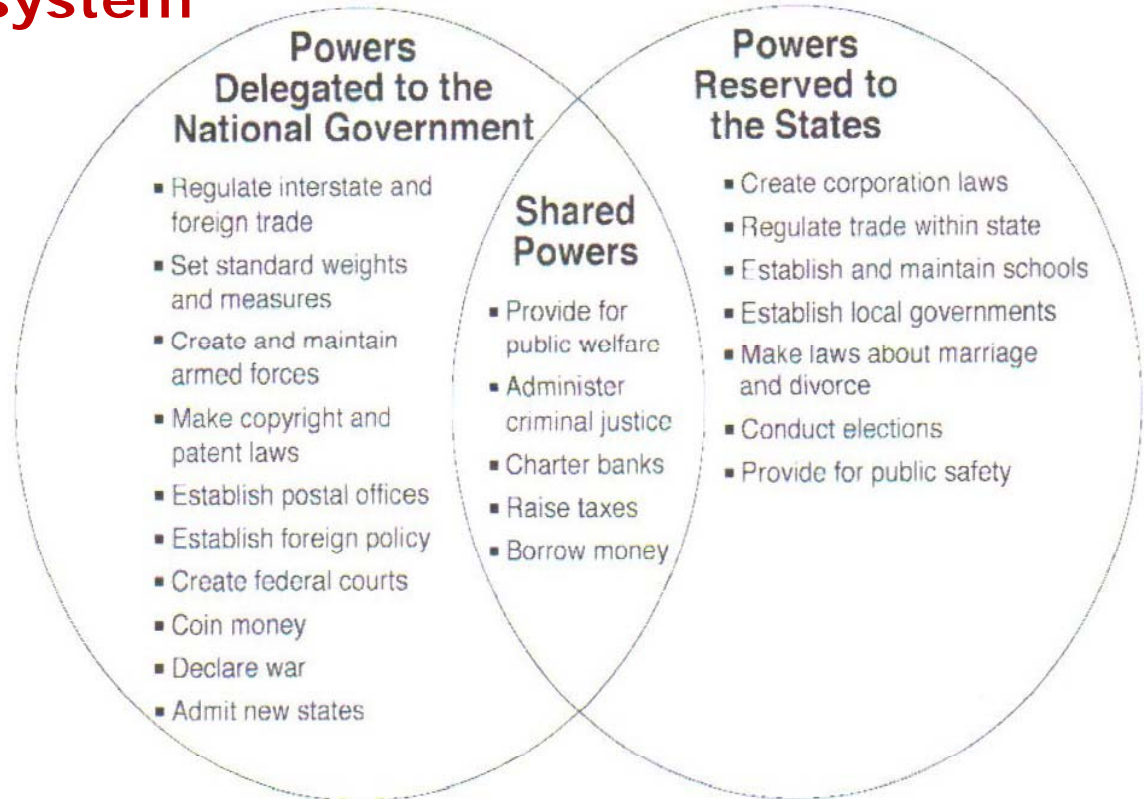
III. The American Revolution

C. Forming a New Government 2. The Constitution b. federal system





The Federal System

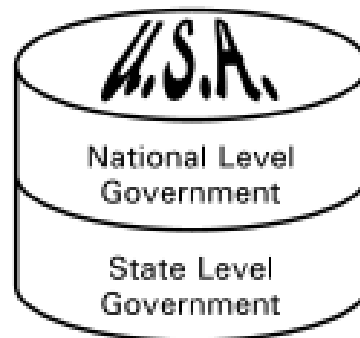
(186) *Define:*
federal system

Answer: a system of government in which **power is divided between a central, or a federal, government and individual states**



III. The American Revolution

POWERS GRANTED BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION	POWERS WITHHELD BY THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
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C. Forming a New Government 2. The Constitution

(186) How did the Constitution differ from the Articles of Confederation?

created a federal system of government, divided power among three branches of government to provide checks and balances

