

Ideas About **Government**

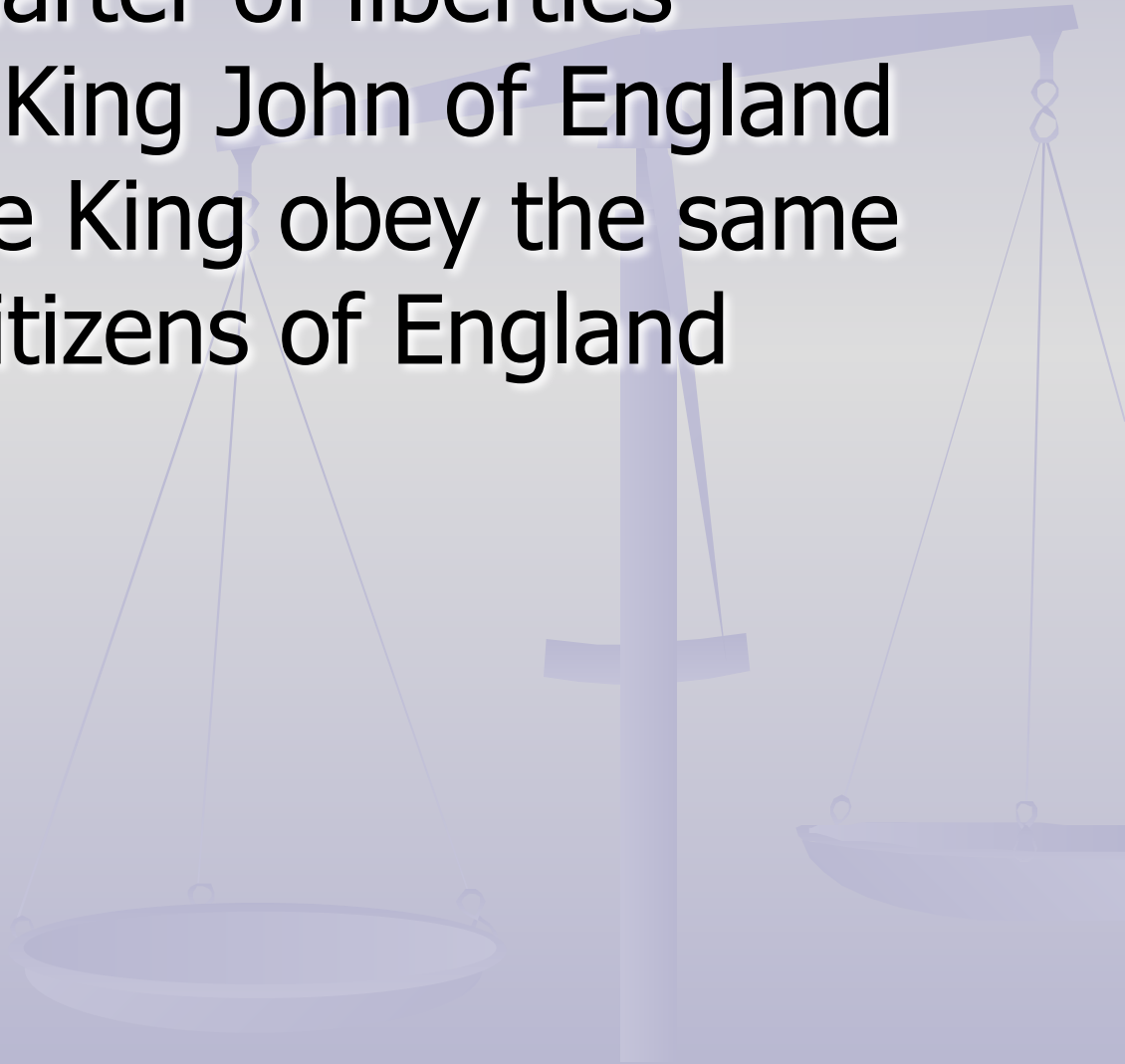


Chapter 5 - pages 152 - 53

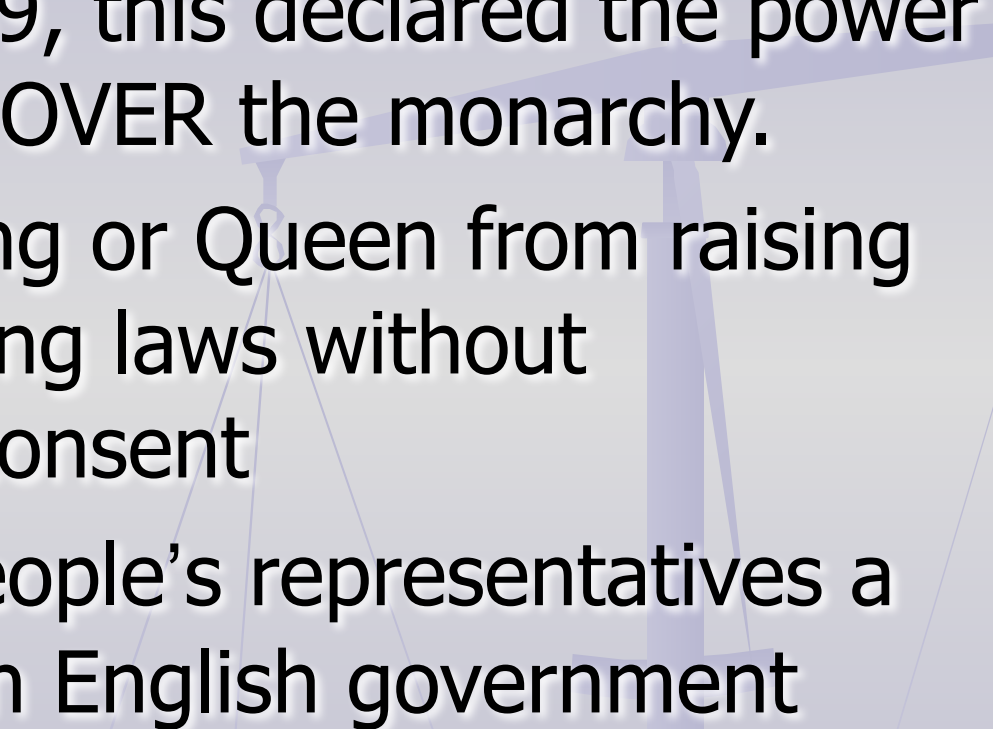
Unit V- The Critical Period

The Magna Carta

- In 1215, a charter of liberties agreed to by King John of England that made the King obey the same laws as the citizens of England

