

## EUROPEAN INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

### I. ANCIENT GREECE (621 B.C. TO 510 B.C.)

- ANCIENT GREECE WAS MADE UP OF DIFFERENT CITY-STATES. ATHENS WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS CITY-STATES KNOWN FOR ART, CULTURE, AND GOVERNMENT.
- ATHENS WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY – RULE BY THE PEOPLE.

#### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. MAJORITY RULES
2. EQUALITY OF ALL CITIZENS

### II. ROMAN REPUBLIC (509 B.C. TO 27 B.C)

- ROME WAS A CITY-STATE IN ITALY AND DOMINATED THE ANCIENT WORLD.
- THEY WERE ALSO KNOWN FOR THEIR ART, CULTURE, AND GOVERNMENT.
- THEY ALSO HAD A DEMOCRACY BUT THEY HAD AN INDIRECT DEMOCRACY. ALSO CALLED A REPUBLIC

REPUBLIC – CITIZENS ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE DECISION FOR THEM.

#### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. COMMON GOOD – DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY
2. CIVIC VIRTUE – PUTTING ASIDE YOUR SELF INTEREST FOR THE COMMON GOOD
3. INDIRECT DEMOCRACY – WE ELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

### III. ENGLAND

#### MAGNA CHARTA (THE GREAT CHARTER) 1215

- ENGLISH NOBLES AND BISHOPS FORCED THE KING TO SIGN THIS DOCUMENT.
- MAIN IDEAS FROM THE MAGNA CHARTA
  1. CERTAIN RIGHTS CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY
  2. NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW – INCLUDING THE KING

#### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. GOVERNMENT POWER HAS LIMITS – GOVERNMENT HAS TO FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION
2. WE HAVE RIGHTS THAT CANNOT BE DENIED – BILL OF RIGHTS

#### ENGLISH PARLIAMENT

- THE PARLIAMENT WAS FIRST A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE ADVICE TO THE KING.
- OVER THE YEARS THE BODY GREW IN POWER.
- EVENTUALLY PARLIAMENT BEGAN MAKING LAWS.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY PARLIAMENT BECAME A CHECK ON THE POWERS OF THE KING.

#### TWO HOUSE WERE CREATED:

1. HOUSE OF COMMONS
2. HOUSE OF LORDS

#### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. BECAME A MODEL FOR OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATE

## ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS 1689

- THIS DOCUMENT ESTABLISHED THAT THE MONARCH'S POWER IS LIMITED.
- IT GAVE MORE POWER TO PARLIAMENT
- GUARANTEED CERTAIN RIGHTS TO ALL ENGLISHMEN SUCH AS TRIAL BY JURY, NO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. THE POWER OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS LIMITED
2. ESTABLISHED SOME RIGHTS FOUND IN THE BILL OF RIGHTS – TRIAL BY JURY, NO CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

## IV. EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHERS

### JOHN LOCKE 1632-1704

- NATURAL RIGHTS PHILOSOPHER AND BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE IS BORN WITH 3 NATURAL RIGHTS: LIFE, LIBERTY, PROPERTY

### SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:

1. BILL OF RIGHTS – INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SUCH AS FREEDOM OF SPEECH, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY
2. SOCIAL CONTRACT – WE AGREE TO GIVE UP SOME FREEDOM TO BE GOVERNED

### MONTESQUIEU 1689-1755

- FRENCH PHILOSOPHER WHO BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT POWER SHOULD BE DIVIDED.
- SEPARATION OF POWERS WOULD PREVENT CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER.

SIGNIFICANCE TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:  
POWER OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS DIVIDED INTO  
THREE BRANCHES

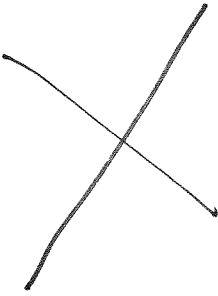
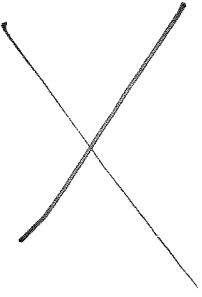
1. EXECUTIVE - ENFORCES LAWS
2. LEGISLATIVE - CREATES LAWS
3. JUDICIAL - INTERPRETS THE LAWS

Name. \_\_\_\_\_

Source	What important political ideas came from this source	How did it influence American Government past and present
Athens Democracy		
Roman Republic		
Magna Charta		
English Parliament		

on back

27 Nov 2025

<p><b>English Bill of Rights of 1689</b></p>		
<p><b>Montesquieu</b></p>		
<p><b>John Locke</b></p>		
<p><b>Forms of Government</b></p>		

Assign over  
25  
22

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remembering Influences of American Government through Pictures**

Create a picture that will help you remember how each of the following helped influence our government

<b>Influence on American Government</b>	<b>Picture</b>
<b>Ancient Greece</b>	
<b>Roman Republic</b>	
<b>Magna Charta</b>	

on back

26 A100

<b>English Parliament</b>	
<i>Eng. Bill of Rights</i>	
<b>John Locke</b>	
<b>Montesquieu</b>	



Name/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## News Article Summary

Who wrote the article: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Article: \_\_\_\_\_

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?