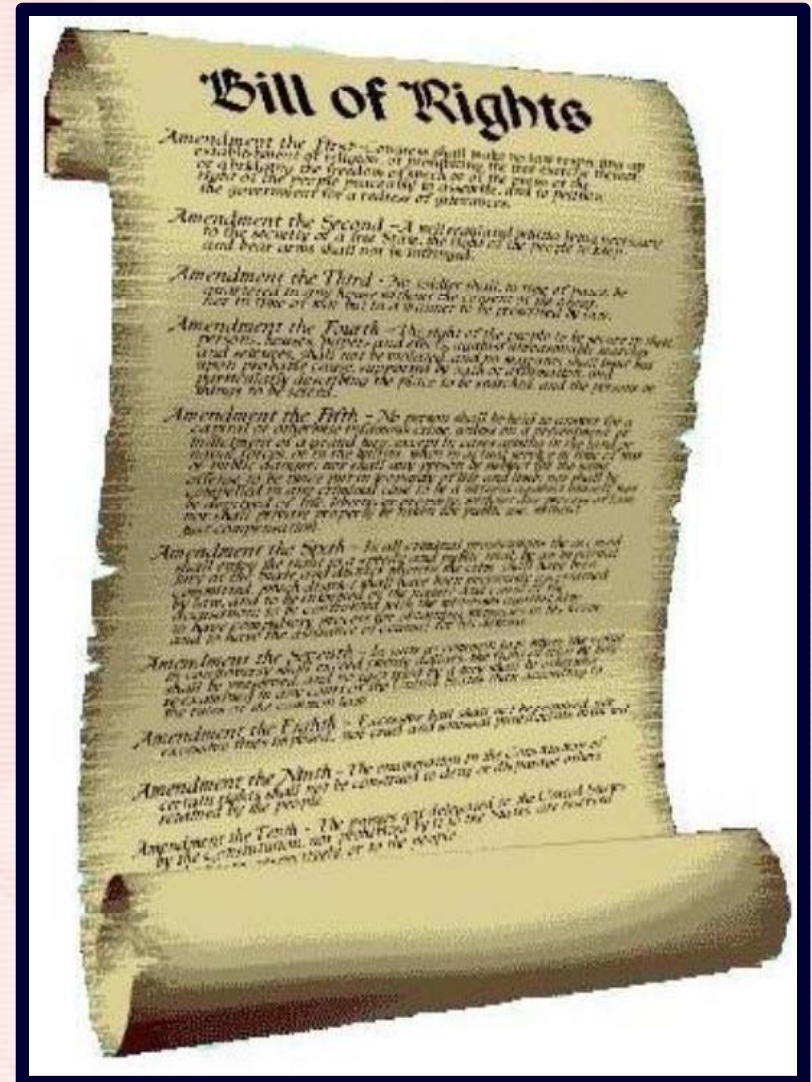


III. The American Revolution

C. Forming a New Government 3. The Bill of Rights

(186) How did the Bill of Rights become part of the Constitution?

- Answer: *A group of opponents wanted protection for individual rights to be added to the Constitution.*



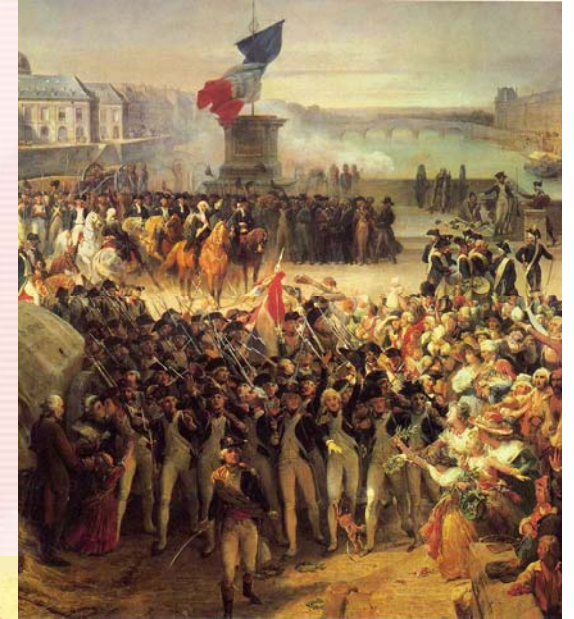
III. The American Revolution

C. Forming a New Government

4. Impact of American Government

(186) In what ways were the American and French Revolutions similar?

(French) *people rebelled against absolute monarchs and*
(American) *unfair taxation;*
replaced governments with Enlightenment principles of liberty, equality, democracy



