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## Teacher Overview

[Go directly to student-facing materials!](#)



### SQ 3. What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about government?



**Unit Essential Question(s):** How do new ideas spark change? Do these changes last? [Link to Unit](#)

**Supporting Question(s):** What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about government?

**Objective(s):**

- **Describe** the points of view of Enlightenment Thinkers on government.

### Vocabulary

The following words are introduced or reinforced in this lesson. Reference the unit vocabulary tracker for more information. [Click here](#) for the New Visions Global History glossary.

Word/Phrase (part of speech)	Definition
absolute monarchy (n.)	system of government where one person has absolute control
abuse of power (n.)	misuse of one's position in power, usually government
Baron de Montesquieu (n.)	French Enlightenment Thinker who wrote The Spirit of Laws and believed that to keep one person or group from gaining too much power a government should be separated into three branches: judicial, legislative, and executive.

consent (n.)	permission for something to happen or an agreement to do something
consent of the governed (n.)	permission given by the people in a country to the government allowing them to rule, usually through voting.
constitution (n.)	the set of basic laws and principles by which a nation, state, or other organization is governed
contract (n.)	an agreement between two or more people
equity (n.)	fairness or justice
executive (n./adj.)	the part of a government that enforces laws- the president, governor, or mayor
governed (the) (n.)	those who are ruled; citizens
government (n.)	the group of people that has power to make laws and important decisions for a community, state, or nation
Institution (n.)	an organization founded for a religious, educational, social, or similar purpose like a government
Jean Jacques Rousseau (n.)	French Enlightenment Thinker who wrote about the social contract
John Locke (n.)	an English Enlightenment Thinker who wrote Two Treatises of Government and believed that the role of government is to protect people's natural rights (life, liberty, and property), and that government can only get its right to rule from the consent of the governed.
judiciary (n.)	the part of a government that interprets laws- courts, judges
justice (n.)	fairness
legislature (n.)	
legislative (adj.)	the part of a government that makes laws- parliament or congress
liberty (n.)	the freedom to do what you'd like to do
natural rights (n.)	rights that all people are born with and that John Locke believed the government should protect including the rights to life, liberty, and property; sometimes called "natural laws"
philosopher (n.)	one who thinks about, questions, and studies the nature of life, truth, knowledge, and other important human matters
political (adj.)	having to do with government
reason (n.)	the power of the mind to think, understand, and make sense of the world
right (n.)	something you are allowed to do because you are a person
separation (n.)	the division of something into different parts
social (adj.)	having to do with society, people living together in large groups
social contract (n.)	

*The Spirit of Laws (n.)* book written by Baron de Montesquieu  
 treatise (n.) a written work dealing with a specific subject

*Two Treatises of Government (n.)* book written by John Locke

### Formative Assessment Possible Responses

These responses represent possible answers to the formative assessment tasks in this lesson. They are not the only correct answers. Create your own list of possible responses before using this resource with students to anticipate student misconceptions and adjust your instruction.


## *The Constitution of Deserted Islandia*

<i>Feature of the Government</i>	<i>Enlightenment Thinker(s) Whose Point of View Inspired the Feature</i>
1. Freedom of Speech, protected by laws	Voltaire, Rousseau
2. Students should choose the leader by voting	Locke
3. There should be a set of rules that everyone agrees to and follows	Rousseau

### NYS Social Studies Framework

Key Idea	Conceptual Understandings	Content Specifications
10.2: ENLIGHTENMENT, REVOLUTION, AND NATIONALISM: The Enlightenment called into question traditional beliefs and inspired widespread political, economic, and social change. This intellectual movement was used to challenge political authorities in Europe and colonial rule in the Americas. These ideals inspired political and social movements. (Standards: 2, 3, 5; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV)	10.2a Enlightenment thinkers developed political philosophies based on natural laws, which included the concepts of social contract, consent of the governed, and the rights of citizens.	Students will examine at least three Enlightenment thinkers, including John Locke, Baron de Montesquieu, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and key ideas from their written works.

