

The Great Awakening & The Enlightenment:

Movements that helped shape a revolution

Unit 3 - Causes of the American Revolution
8th Grade American Studies
2011 - 2012

The Great Awakening

- A religious movement that became widespread in the American colonies in the 1730's and 1740's
- Religious revivals throughout the colonies (mostly New England) made people begin to question older beliefs & ideas

The Great Awakening

- People began to “rebel” against church leaders
- New [Protestant] churches were formed
- If people could have “spiritual freedoms,” why not political freedoms...?

The Enlightenment

- a social and political movement that began during the late 17th – and 18th centuries in Europe, in which science, reason, and logic became the foundations for gaining knowledge.

The Enlightenment

- Principles such as logic and reason were applied to all aspects of society, including government.
- This led people to start thinking about the way countries and societies were governed at the time.

Key Enlightenment Ideas

- ***Natural Rights*** (also called *inalienable rights*) are rights that are not based upon the laws, customs, or beliefs of a particular society or government (i.e., *life, liberty, property, pursuit of happiness*)

Key Enlightenment Ideas

- The Social Contract – the idea that the people give up some personal rights to a government in order to receive or jointly preserve social order.

Key Enlightenment Ideas

[The Social Contract (part 2)]

- The power of the government comes from the idea that the people **ALLOW** the government to do its job [*“consent of the governed”*]

Key Enlightenment Ideas

[The Social Contract (part 3)]

- Because it is based on a **CONTRACT**, if the people do not feel that the government is acting fairly, then the **PEOPLE** have the right to change the government

Key Enlightenment Figures

- *John Locke – natural rights, social contract*
- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau – social contract*
- *Thomas Hobbes – extreme views of the social contract*
- ***Montesquieu – separation of powers***