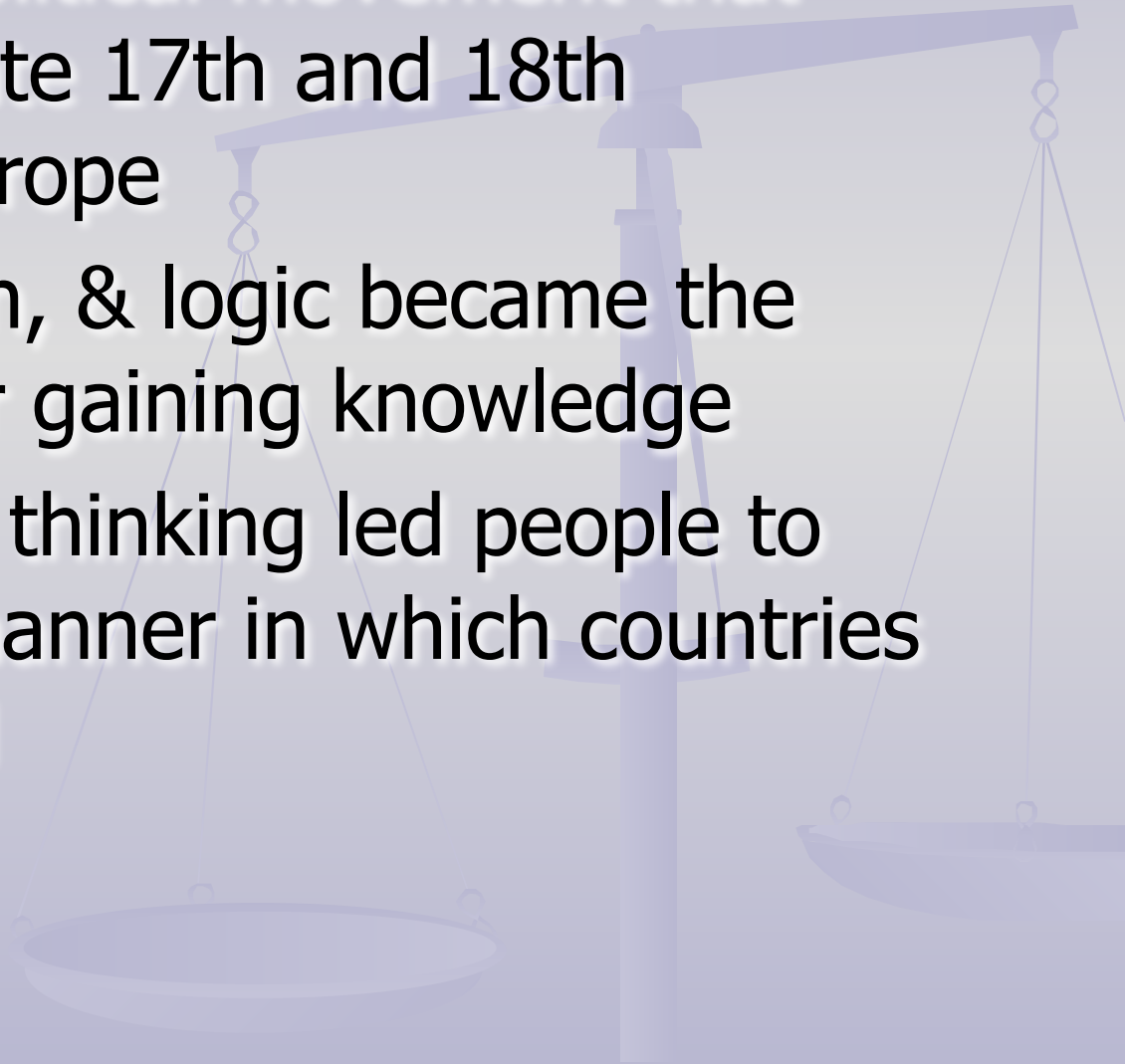


The English Bill of Rights

- Passed in 1689, this declared the power of Parliament OVER the monarchy.
 - It kept the King or Queen from raising taxes or passing laws without Parliament's consent
 - It gave the people's representatives a strong voice in English government
