

Bell Ringer

- In your opinion, why do nations have a government?



THE IDEAS OF JOHN LOCKE

Revolutionary Period

- ◎ The revolutionary generation **formulated** the political **philosophy** and laid the institutional **foundations** for the system of **government** under which American's live.

Revolutionary Period

- ◎ The American Revolution was **inspired** by **ideas** concerning **natural rights** and **political authority**, and its successful completion affected people and governments throughout the world for many generations.

A FREE HUMAN



NATURAL RIGHTS

[Law]



Life

Free Will/Liberty

Freedom

[Principles]

Revolutionary Period

- ◎ New political ideas about the relationship between people and their government helped to justify the Declaration of Independence.



Political Thought

- ◎ The period known as the “**Enlightenment**” in **Europe** during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries saw the **development of new ideas** about the **rights of people** and their **relationship** to their **rulers**.



John Locke

- John Locke was an Enlightenment philosopher whose ideas, more than any others, influenced the American belief in self-government.

Ideas of John Locke

- Locke's ideas about the **sovereignty** and **rights** of the **people** were **radical** and **challenged** the centuries-old practice throughout the world of **dictatorial** rule by **kings**, **emperors**, and tribal chieftains.

Dictatorial Rule

- Characteristic of an absolute ruler or absolute **rule**; having absolute sovereignty (power/control).

John Locke's Writings

- ◎ All people are free, equal, and have “natural rights” of life, liberty, and property that rulers cannot take away.

John Locke's Writings

- ◎ All original power resides in the people, and they consent to enter into a “social contract” among themselves to form a government to protect their rights.

John Locke's Writings

- ◎ In return, the people promise to obey the laws and rules established by their government, establishing a system of “ordered liberty.”

John Locke's Writings

- Government's **powers** are **limited** to those the **people** have **consented** to **give** to it.

John Locke's Writings

- Whenever **government** becomes a **threat** to the people's **natural rights**, it **breaks** the **social contract**, and the people have the **right to alter or overthrow** it.

AN
ESSAY

CONCERNING
Humane Understanding.

In Four BOOKS.

Written by JOHN LOCKE, Gent.

The Fourth Edition, with large Additions.

ECCLES. XI. 5.

As thou knowest not what is the way of the Spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the Womb of her that is with Child: even so thou knowest not the works of God, who maketh all things.

Quam bellum est velle confiteri potius nescire quod nescias, quam ista effutientem nauseare, atque ipsum sibi displicere! Cic. de Natur. Deor. l. 1.

LONDON:

Printed for *Awnsham and John Churchil*, at the *Black-Swan* in *Pater-Noster-Row*; and *Samuel Mansbip*, at the *Ship* in *Cornhill*, near the *Royal-Exchange*, MDCC.

TWO
TREATISES
OF

Government:

In the former,
The false Principles, and Foundation
OF

Sir ROBERT FILMER,
And his FOLLOWERS,
ARE

Detected and Overthrown.

The latter is an

ESSAY

CONCERNING THE

True Original, Extent, and End
OF

Civil Government.

LONDON,

Printed for *Awnsham Churchill*, at the *Black-Swan* in *Ave-Mary-Lane*, by *Amen-Corner*, 1690.