## Social Studies Practices

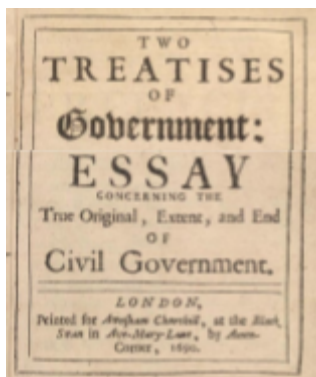
NYS Social Studies Practices	New Visions Student Social Studies Practices
<b>Gathering, Using and Interpreting Evidence</b> (A1, A5)	 Contextualize

## NYS Common Core Learning Standards

Reading	Writing	Speaking and Listening
<b>Craft and Structure:</b> <b>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4:</b> Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.	<b>Text Types &amp; Purposes:</b> <b>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1:</b> Write arguments focused on <i>discipline-specific content</i> .	<b>Comprehension and Collaboration:</b> <b>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1:</b> Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

## Drawings

The following Google Drawings are used in this lesson. We often place uneditable versions of these drawings in lesson resources because they are better image quality. If you would like to change the images, edit the drawings below and replace the images in the following pages.



Source: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10405/10405-h/10405-h.htm>

## Associated Classroom Posters

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[Student Social Studies Practices Poster](#)  
[New Visions Enduring Issues Tips and List](#)

# What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about government?

Objective:

- **Describe** the points of view of Enlightenment Thinkers on government.

## Introduction

➡**Directions:** Read the following scenario, then answer the questions that follow.

Imagine that you and all of the other students in your grade are going on a class trip to China. All of the students board a plane, but your teachers have to take another flight. When you're flying over the middle of the Pacific Ocean the plane's engines malfunction and you crash on a deserted island. The pilot and crew parachuted out of the plane before it landed, but miraculously all of the students survived.

The island has enough food and fresh water on it for everyone, but after a week of waiting it is clear that no one is going to come and rescue you. The lack of rules have created tension between your classmates and you decide that a government is needed.

**Luckily, you have your Global History binder in your backpack, so you have some ideas.**



deserted island that you now call home.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

1. Why do you need a government?

2. What should the government do for you and your classmates?

3. What limits should there be on the government?

Check your Global History binder, What would Louis XIV, **absolute monarch** of France (r. 1654-1715) recommend?

➡**Directions:** Finish the sentence below with Louis XIV's recommendations.



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

**I think your government should....**

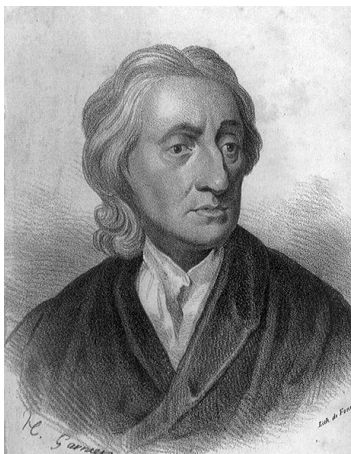


Contextualize

## Who were the Enlightenment Thinkers? What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about government?

➡ **Directions:** Read through the biographical information about each of the Enlightenment Thinkers and excerpts from their writing, then complete the tasks accompanying the information.

### John Locke (1632-1704)



John Locke

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

### Historical Context

John Locke was an English philosopher and writer. He lived through the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution in England both of which heavily influenced his ideas and he lived for a time in France during the reign of Louis XIV. Locke was a religious Protestant Christian and believed in freedom of religion. Combining his Christian beliefs with reason and the examination of evidence that scientists used, he wrote about the government, its purpose, and the best way to govern.

His most popular and influential book was *Two Treatises of Government*. A treatise is a written work dealing with a specific subject. The book explains Locke's view on the purpose of government and the natural rights of people. It influenced Thomas Jefferson's writing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

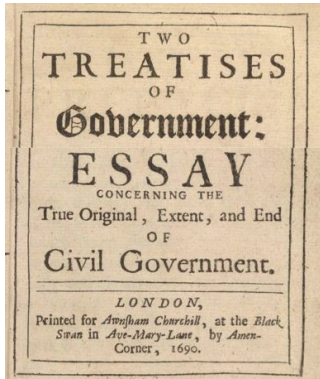
Source: Adapted from "John Locke." Encyclopedia Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Locke>



[Video Biography from CloudBiography](#)

<b>Location:</b>	England
<b>Famous Writing:</b>	<i>Two Treatises of Government</i> , 1690
<b>Most Well-Known Ideas:</b>	Government should protect people's <b>Natural Rights (life, liberty, and property)</b> Government should be based on the <b>Consent of the Governed</b> . This means that the people (the governed) should give their permission (consent) to the government, usually through voting.