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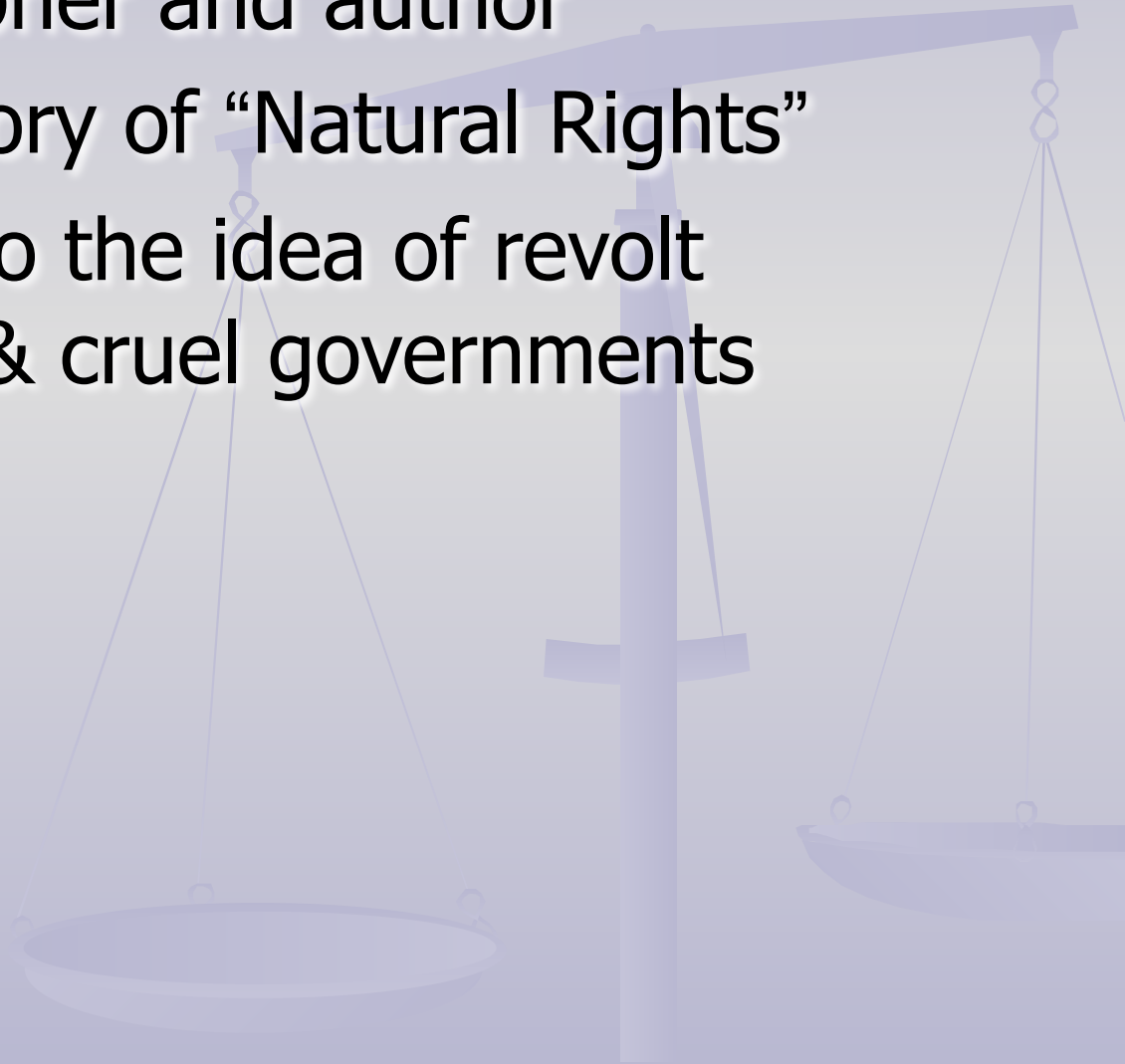
The Enlightenment

- A social and political movement that began in the late 17th and 18th centuries in Europe
- Science, reason, & logic became the foundations for gaining knowledge
- This change in thinking led people to question the manner in which countries were governed



