

Enlightenment Review



Do Now Activity



Journal #1

Respond to the following prompt:

**What makes America the
greatest country in the
world?**

U.S. Constitution!

The supreme law of the land

- Popular sovereignty
- Limited government
- Separation of powers
- Checks and balances

But really. There's no evidence
whatsoever to back that kind
of statement.

Do Now Activity



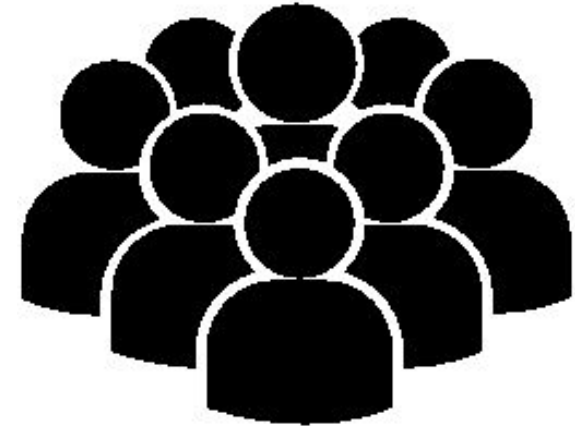
Journal #3

In your ideal government, what kind of rights do you want guaranteed or protected? Why?

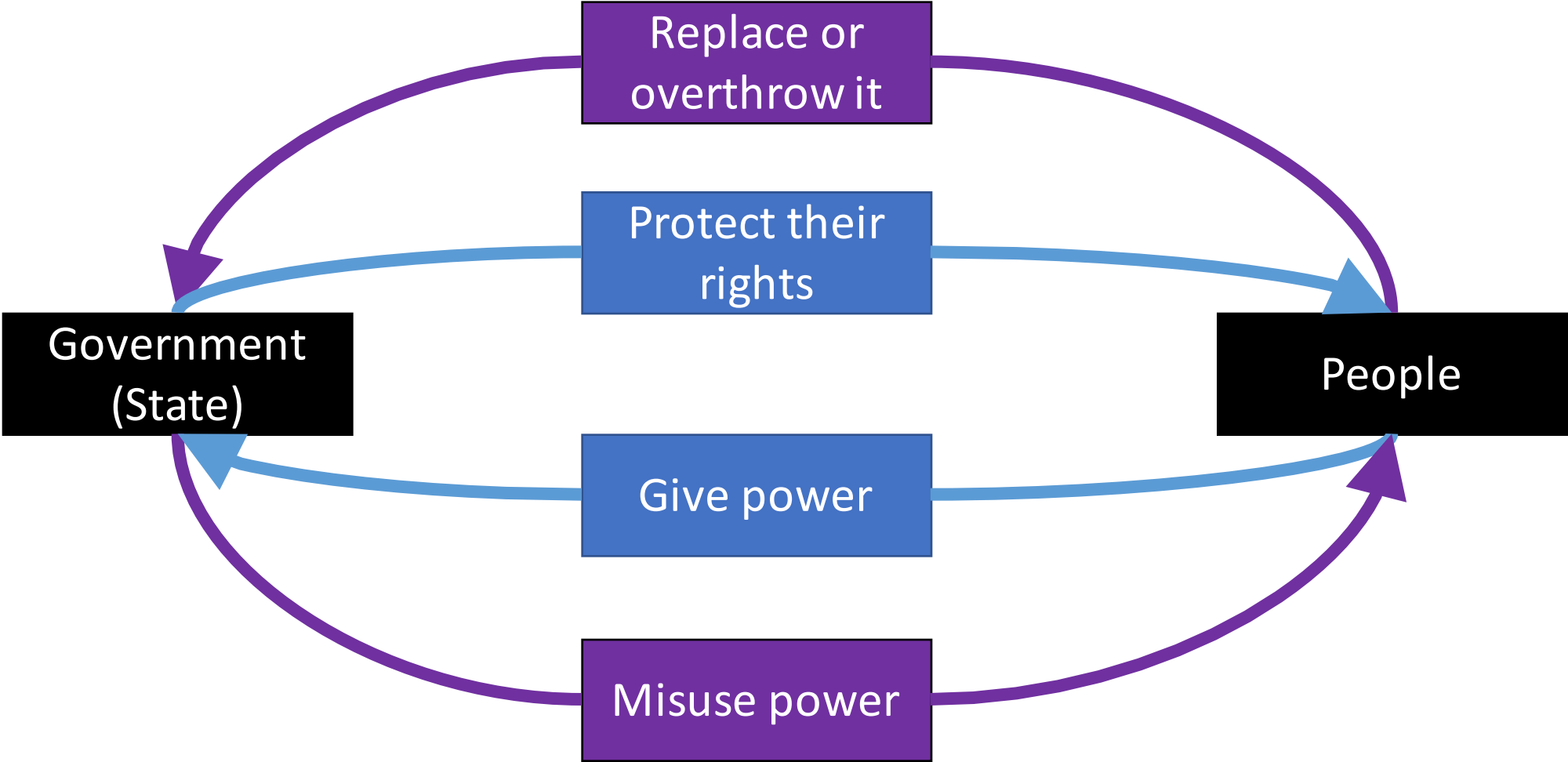
**Look at "Left-Right Politics" notes for Journal #2*

