



Steps to Democracy

» **A democracy** is a political system in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them.

» **The Athenians had a direct democracy.**

- > Citizens gathered together and voted for their leaders, laws and policies.



» **The Romans had a republic.**

- > Citizens voted for leaders to represent them.
- > They introduced “rule of law”, the idea that laws apply equally to all citizens.



Democracy



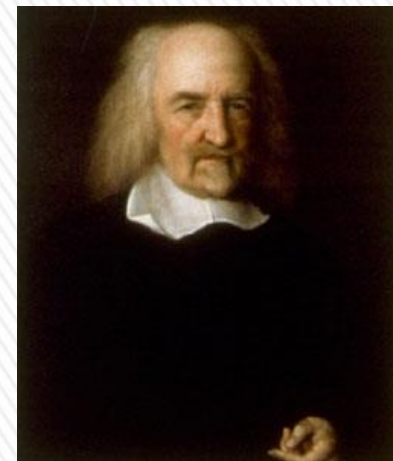
» Thomas Aquinas wrote that some laws were a part of human nature.

- > He also claimed natural law gave people certain rights that governments should not take away.



» Thomas Hobbes argued that an absolute monarchy was the best form of government.

- > He believed that people needed government to direct them.



Natural Laws



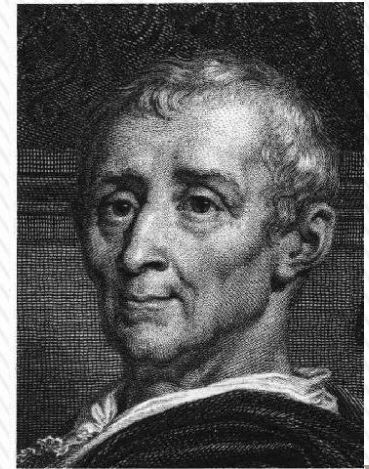
» **John Locke argued that people are born with natural rights.**

- > **He claimed the purpose of government was to protect people's natural rights.**
- > **He said governments are based on a social contract or an agreement between rulers and the people.**



» **Charles de Montesquieu claimed England's government was best because it had a separation of powers.**

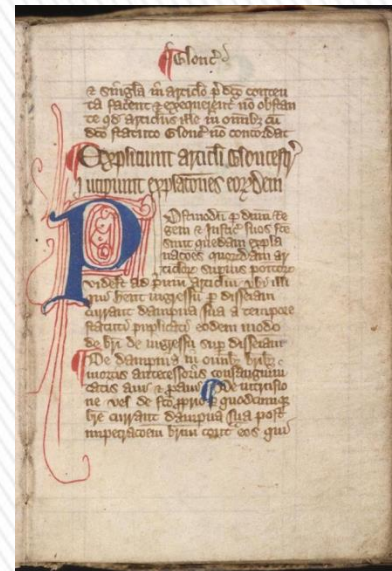
- > **He claimed separation of powers kept governments from abusing natural rights.**



The Enlightenment

- » The Magna Carta or “Great Charter” was signed in the year 1215.
- » It was a document that limited the powers of the English King.
- » It also guaranteed certain rights for the Nobles of England.

Magna Carta



» The House of Burgesses was founded in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619.

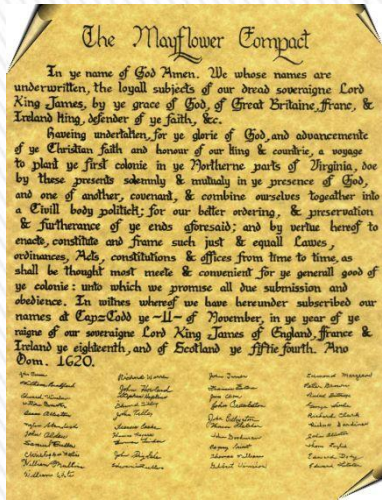
- > It was the first Representative body in the English colonies.
- > Representatives were chosen to vote on laws and policies for the colony.
- > The Representatives were called Burgesses. They met together in the House of Burgesses.
- > It served as a model for other colonial legislatures.



House of Burgesses



» The Mayflower Compact was signed in 1620.



> It was an example of self-rule or self government in the colonies.

+ It was also an example of representative government as the colonists elected their leaders.

> It was written by the Pilgrims before leaving their ship.

> Every family had to agree to sign and abide by the Compact.



Mayflower Compact >

- » The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut was the first written constitution in the British colonies.
- » It was written in 1639.
- » It limited the powers of the colonial government.
 - > Any powers not given to the colony were given to the towns.

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
January 14, 1639

For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of his divine providence so to order and dispose of things that we the Inhabitants and Residents of Windsor, Hartford and Wetherfield are now cohabiting and dwelling in and upon the River of Connecticute and the lands therunto adjoining; and well knowing where a people are gathered together the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent Government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasion shall require; do therefore associate and conjoin ourselves to be as one Public State or Commonwealth; and do for ourselves and our successors and such as shall be adjoined to us at any time hereafter, enter into Combination and Confederation together, to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess, as also, the discipline of the Churches, which according to the truth of the said Gospel is now practiced amongst us; as also in our civil affairs to be guided and governed according to such Laws, Rules, Orders and Decrees as shall be made, ordered, and decreed as followeth:

1. It is Ordered, sentenced, and decreed, that there shall be yearly two General Assemblies or Courts, the one the second Thursday in April, the other the second Thursday in September following; the first shall be called the Court of Election, wherein shall be yearly chosen from time to time, so many Magistrates and other public Officers as shall be found requisite: Whereof one to be chosen Governor for the year ensuing and until another be chosen, and no other Magistrate to be chosen for more than one year: provided always there be six chosen besides the Governor, which being chosen and sworn according to an Oath recorded for that purpose, shall have the power to administer justice according to the Laws here established, and for want thereof, according to the Rule of the Word of God; which choice shall be made by all that are admitted freemen and have taken the Oath of Fidelity, and do cohabit within this Jurisdiction having been admitted Inhabitants by the major part of the Town wherein they live or the major part of such as shall be then present.
2. It is Ordered, sentenced, and decreed, that the election of the aforesaid Magistrates shall be in this manner: every person present and qualified for choice shall bring in (to the person deputed to receive them) one single paper with the name of him written in it whom he desires to have Governor, and that he that hath the greatest number of papers shall be Governor

» The English Bill of Rights was passed in 1689.

» It expanded the Magna Carta by extending protected rights to all English citizens.

» It gave England's Parliament more power than the King.

» It protected the right to a trial by jury and outlawed cruel and unusual punishment.

English Bill of Rights >