# Two Treatises of Government 1690 by John Locke



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

Text Sources: NYS Global  
History and Geography  
Regents Exam;  
John Locke. *Second Treatise  
of Government*.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>

## Excerpts from *Two Treatises of Government*

If man in the **state of nature** is free, if he is absolute lord of his own person and possessions [things that he owns], why will he give up his freedom? Why will he put himself under the control of any person or **institution** [an organization created for a religious, educational, social, or political purpose]? The obvious answer is that rights in the state of nature are constantly exposed to the attack of others. Since every man is equal and since most men do not concern themselves with **equity** and **justice**, the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure. Hence each man joins in society with others to preserve his **life, liberty, and property**.

...as far as we have any light from history, we have reason to conclude, that all peaceful beginnings of government have been laid in the **consent** [permission] of the people.

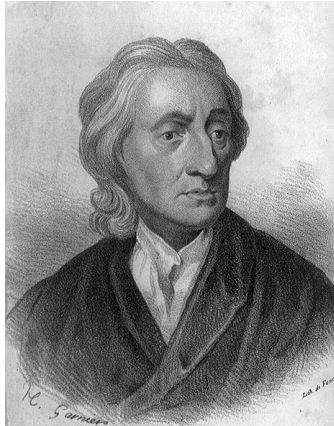
[When] the **legislature** shall . . . grasp [for] themselves, or put into the hands of any other, an absolute power over their lives, liberties, and estates of the people, . . . they forfeit [give up] the power the people had put into their hands for quite contrary [opposite] ends, and it [passes] to the people, who have a right to resume their original liberty. . . .

## Questions

1. What do you think Locke means by “state of nature?”
2. According to John Locke, why would a person “put himself under the control of any person or institution,” like a government?
3. What does Locke mean when he says, “the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure?” Can you think of an example of this?
4. What are the three natural rights that Locke lists at the end of this excerpt?
5. According to Locke, what have “all peaceful beginnings of government” had in common? Why do you think that might lead to a more peaceful government?
6. According to Locke, when does a legislature, or government, lose its right to rule?



What is John Locke's point of view? What would John Locke recommend for your deserted island government?

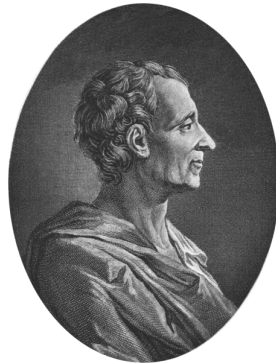


John Locke

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I think your government should....

### Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

**Location:** France

**Most Famous Writing:** *The Spirit of Laws*, 1748

**Most Well-Known Idea:** **Separation of Powers**- there should be **three branches of government**- one that makes laws, one that enforces laws, and one that interprets laws

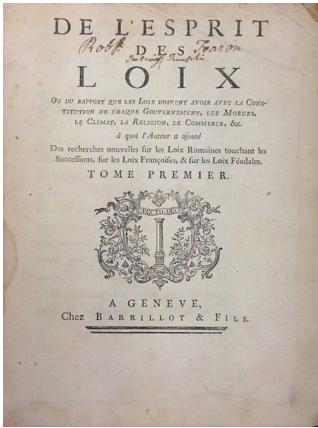
### Historical Context

Charles de Secondat was born to a noble family of modest wealth in France. He inherited the title “Baron de Montesquieu” when his uncle died and is now most commonly referred to by that name. Montesquieu was a lawyer but later devoted his life to political study and writing. He lived during the English Civil War and the reign of Louis XIV, both of which influenced his writing.