Social Contract Theory

- State derives power, or **sovereignty**, from the people



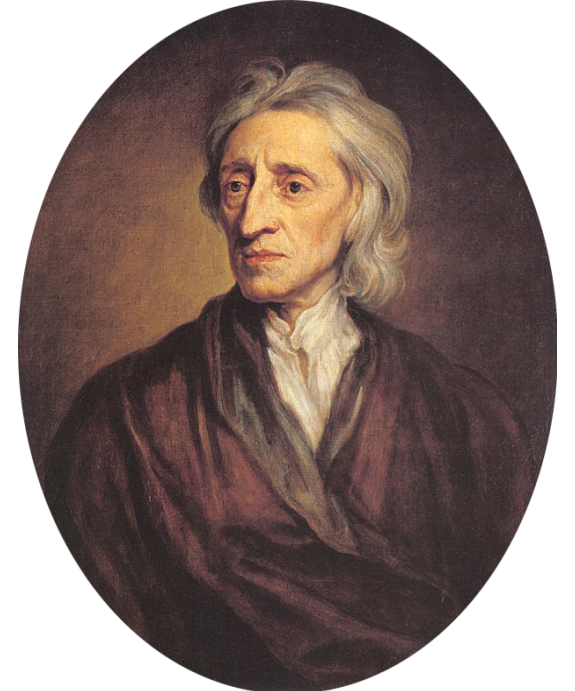
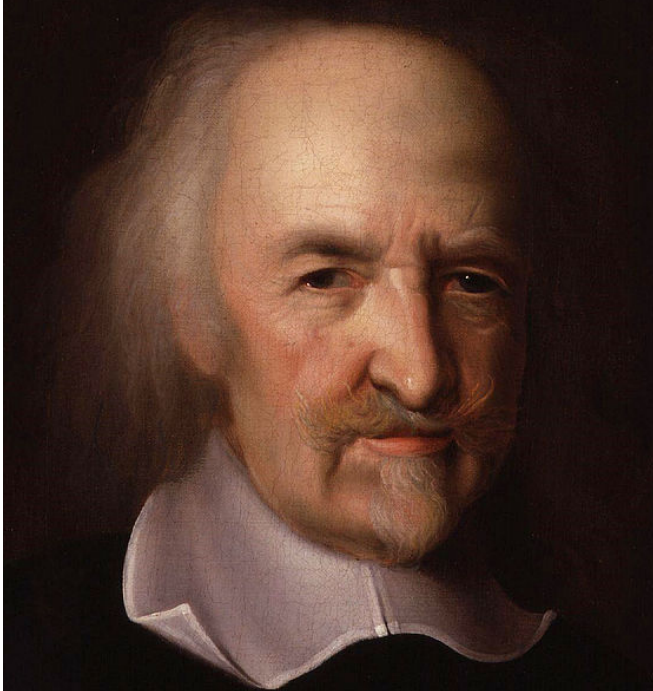
Social Contract Theory



Thomas Hobbes and John Locke

Early English Enlightenment philosophers in the 1600s

They both lived through the English Civil War and came to very different conclusions about government.