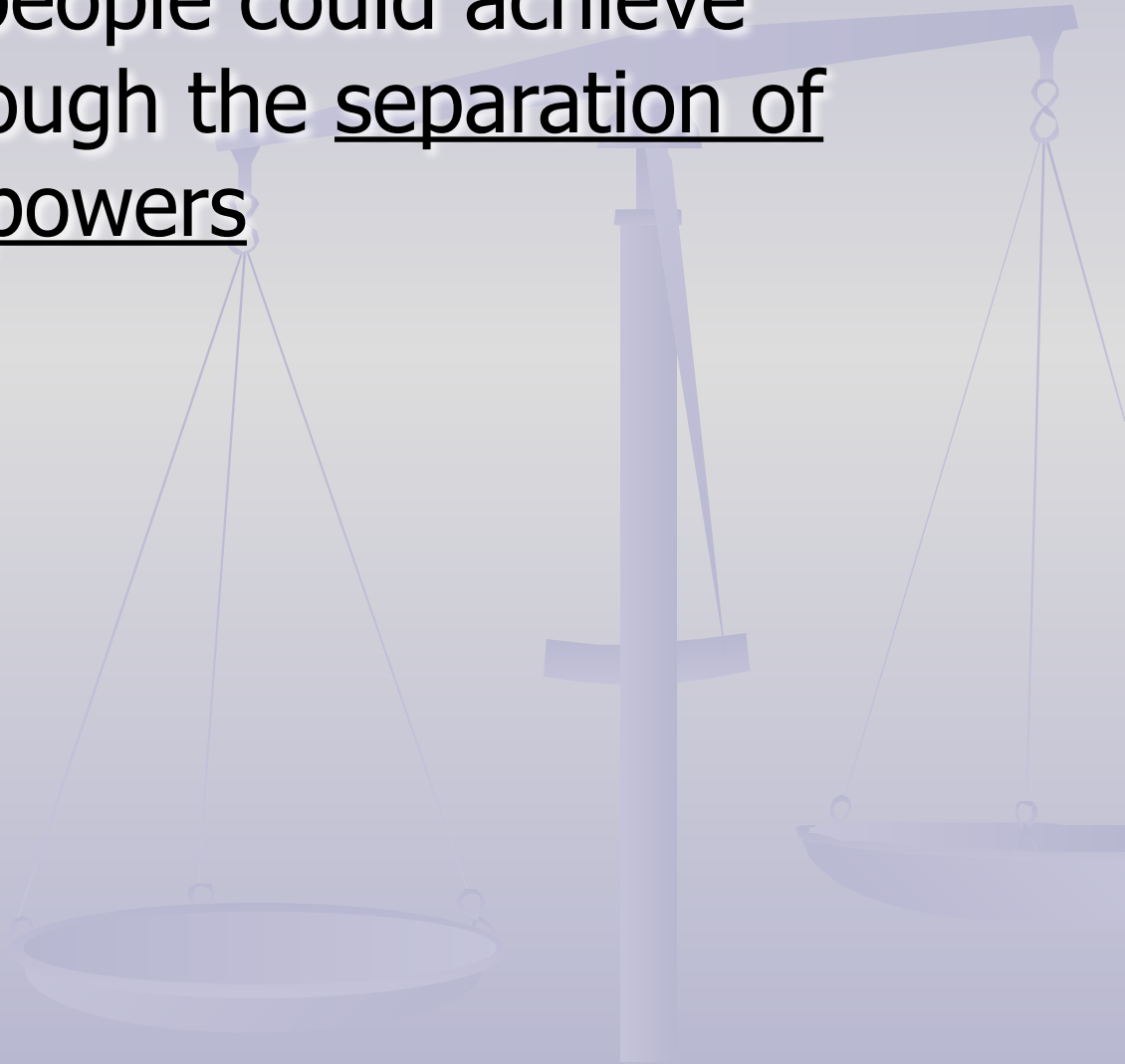
John Locke

- British philosopher and author
- Developed theory of “Natural Rights”
- Gave support to the idea of revolt against unfair & cruel governments