Montesquieu’s most well known book, *De l'Esprit des Lois* (*The Spirit of the Laws*) was critical of absolute monarchy. The kings and queens of Europe and their supporters disagreed with his claims and it was banned by the Catholic Church. It was very popular among opponents of monarchy, especially in England and the British colonies in North America where it heavily influenced the writing of the United States Constitution.

Source: Adapted from “Montesquieu.” Encyclopedia Britannica.  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Montesquieu>

# The Spirit of Laws, 1748 by Baron de Montesquieu



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

## Excerpts from *The Spirit of Laws*

Political **liberty** is to be found only in moderate governments; and even in these it is not always found. It is there only when there is no abuse of power: but constant experience shows us that every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go. To prevent this abuse, it is necessary, from the very nature of things, that power should be a check to power...In order to have this liberty, it is requisite [required] the government be so constituted [created] as one man need not be afraid of another. When the **legislative** and **executive** powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates [government employees], there can be no liberty. . . . Again, there is no liberty if the **judiciary** power be not separated from the **legislative** and **executive**...

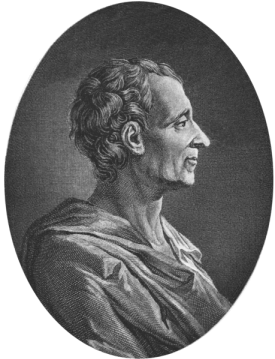
Source: The Spirit of the Laws (1749) Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu.  
[http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/pdf/Enlightenment\\_LOne.pdf](http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/pdf/Enlightenment_LOne.pdf)

## Questions

1. According to Montesquieu, when is “political liberty” found in a government?
2. Explain what Montesquieu means when he writes, “every man invested with power is apt to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it will go?” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. According to Montesquieu, how can the “abuse” of power be prevented in a government?
4. What three branches of government does Montesquieu say must be separated to have liberty?

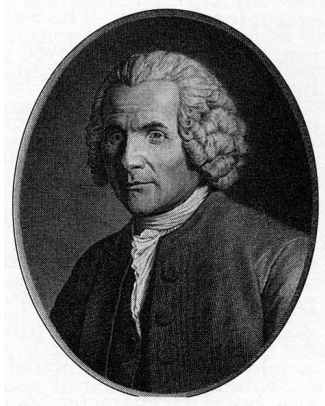
What is Baron de Montesquieu's point of view? What would Baron de Montesquieu recommend for your deserted island government?

I think your government should....



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

### Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

### Historical Context

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was born in Geneva, Switzerland. He spent much of his adult life travelling first as a teacher and the secretary of the French ambassador in Venice, Italy. He spent time in Paris where he met and socialized with other Enlightenment philosophers including Voltaire and Diderot. Rousseau returned to Switzerland when his relationships with other Enlightenment Thinkers became strained.

While in Geneva, Switzerland, he wrote his most famous book, *The Social Contract*. In the book, Rousseau argues that as members of a society we enter an agreement, the social contract, in which we promise to follow the "general will" of the members of the society as expressed by the laws made by the government. In exchange, we receive the liberty to do what we want as long as we do not break those laws.

*The Social Contract* was banned in France and Switzerland. To avoid arrest for his views, Rousseau moved to England. Eventually he returned to Paris where he lived until his death and continued to write books that were politically controversial.

His writings, which were heavily influenced by John Locke, inspired the leaders of the French Revolution which started shortly after his death.

Source: Adapted from "Jean-Jacques Rousseau." Encyclopedia Britannica.  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Jacques-Rousseau>

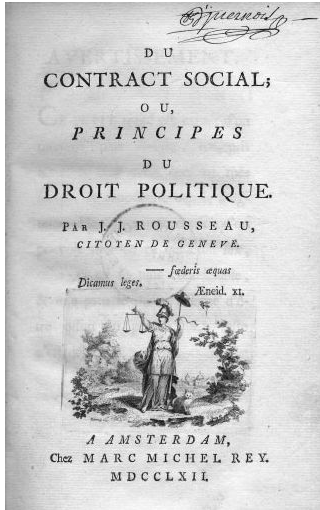
 [Video Biography from CloudBiography](#)

**Location:** Switzerland/France

**Most Famous Writing:** *The Social Contract*, 1762

**Most Well-Known Idea:** Social Contract Theory

# The Social Contract, 1762 by Jean-Jacques Rousseau



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

## Excerpts from *The Social Contract*

I...regard the establishment of the political body as a real **contract** between the people and the chiefs chosen by them: a contract by which both parties bind themselves to observe the laws therein expressed, which form the ties of their union.