III. The American Revolution

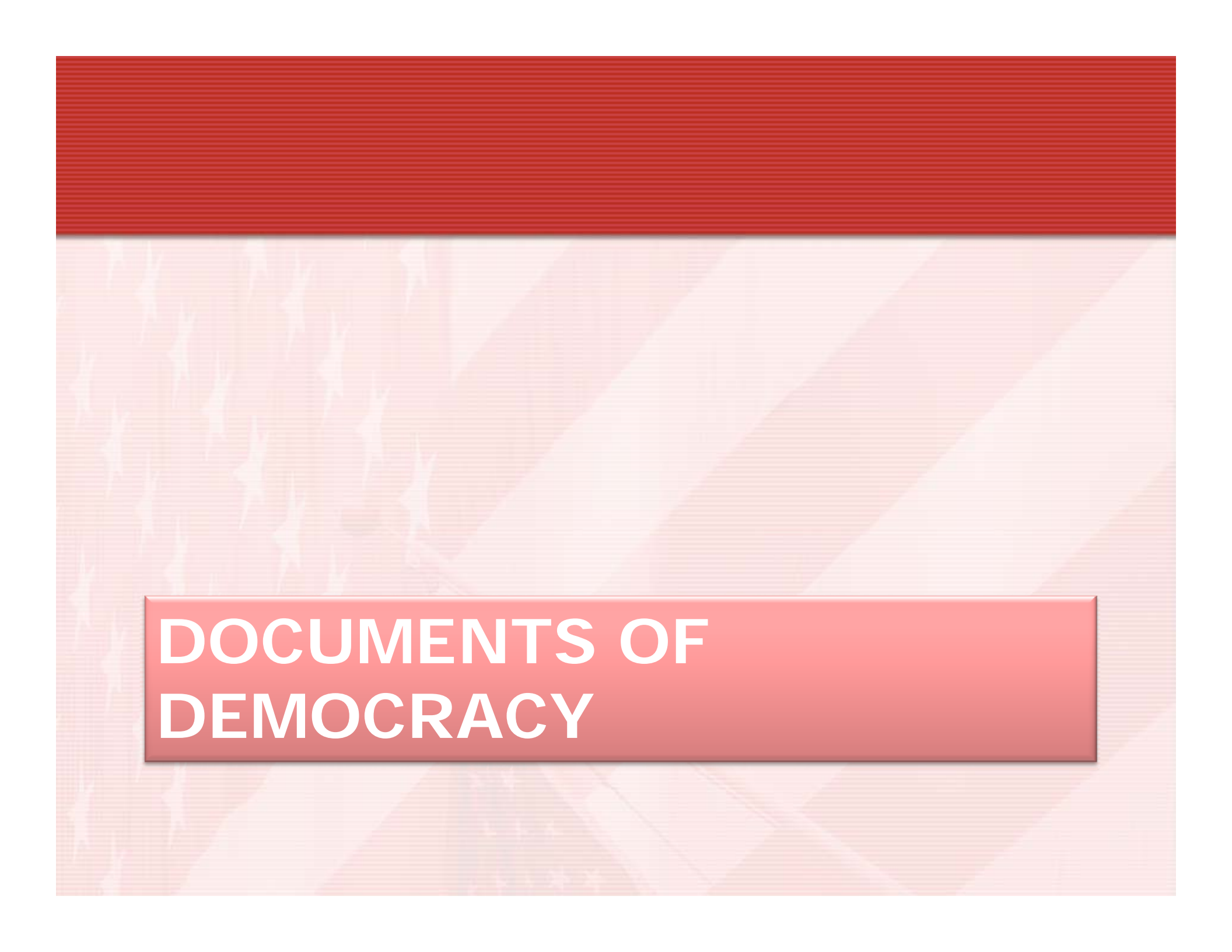
C. Forming a New Government

4. Impact of American Government

(186) Why do you think the French king supported the American Revolution even though his own government was similar to Great Britain's?

- Answer: *wanted to gain an advantage over Great Britain*



The image features a background of the United States flag, with the stars and stripes visible. A solid red horizontal bar is positioned at the top of the frame. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a red rectangular box with a slight gradient and a drop shadow, containing the text "DOCUMENTS OF DEMOCRACY" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**DOCUMENTS OF
DEMOCRACY**

Info to Know

The Magna Carta and Democracy

The Magna Carta and Democracy The Magna Carta is often cited as the first document in the development of modern democracy. While it is true that the Magna Carta did establish a foundation for later democratic documents, the document King John signed in 1215 was not so much democratic as it was a limitation of the powers of the king by the nobles. Nowhere in its pages did the Magna Carta provide for fully representative government, nor did it grant many rights to ordinary English people. Nevertheless, the Magna Carta did establish an important point: that even a king had to obey the law. Some of the rights granted to the nobles within the Magna Carta were later used to support modern political ideas such as due process of law, no taxation without representation, and the right to trial by jury.

Document 1a. Recall What was the role of the 25 barons in relation to the Magna Carta?