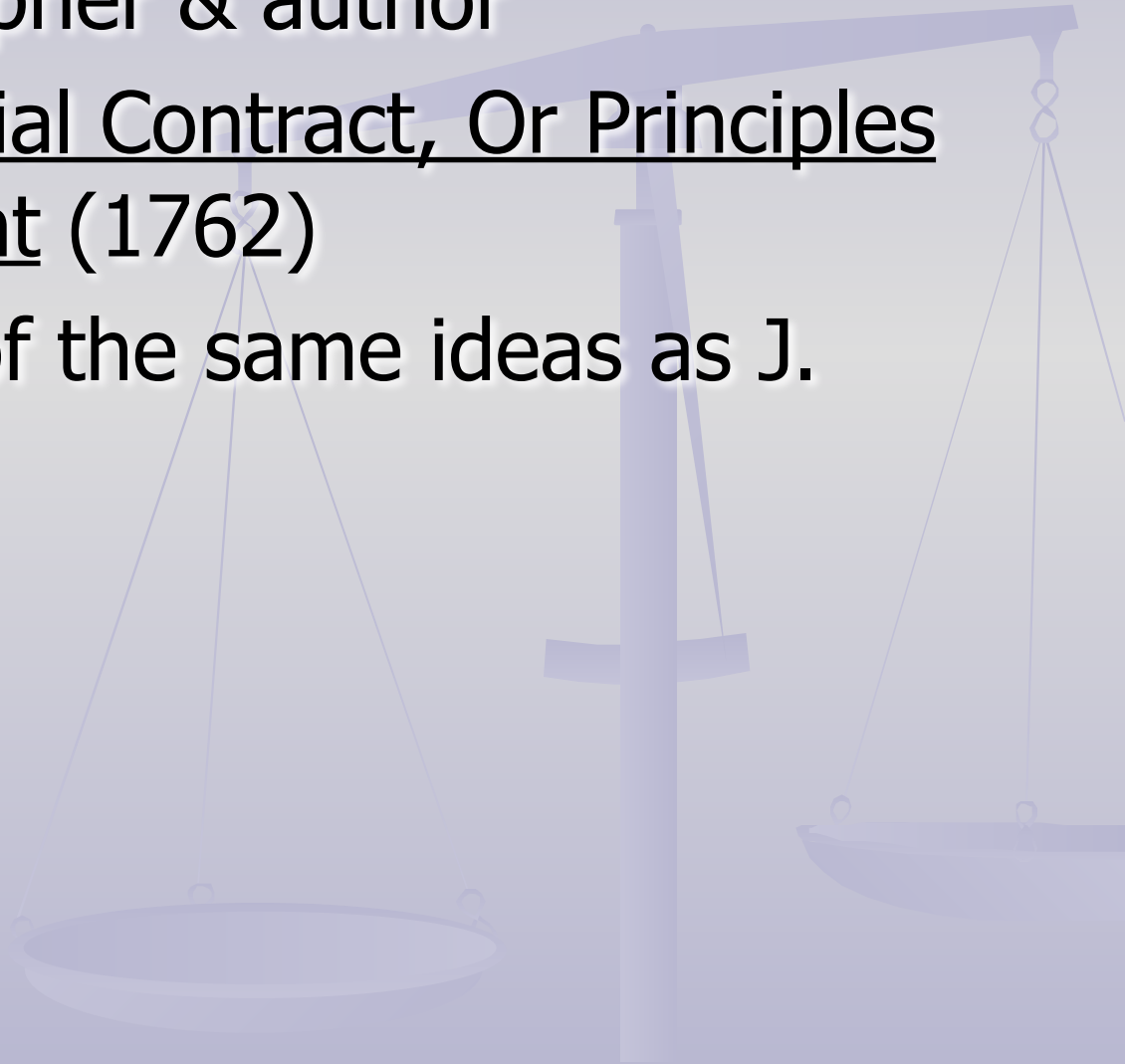
Baron de Montesquieu

- The only way people could achieve liberty was through the separation of governmental powers

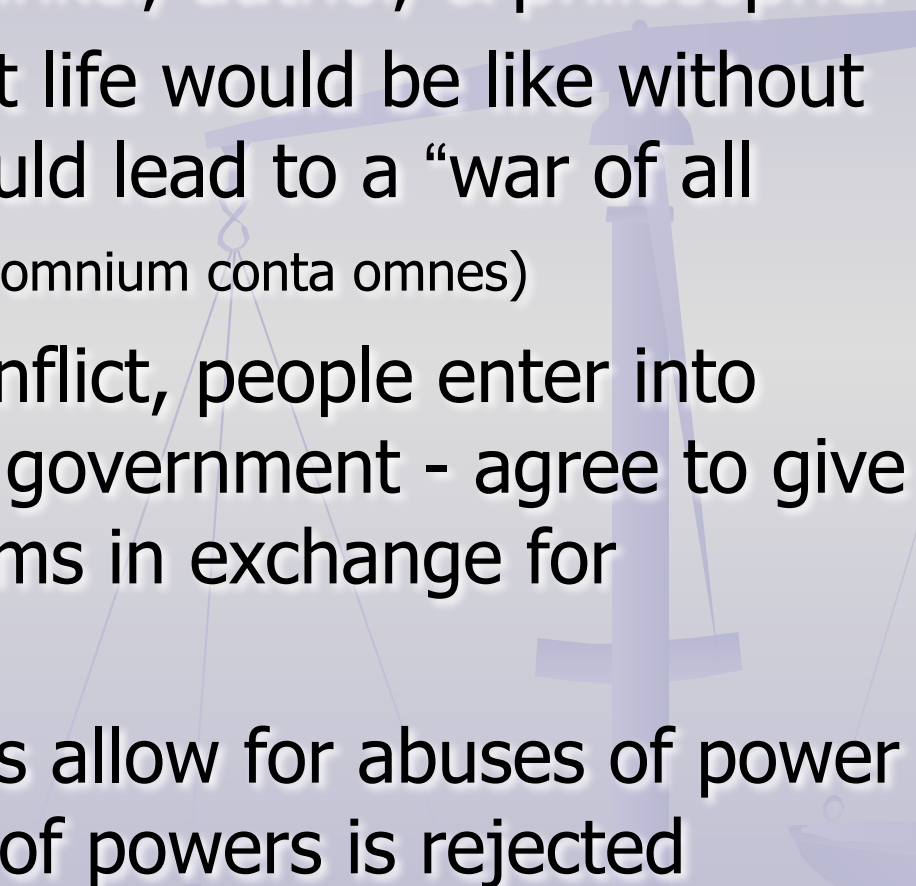


Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- French philosopher & author
- Wrote The Social Contract, Or Principles of Political Right (1762)
- Shared many of the same ideas as J. Locke