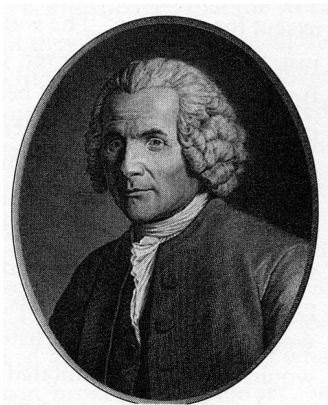
From whatever side we approach our principle [belief], we reach the same conclusion, that the social compact [contract] sets up among the citizens an equality of such a kind, that they all bind themselves to observe the same conditions and should therefore all enjoy the same rights.

Source: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract & Discourses*. Published by J.M. Dent & Sons, 1920. <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/46333/46333-h/46333-h.htm>

## Questions

1. According to this excerpt from *The Social Contract*, what do the people and the government agree to as a part of the contract?
2. According to Rousseau, what is one advantage of the social contract?

What is Jean-Jacques Rousseau's point of view? What would Jean-Jacques Rousseau recommend for your deserted island government?

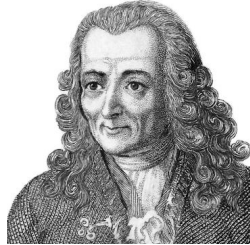


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I think your government should....

## Other Enlightenment Thinkers

### Voltaire (1694-1778)



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

**Location:** France

**Most Famous Writing:** *Candide*, 1762

**Most Well-Known Ideas:** Freedom of Expression

**Famous Quotes:** "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it."

**What is Voltaire's point of view? What would Voltaire recommend for your deserted island government?**



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

I think your government should....

### Denis Diderot (1713-1784)



[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.


**Location:** France

**Most Famous Idea:** Editor of the *Encyclopedie (1751-1772)*, a 28 volume encyclopedia whose entries included useful knowledge on craft and trade skills and new discoveries from the Scientific Revolution and philosophy from Enlightenment Thinkers like Rousseau and Voltaire.

The *Encyclopedia* had a great impact on Enlightenment philosophers and later intellectuals who had never had access to the information contained within it before and certainly not all in one place.

## Enlightenment Thinker Review

➡Directions: Use the information from previous activities in class to fill in the graphic organizer below.

Enlightenment Thinker	Mnemonic a helpful way to remember something	Most Famous Writing	Most Well-Known Ideas	How might these ideas affect a country under absolute rule?
<p>John Locke (1632-1704)</p> 	<p>Locke: Life, Liberty, and Land (Property)</p>			
<p>Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)</p> 	<p><u>Mont-es-quieu</u> Three Syllables! Three Branches of Government!</p>			
<p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)</p> 	<p><u>Rousseau</u> His name has two s's in it. His big idea starts with an s, Social Contract.</p>			
<p>Voltaire (1694-1778)</p> 	<p><u>Voltaire</u> His name starts with a "v" just like the word VOICE and Voltaire supported the freedom of expression.</p>			

# FA

## SQ 3. What points of view did Enlightenment Thinkers have about government?

➡**Directions:** Now that you've read through your Global history binder and discussed the ideas of the Enlightenment Thinkers with your classmates, it's time to establish a government for your deserted island. In the space below, write a constitution with three features of your new government and for each feature identify which Enlightenment Thinker's point of view inspired the idea.

A constitution is a document that details the parts of a government and how they work.



deserted island that you now call home.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

### *The Constitution of Deserted Islandia*

<i>Feature of the Government</i>	<i>Enlightenment Thinker(s) Whose Point of View Inspired the Feature</i>
1.	
2.	
3.	