- *elected officials responsible for bringing the barons' complaints to the king and securing payment for any wrongdoing;*
- *could seize property from the king if necessary*
- **allay** reduce, relieve **redress** compensation, payment

The Magna Carta, 1215

In 1215 a group of English noblemen demanded that King John sign the Magna Carta to protect their rights. This document established that the power of the king could be limited by a written document.

Since we have granted all these things for God, for the better ordering of our kingdom, and to allay the discord that has arisen between us and our barons, . . . we give and grant to the barons the following security:

The barons shall elect twenty-five of their number to keep . . . the peace and liberties granted and confirmed to them by this charter.

If we . . . offend in any respect against any man . . . , and the offence is made known to four of the said twenty-five barons, they shall come to us . . . to declare it and claim immediate redress. If we . . . make no redress within forty days, . . . the twenty-five barons . . . may distrain upon and assail us in every way possible . . . by seizing our castles, lands, possessions, or anything else . . . until they have secured such redress as they have determined upon. Having secured the redress, they may then resume their normal obedience to us.

Document 1b. Analyze How did the Magna Carta limit the power of the monarch?

- *showed that the king could be punished for his actions*
- **allay** reduce, relieve
- **redress** compensation, payment

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Document 2a. Identify Which three powers did Montesquieu believe should be separated among branches of government?

- *the judicial, legislative, and executive;*
- **arbitrary** unrestrained in the exercise of power

The Spirit of the Laws, 1748

In his 1748 work, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Baron de Montesquieu explained his views on the separation of powers.

Again, there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers. Were it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control, for the judge would then be the legislator. Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with all the violence of an oppressor.

There would be an end of every thing were the same man, or the same body, whether of the nobles or of the people to exercise those three powers that of enacting laws, that of executing the public resolutions, and that of judging the crimes or differences of individuals.

Document 2b. Draw Conclusions What would be the consequences of not separating the three powers?

- *If power were not separated, it could become arbitrary and oppressive.*
- **arbitrary** unrestrained in the exercise of power

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Document 3a. Describe What complaints of the colonists does Paine want foreign nations to know about?

- *That the colonists cannot live happily or safely under British rule*

Common Sense, 1776

Thomas Paine argued for independence in his 1776 pamphlet, *Common Sense*.

Were a manifesto to be published, and despatched to foreign courts, setting forth the miseries we have endured, and the peaceable methods we have ineffectually used for redress; declaring, at the same time, that not being able, any longer, to live happily or safely under the cruel disposition of the British court, we had been driven to the necessity of breaking off all connections with her; at the same time, assuring all such courts of our peaceable disposition towards them, and of our desire of entering into trade with them: Such a memorial would produce more good effects to this Continent, than if a ship were freighted with petitions to Britain.

Under our present denomination of British subjects, we can neither be received nor heard abroad: The custom of all courts is against us, and will be so, until, by an independence, we take rank with other nations.

Document 3b. Interpret Why does Paine want foreign nations to know about the colonies' unhappiness of living under British rule?

- *in order to justify the call for independence*

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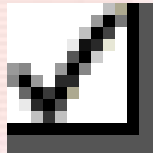
Info to Know: John Locke

John Locke English philosopher John Locke was one of the first people to coin many of the phrases in America's Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration, was well schooled in Enlightenment philosophy, including Locke's natural rights theory. Many of his most memorable lines were inspired by Locke. For example, in 1690, Locke wrote in *Two Treatises on Government* that humans have a natural right to "life, liberty, and property." In the Declaration, Jefferson adapted this phrase to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The ideas of Locke also lay behind the bold opening words of the Declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal..." Moreover, Jefferson gleaned from Locke the most central idea of independence: that the governed have the right to alter or abolish a government that does not protect the natural rights of the people.



Document 4a. Define What did “unalienable rights” mean?

- *rights that cannot be rejected—life, liberty, pursuit of happiness*



Declaration of Independence, 1776

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence in June 1776. The Declaration proclaimed the political philosophy of the American people—a philosophy drawn from Enlightenment ideals—and listed a set of grievances against the British king George III. The document was intended to justify the breaking of ties with Great Britain and the establishment of a newly independent United States.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Document 4b. Explain What options are available to citizens whose government no longer protects their rights?

- *They may change their government, or get rid of it and start a new government.*

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Essay

- *possible answer—
governments should
rule with the
consent of the
governed;*
- *power of
government should
be limited*

Taking Notes:

- *first successful English colonies;*
- *Seven Years' War causes England to create new tax policies;*
- *opposition and increase in tensions concerning the taxes between colonies and England*
- *fighting breaks out;*
- *Thomas Paine writes Common Sense encouraging revolution;*
- *Declaration of Independence;*
- *America wins war*