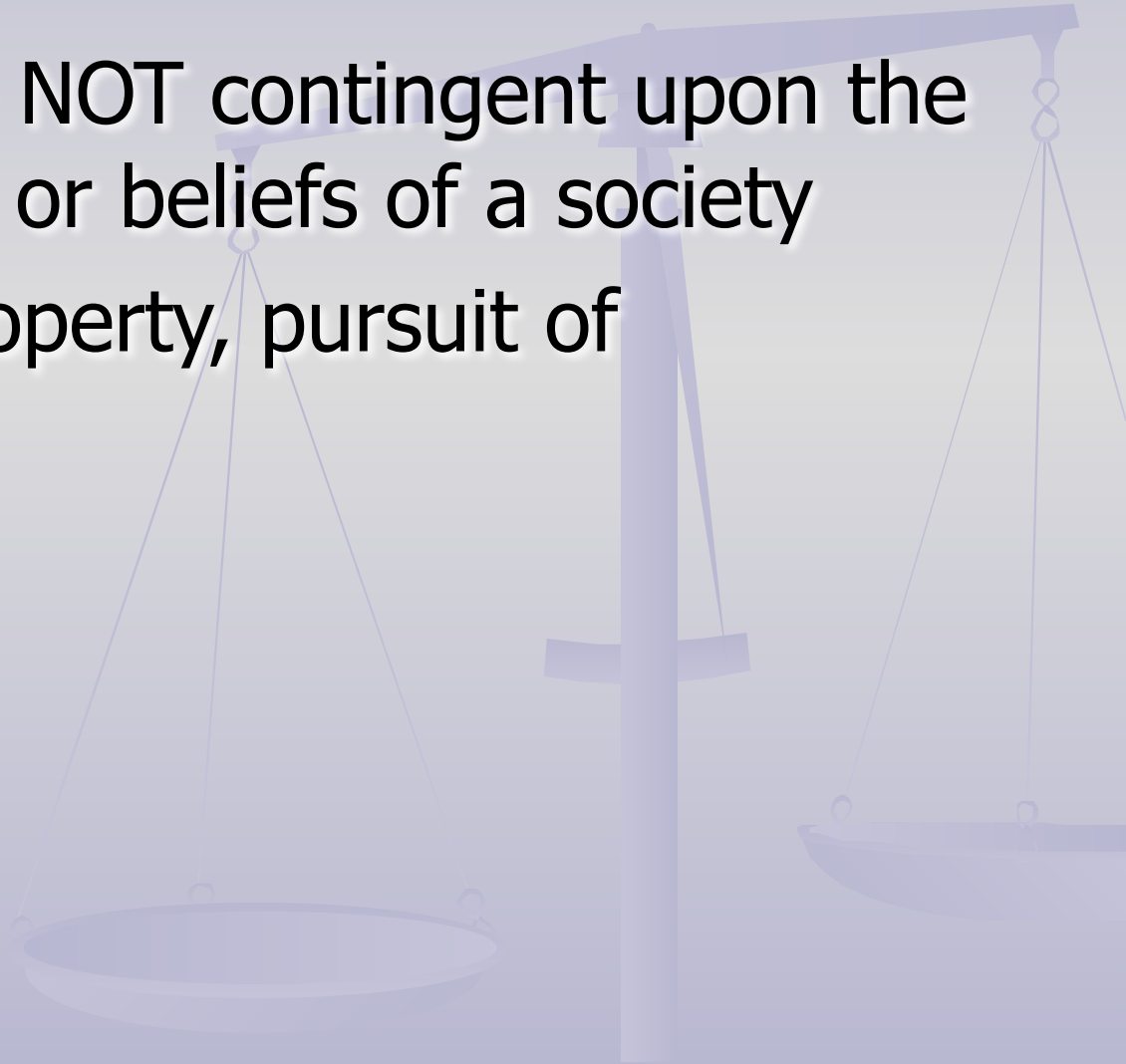
Thomas Hobbes

- Enlightenment thinker, author, & philosopher
 - Wrote about what life would be like without government - would lead to a “war of all against all” (bellum omnium contra omnes)
 - To escape this conflict, people enter into contract with the government - agree to give up certain freedoms in exchange for protection
 - This contract does allow for abuses of power and a separation of powers is rejected
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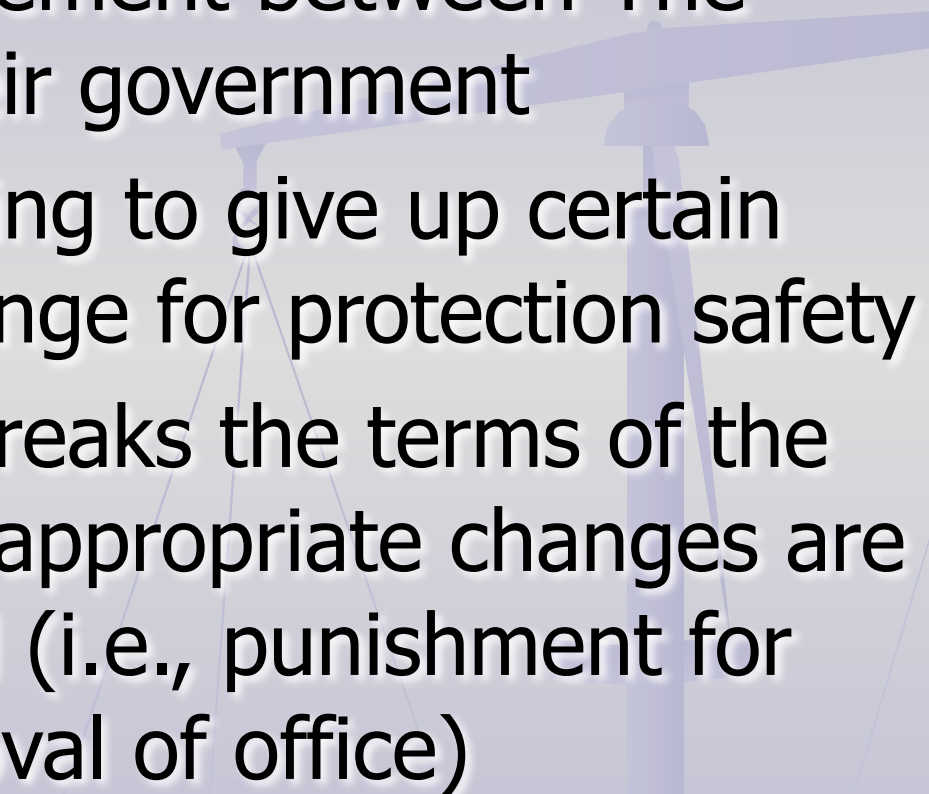
Natural Rights

(Also called *Inalienable Rights*)

- Rights that are NOT contingent upon the laws, customs, or beliefs of a society
- Life, liberty, property, pursuit of happiness