Thomas Hobbes

- People are naturally selfish and wicked
- Without governments to keep order, there would be “war...of every man against every man” and life would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

Nature vs. Nurture

-
- Since the world is so chaotic, people should hand over their rights to a strong ruler (*Leviathan*) to gain law and order — **social contract** between people and government
 - Hobbes believed that an absolute monarchy would provide that kind of ruler

John Locke

- People are naturally good and can improve
 - People have the ability to govern themselves
-
- People are born free and equal with **three natural rights — life, liberty, and property**
 - It is purpose of the government to protect those rights. If it fails to protect them, citizens have the right to overthrow it. — **consent of the governed**

Where do you see this today?

Three natural rights —
life, liberty, and
property

**Declaration of
Independence**

“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.**”

Consent of the governed
(**popular sovereignty**)

Our Government!!!

The state of nature has a law of nature to govern it, which obliges every one: and reason, which is that law, teaches all mankind, who will but consult it, that being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions... (and) when his own preservation comes not in competition, ought he, as much as he can, to preserve the rest of mankind, and may not, unless it be to do justice on an offender, take away, or impair the life, or what tends to the preservation of the life, the liberty, health, limb, or goods of another.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and 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 the separation.

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.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and 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 and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.— Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.

Voltaire



- Critical of clergy, aristocracy, and government
- Went to jail twice
- Exiled to England for more than two years

“I do not agree with a word you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.”

- **Advocated freedom of speech and religion and separation of church and state**

Where do you see this today?

1st Amendment!!!

“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.”

Montesquieu



- Wary of power
- Thought Britain was the best government in the world
- Believed separation of powers would keep any one from gaining too much power
- “Power should be able to check power.”

- **Advocated separation of powers in government**

Where do you see this today?

**Checks &
Balances**

Three Branches

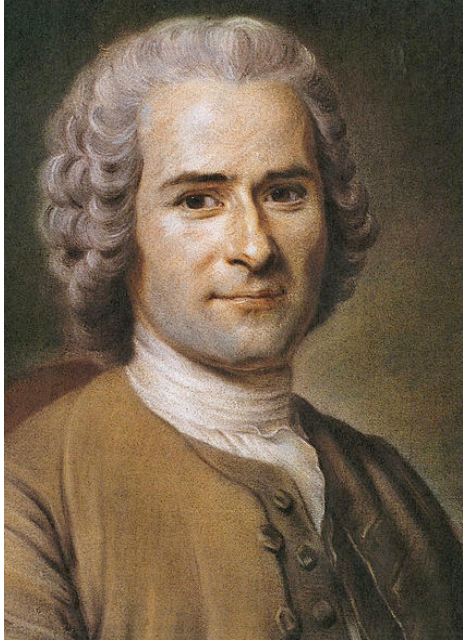
Executive

Legislative

Judicial

Defined in Constitution

Rousseau



- Believed good government was freely formed by people and guided by the “general will” (direct democracy)
- People give up some rights in exchange — social contract
- “Man is born free, and everywhere else he is in chains.”
- Ideas more popular with French Revolution

- **Argued against titles of nobility**

Where do you see this today?

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 9

“No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.”

U.S. Constitution

The supreme law of the land

- **Popular sovereignty**
 - **Consent of the governed**
- **Limited government**
 - **Powers given and restricted a constitution, or laws**



U.S. Constitution

The supreme law of the land

- **Separation of powers**
 - Each branch have different duties and power
 - Prevent any one branch from getting too powerful
- **Checks and balances**
 - Each branch has power similar or equal to the other and have oversight of each other



U.S. Checks & Balances

Confirms or rejects appointments by executive (including judges)

Can veto legislation

Appoints judges

Legislative
Writes laws

Executive
Enforces laws

Judicial
Interprets laws

Can declare acts of the legislative or executive branch
to be unconstitutional