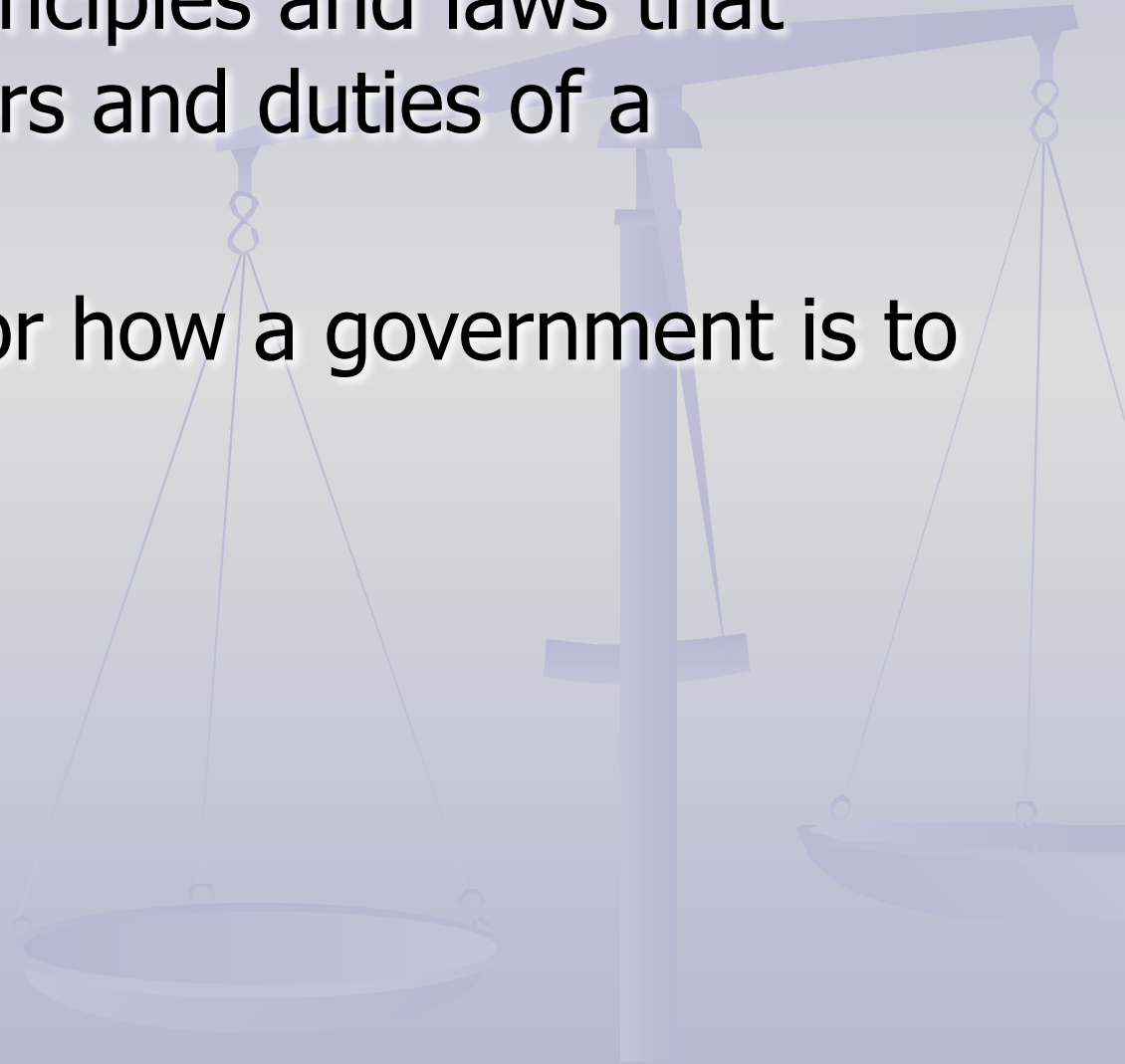


The Social Contract

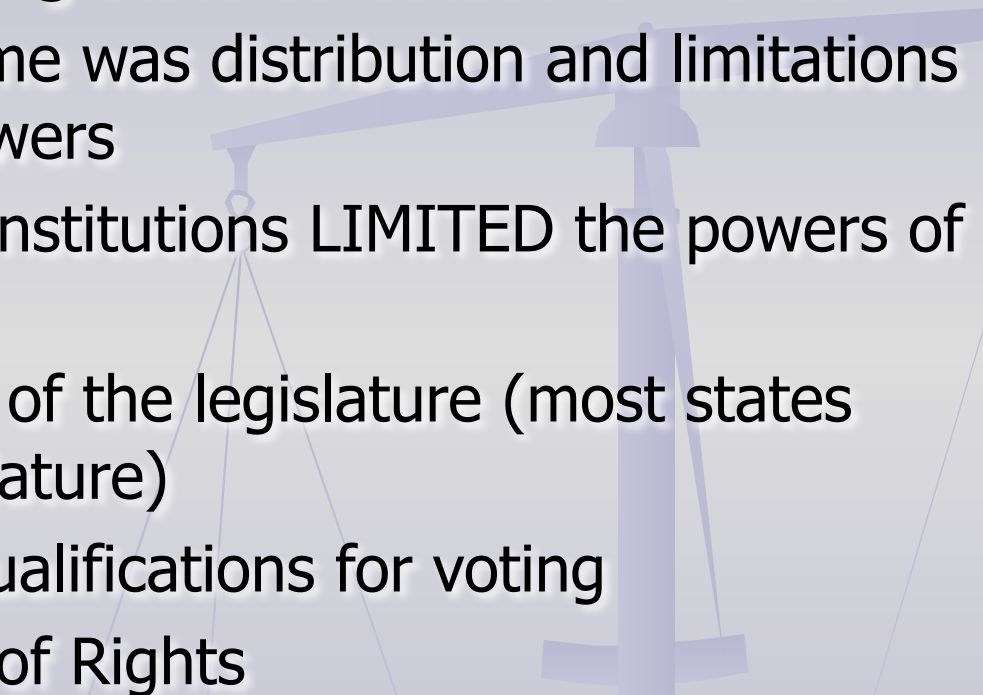
- The basic agreement between The People and their government
 - People are willing to give up certain rights in exchange for protection safety
 - If either side breaks the terms of the contract, then appropriate changes are to be expected (i.e., punishment for violators, removal of office)
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What is A Constitution?

- Set of basic principles and laws that state the powers and duties of a government
- A framework for how a government is to be set up

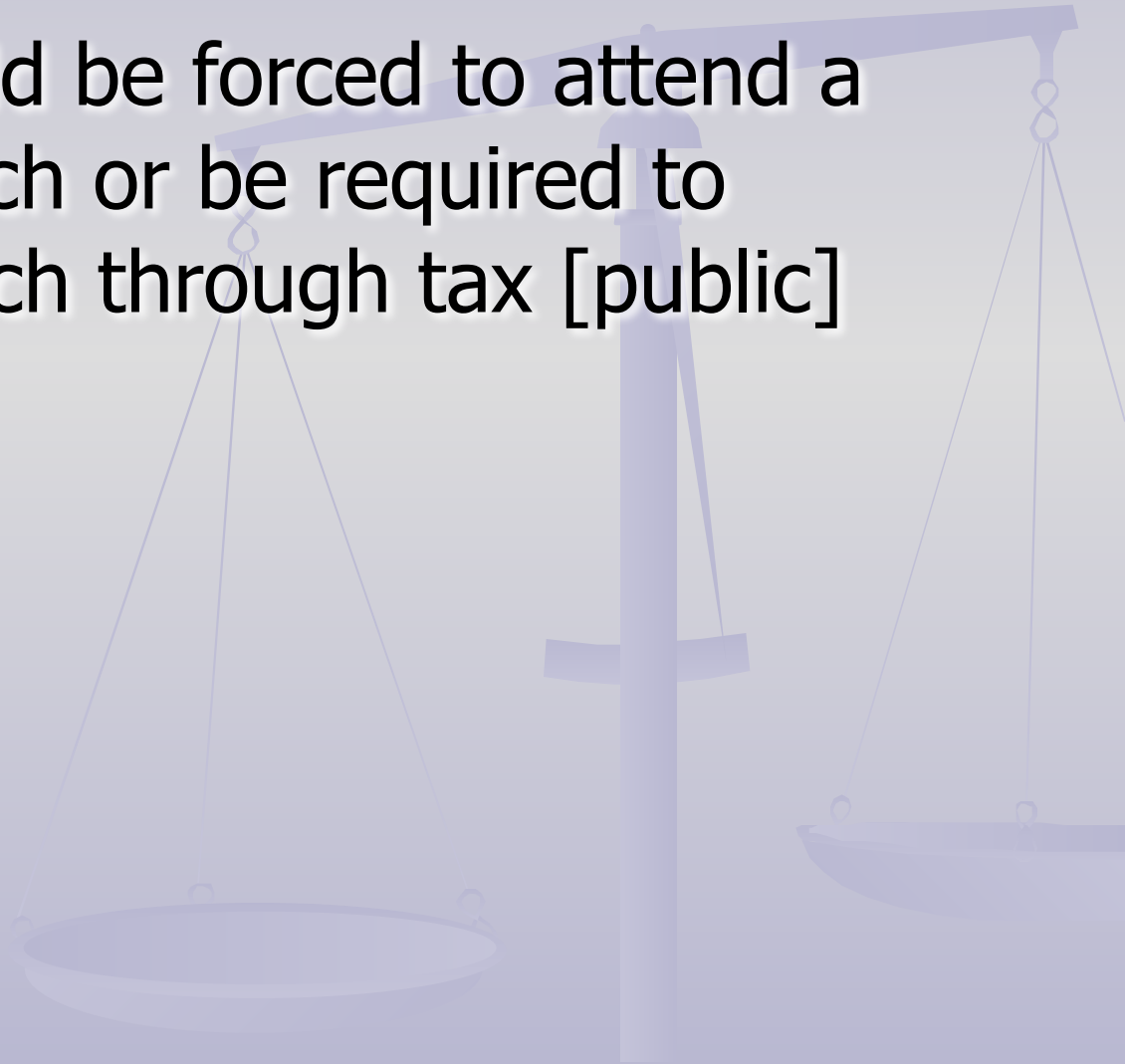


State Constitutions

- Colonies began writing State Constitutions in 1780
 - Main focus at the time was distribution and limitations of governmental powers
 - Many early State Constitutions LIMITED the powers of the governor
 - INCREASED powers of the legislature (most states had a 2-house legislature)
 - Lowered property qualifications for voting
 - Most included a Bill of Rights
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Virginia Statue for Religious Freedom

- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- No person could be forced to attend a particular church or be required to support a church through tax [public] money



Suffrage

- Defined - “the right to vote”
- Under British rule, only free, white, land owners [males] could vote
- Many State Constitutions expanded suffrage to allow white, tax-paying males (dropped property ownership qualification)

